FOR THE KINGDOM.

MATT 6:33

BELONG.
BE.
BECOME.
DO.

14 Days of Prayer & Fasting

Starting 27 January

TAKE YOUR PLACE IN A FUN-LOVING FAMILY,
THAT PUTS GOD FIRST,
BUILDS REAL RELATIONSHIPS
AND TAKES HOPE TO THE WORLD.

Welcome!

"But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well." ***(Matthew 6:33 NIV)***

We heard God speak clearly to us, as Edge Church, that in 2025 and beyond, we are being called to live **For The Kingdom**! Living For The Kingdom is about understanding that our lives are part of a much bigger picture – a bigger story that God is unfolding in the world. That we, as the Church, are part of His redemptive plan for the world and that He invites us to be a part of what He is doing For The Kingdom! It is about actively participating in God's Work to expand His Kingdom, living in alignment with His purposes and ultimately loving God and loving people as we do that.

For us to live For The Kingdom, it will take a shift in our mindset and the culture we have become so accustomed to. This shift will help our mindset and cultures to be shaped by Heaven, where our thoughts, actions and priorities all reflect God's Will in our lives.

As we enter these 14 days of prayer and fasting, may we commit to pray first and ask God to lead and guide us in all areas of our lives.

I encourage you to spend 10-15 minutes daily praying, whether it's first thing in the morning or before you go to bed at night, perhaps even in your lunch break. Pick a time that is consistent for you.

Remember the 3 steps to creating a consistent habit of drawing closer to God: Choose a Time, Choose a Place, Choose a Plan. We have provided a devotional plan for you for the next 14 days – the time and place is up to you.

What is the purpose of fasting?
Fasting is an act of abstaining from food (typically) as a declaration of our dependency on God and His provision. It is a physical representation of our hunger and desire to do God's will above all else, as an act of surrender. Although food fasts are most common, there are many different things that we have become dependent on to survive. There are various fasts that you can commit to this week, and we encourage you to spend time with God in deciding which you will commit to:

1. **Total Fast** – to abstain from all food for a set time and only drink liquids
2. **Partial Fast** – choosing to fast specific mealtimes e.g. fasting from sunrise until sunset
3. **Selective Fast** – removing certain foods from your diet e.g. meat, sugar, breads etc.
4. **Soul Fast** – not using things such as social media, not watching TV etc.

Our team has created this journal to guide you as we pray daily as Edge Church; for ourselves, our church, our community, and our country.

Edge Church, we're calling you to pray and fast and seek to put God first as He shapes and shifts us to live For The Kingdom!

Love you guys!

Daniel Erasmus

Day 1 27 JANUARY

As we go on this journey, you will see that every day there is one topic, a corresponding verse, and a prayer prompt. Prayer is most effective when it isn't something we do every now and then, but when it's a lifestyle we cultivate – we pray first! Prayer should always be our first response and not our last resort. It's a privilege to be able to come to God in prayer and it changes everything, but more importantly prayer changes you!

A few tips as you prioritise prayer over these next 14 days. To understand how to have a lifestyle of prayer, we can look at the example Jesus gave during His life on earth.

Have a CERTAIN TIME

Jesus got up early in the morning to spend time with His Heavenly Father. Make a daily appointment with God—whether it's first thing in the morning, at lunch, or in the evening—and faithfully keep it. Set a reminder if you have to, and if you miss one day, try your best not to miss two.

Have a CERTAIN PLACE

Jesus had a specific place He went to pray. Having a designated place to pray helps us remove distractions and frees us to be able to worship and pray out loud in faith. Make sure that place becomes a visible reminder for you to pray. A helpful tip could be leaving your Bible open there to remind you to spend time in prayer and God's Word.

Have a CERTAIN PLAN

When Jesus taught His disciples how to pray, He gave them a prayer outline. We call it "The Lord's Prayer." *(Read Matthew 6:9-13)* Our desire is for this plan to be a daily guide for your time with God. As we pray every day, consider incorporating some worship music, additional time to read the Bible or write in a journal. Not everyone's approach will look the same, but it does help to have a plan for connecting regularly with God.

Prayer:
What are you believing God for during this time of Prayer & Fasting as we commit to living For The Kingdom? What is God inviting you into as you consider what it means to live For The Kingdom?

What is the Holy Spirit saying to you?

Day 2 28 JANUARY

*In the beginning, God...**(Genesis 1:1)***

We see how right from the beginning of scripture; it was God first and foremost. "In the beginning, God" is how we can start this year. We have an opportunity to commit to putting Him first. God desires to be in relationship with us and as we continue on this journey of Prayer & Fasting over the next 14 days, we are committing to growing closer in this relationship with Him. This time will, hopefully, strip away the clutter, that so often clouds our lives and make space for us to spend time in relationship, enjoying time together with our Father.

As we seek Him first, we know that we can trust Him to take care of what is ahead of us. As we seek Him first, we can commit to following Him in every area of our lives. We can commit to seek Him first this year as we go on this journey of Prayer & Fasting. We can commit to seek Him first every week by making church a priority. We can commit to seek Him first every day by spending our devotional time with Him.

Commit everything you do to the Lord. Trust him, and he will help you. ***(Psalm 37:5)***

We cannot hope to achieve, dream, live out our purpose without first coming to the place of realisation that it is in relationship with God where all of this is made possible.

Prayer:
Ask God for clarity around which areas you need to put Him first in your life.

What is the Holy Spirit saying to you?

Day 3 29 JANUARY

Where there is no vision, the people perish. ***(Proverbs 29:18)***

We all need vision in our lives so that we can live with purpose and clarity. PS Daniel shared on Vision Sunday (recording available on Edge Church's Youtube channel) that one of the healthiest commodities we can have is vision. Ps. Daniel encouraged us that if we are to live out the vision of living For the Kingdom we should commit to these 4 areas;

1. Belong to Jesus (Belong)
2. Be made new by Jesus (Be)
3. Become like Jesus (Become)
4. Do what Jesus did (Do)

Although each of us might find ourselves in different spaces, there is always a next step that God invites us to grow in. This year, as we commit to the vision of living For The Kingdom, spend time asking God what area it is that you need to be intentional about growing in.

Prayer:
What area is God prompting you to take an intentional step to grow in this year?

What is the Holy Spirit saying to you?

Day 4 30 JANUARY

Seek first God's kingdom and what God wants. Then all your other needs will be met as well.
(Matthew 6:33)

Stepping into the vision of living For The Kingdom this year has the power to shape the way that we live our lives. If we aim to live in a way that represents living For The Kingdom this year, we need to adopt characteristics that will help make this possible. These characteristics are the foundation of who we are as disciples and shape the way that we live.

Living For The Kingdom is about seeking first the Kingdom of God as we explored in Day 1. It is about making His will, not our own, the priority in our lives as we partner with Him in living this out.

Living For The Kingdom is about living out The Great Mission where Jesus calls us, all of us, (yes you to!) to go out into the world and share His love to those around us, helping them to grow in their love for God.

Living For The Kingdom is about us carrying the culture of His Kingdom. In Galatians 5, we see the Fruits of the Spirit and when we live For The Kingdom, these fruits should be evident and growing in our lives.

Living For The Kingdom is about praying God's Way – not our own. Our prayer life should reflect the same prayer Jesus prayed when He said in Matthew 6, "Your Kingdom come, Your will be done, on Earth as it is in Heaven."

Living For The Kingdom means that we are called to serve as Kingdom builders! We are invited to follow the example of Jesus as He came to serve others, putting their needs ahead of His own.

Living For The Kingdom is knowing and believing that we walk in authority and power. This isn't about what we are able to do in our own strength but what God does through us.

Prayer:
Which of these areas do you feel the Holy Spirit is highlighting to you? Write it down and then invite God to help you grow in these areas as you commit to seeking His kingdom first.

What is the Holy Spirit saying to you?

Day 5 31 JANUARY

Let me tell you why you are here. You're here to be salt-seasoning that brings out the God-flavours of this earth. If you lose your saltiness, how will people taste godliness? You've lost your usefulness and will end up in the garbage. Here's another way to put it: You're here to be light, bringing out the God-colours in the world. God is not a secret to be kept. We're going public with this, as public as a city on a hill. If I make you light-bearers, you don't think I'm going to hide you under a bucket, do you? I'm putting you on a light stand. Now that I've put you there on a hilltop, on a light stand—shine! Keep open house; be generous with your lives. By opening up to others, you'll prompt people to open up with God, this generous Father in heaven. ***(Matthew 5:13-16)***

Each of us desires to understand our purpose in life. Why do our lives matter, and what should we do with them? Psychologists have studied this extensively and concluded that "Real life isn't found in life's pleasures – but in fulfilling your life's purpose."

The happiest people aren't those with fewer problems, but those who have discovered TRUE meaning in their lives. Those most content and joyful have their focus and lives anchored on something that truly matters – something with real, eternal significance. For us, this is Jesus. Knowing who you are begins with knowing who God is. Once we grasp this understanding, God calls us to share it with others. When we live For The Kingdom, our role is to help those far from God to find the same realisation. This doesn't necessarily mean embarking on long mission trips to distant lands. Instead, it involves being examples of what it means to follow Jesus in our workplaces, schools, campuses, and among our friends. When we start to live with purpose, our lives will begin to mirror Jesus's life. There will be a noticeable change in us after meeting Jesus, and soon, those around us will notice the transformation within us! This provides a perfect opportunity to show and share God's love in our world. This is what it means to live For The Kingdom.

Prayer:
What in my life needs to change in order for those in my world to start seeing that I am living out For The Kingdom? Is there anyone who doesn't yet know God that you feel prompted to pray for?

What is the Holy Spirit saying to you?

Day 6 1 FEBRUARY

Your Kingdom come, Your will be done, on Earth as it is in Heaven. ***(Matthew 6:10)***

We see Jesus teaching the disciples how to pray after they ask Him. We can learn so much from this prayer, often referred to as the Lord's Prayer, found in Matthew 6.

As we look at living For The Kingdom, we see how this prayer reflects the heart of a Kingdom builder – not my will be done, but Yours. The "Yours" being referred to here isn't about me, or Ps Daniel, or Edge Church – it is about God's Will being done in our lives.

When we pray "Your will be done", we are acknowledging that God is building His Kingdom here on Earth. It means that we see His Kingdom reign in our own lives, in our families, in our work places and schools, in our communities and in our country! It is recognising, and reminding ourselves, that God is sovereign and He rules over every area of our lives – it is His Kingdom that He is building.

Can you begin to imagine what our families, work places or schools, communities and our country could begin to look like as we pray for God's Will to be done and not simply for our own? And sometimes, praying in this way may challenge our comfort, it may require us to stretch our faith and believe for the more that God is asking of us. This is living For The Kingdom.

Prayer:
This, then, is how you should pray:
"Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one." ***(Matthew 6:9-13)***

What is the Holy Spirit saying to you?

Day 7 2 FEBRUARY

Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a huge crowd of witnesses to the life of faith, let us strip off every weight that slows us down, especially the sin that so easily trips us up. And let us run with endurance the race God has set before us. ***(Hebrews 12:1-3)***

According to Strong's Concordance, the Greek word for "Weight" is, 'ogkos' which means, "bulk, mass, burden, or an encumbrance."

If we are going to be committed to For The Kingdom living, we all need to let go of some of the things in our past that we are still holding on to. This can look like some of the hurts or disappointments we have carried, some of the pain we have experienced, some of the dreams and expectations of ourselves or others that are still unmet, some of the behaviours, actions and thoughts that we hold on to. For The Kingdom living is asking us to lay these all aside so that we can take hold of all that God wants for us and for His Kingdom.

Ask yourself the following questions: Is there a sin that I need to let go of? Is there a behaviour that I need to change? Is there a way of thinking that I need to re-align? As we get ready for this year and to live For The Kingdom, we need to let go of these things so that we can pick up the things that God has for us!

Prayer:
Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. Point out anything in me that offends you, and lead me along the path of everlasting life. *(Psalm 139:23-24)*

What is the Holy Spirit saying to you?

Day 8 3 FEBRUARY

Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. ***(Matthew 28:19)***

Have you ever found yourself in this situation: you want to share the message of Jesus with a friend who doesn't have a relationship with God, but you can't quite gather the courage to bring it up? Each time you build up the confidence, doubts flood your mind: “What if they think I’m weird?”, “What if I don't have the right words?”, or “What if I lose their friendship?”. Ultimately, if you decide it's safer to stay silent, then frustration sets in, because deep down you know what you could have done, but the boldness escaped you.

If you resonate with that scenario, know you're not alone. When we come to Acts 4, we find the early church in a situation where they needed boldness. Except for them, the stakes were higher. If they share Christ, they wouldn't just be losing a friend; they could lose their lives. The Jewish ruling council gave the order that Peter, John, and the church could no longer speak in the name of Jesus. If they broke this charge, it could result in a beating, imprisonment, or even death.
Most people would pray for God to remove the opposition if they heard a similar threat. What the church did was completely different. They did not pray for God to remove their problem; instead, they prayed for boldness. The incredible reality about this account is that God immediately answered their prayer. What was God's answer to their prayer for boldness? The baptism of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit filled every person in that meeting, enabling them to speak God's word boldly.

So, what will give you the boldness to share Christ with that friend, neighbour, or worker at the grocery store? The Holy Spirit! God desires that we will share Christ with anyone, at any time, and in any place. If you cannot do that, pray for more of the Holy Spirit and the boldness He brings! As we are filled with the Holy Spirit, God will give us the boldness to go out and share the Gospel.

Prayer:
Is there someone in your world with whom you think God has been prompting you to share the Gospel? Ask God to give you the courage to message, call or go visit that person.

What is the Holy Spirit saying to you?

Day 9 4 FEBRUARY

We will not hide them from their children, but will declare to the next generation the praises of the LORD and His might, and the wonders He has performed. ***(Psalm 78:4)***

The Next Gen has always been a big focus for us as Edge Church. Let it not be said that during our lifetime, we allowed a generation to fall victim to the lies of the enemy. Instead, let us cover the next generation in prayer and steward the influence the Lord has given each of us. Let us stand on the Word of God and encourage a generation to not only know the truth, but also to seek the truth all the days of their lives. For The Kingdom is just as important for our teens and children as they also commit to making a difference in their worlds!

As an older generation, we have the responsibility to care for and pray over each of the young people in our church. If we want to see God's Kingdom advance here on Earth, we need to help our young people know that they too are called to live For The Kingdom.

Prayer:
Pray for a young person in your world. Maybe it is your own child, or a child that you know, asking God to give them the courage to live out For The Kingdom in their own lives.

Pray for all those serving in our Next Gen Serve Teams. Ask God to strengthen and encourage them. Pray also that He would continue to send the right people to say yes and join these teams.

What is the Holy Spirit saying to you?

Day 10 5 FEBRUARY

All the believers devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching, and to fellowship, and to sharing in meals, and to prayer. A deep sense of awe came over them all, and the apostles performed many miraculous signs and wonders. And all the believers met together in one place and shared everything they had. They sold their property and possessions and shared the money with those in need. They worshiped together at the Temple each day, met in homes for the Lord's Supper, and shared their meals with great joy and generosity— all the while praising God and enjoying the goodwill of all the people. And each day the Lord added to their fellowship those who were being saved.
(Acts 2:42-47)

We were made for community. We see throughout the Bible how people would meet and do life together. In community, we find support, we find belonging, we find purpose and it's in community that we are able to grow. It's about realising that we are all part of what God is doing (together). It's helping one another navigate through the storms. As we gather in Life Groups, we are privileged to do life together. As we serve in our Serve Teams, we are able to make a difference in the lives of many. As we gather on a Sunday, we are able to worship God with others and this has the power to strengthen our faith, to build resilience in us.

We know that God desires for us to have people in our worlds who we do life with. We see how Jesus models this with his disciples. And as a church, we want to follow the example that Jesus sets for us.

Prayer:
How can you grow in church community this year? Do you feel God prompting you to take a Next Step like Joining a Life Group or Serve Team? As part of a Life Group or Serve Team, how could you grow in authentic relationships with others?

What is the Holy Spirit saying to you?

Day 11 6 FEBRUARY

On this rock I will build my church. ***(Matthew 16:18)***

Jesus promises that He will build His Church and that the gates of hell will not prevail against it. The Church is not a building or a denomination but rather a community of believers. The Church is the body of Christ, and as such, it is our responsibility to care for it and to pray for it as we live For The Kingdom. Knowing God's heart for His people and the certainty of Jesus' promise to build the Church, it is no surprise that it is under constant attack from the enemy. Satan is always looking for ways to divide and to conquer the Church, and he will use any means necessary to do it. As we live For The Kingdom, it is crucial that we not only pray for unity within the Church but that the leaders of the Church would have wisdom and discernment as they lead God's people.

Ultimately, when the Church advances, the Gospel advances. And when the Gospel advances, people are saved. God is glorified through the work of His people, and when we gather together, His presence is magnified. So let us not grow weary in praying for the Church, that it may continue to be a light in the darkness and a beacon of help and hope to all who are lost.

Prayer:
Dear Heavenly Father, I lift Edge Church to You. Cover Your Church and protect it from the attacks of the enemy. I pray for supernatural protection over Ps Daniel and the rest of the leaders of our church. Protect their minds and hearts while strengthening their leadership. I pray for all the people who call Edge Church home. Draw near to them as they draw near to you. Help our church maintain unity and keep our foundation rooted in the truth – Your Word. I believe even right now You will begin to bring answers and solutions for everything they are facing. May they be strengthened and know they are equipped for the task at hand. Nothing is too great for You, and I believe You are pouring Your wisdom into them even now. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

What is the Holy Spirit saying to you?

Day 12 7 FEBRUARY

Everyone on this earth will remember you, Lord. People all over the world will turn and worship you, because you are in control, the ruler of all nations. ***(Psalm 22:27-28)***

Imagine a world where Christians everywhere paused each day to pray for God's influence and guidance in their nation. Our present reality might look quite different. For those worried about the state of our country, it's crucial to reflect on the promises found in Psalm 22: God is sovereign, but until He returns, our duty is to pray for our country and its leaders. As Edge Church, as people who are living out For The Kingdom, imagine what a difference our prayers could make.

Paul's words in 1 Timothy 2:1-4 show us how to pray for those in power. He urges us to pray for kings and all those in authority as a path to peace and holiness. He doesn't suggest praying only for leaders we agree with, but calls us to pray for all with gratitude and the spread of the Gospel in mind. As Ps Daniel mentioned, we are called to honour our leaders, even when we don't always see eye to eye.

Prayer:
God, today I pray for our government. I pray blessing on their households and families. I pray for those in authority to surrender to You to lead and guide them. I pray You would give them wisdom to lead and for peace and healing to flood our nation, and that the truth would prevail. Move in ways that are beyond what we could ask for, dream of, or imagine because that is the kind of God You are. Work all things for good for those who love You. I pray that those in authority will surrender to You. I pray Your Name would become known and You would do a supernatural work in our nation, as we become desperate for more of You. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

What is the Holy Spirit saying to you?

Day 13 8 FEBRUARY

Trust in the Lord with all your heart; do not depend on your own understanding. Seek his will in all you do, and he will show you which path to take. ***(Proverbs 3:5-6)***

When we seek God's Kingdom first, He will provide vision and direction for our paths as we live out For The Kingdom. At times, we may have all relied on directions or maps to guide and lead our paths to a new destination. We can have a destination in mind, but without direction to reach our destination, we can feel lost. When we choose to acknowledge God in all of our ways by seeking His will, He will provide direction. During times of prayer and fasting, we consecrate ourselves to Him allowing ourselves to grow closer in relationship with Him. It can sometimes be difficult to see or understand God's purpose, vision, and direction for our lives. When we choose to acknowledge God in all of our ways by seeking His presence, He will reveal vision. God speaks through intimacy and a relationship with Him!

The Bible says we can trust the Lord to give us a vision for our future. He will also lead our steps with divine direction. Although we may have a plan for our lives, ultimately God is faithful in directing our path and giving us wisdom and vision! We humble ourselves to ask for more of His vision and to direct our lives in accordance with His purpose.

Prayer:
What has God spoken to you about and highlighted to you over the last few days?

What is the Holy Spirit saying to you?

Day 14 9 FEBRUARY

As we are called to live For the Kingdom, we are called to carry God's love, not only receiving it for ourselves but sharing it with the world around us. As we live For The Kingdom, God's plan for transformation and reconciliation is through us, His people, living out His love, mission, and purpose in our daily lives. As Kingdom people we are called to be the hands and feet for a WORLD that is waiting for us.

Who has God been challenging you to reach out to? What conviction have you got about making a difference in a practical way by serving those in your world? How could God be inviting you to step into this year as you live For The Kingdom?

As Kingdom builders, God is calling us to stand up and GO into all the world *(Matthew 28:19-20)* – this is what living For The Kingdom is all about!

Our prayer for you is that as you have gone on this journey for the last 14 days, that you would begin to realise that God is calling you to live For The Kingdom in 2025. We hope you've experienced intimacy with God in a new way, and that you have found how prayer truly changes everything: our hearts, minds, attitudes, perspectives, our families, workplaces, cities, and our plans. As we look forward to this year, with the theme of For The Kingdom in mind, be encouraged with this portion of scripture, our anchor verse for the year:

"But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well."
(Matthew 6:33, NIV)

What is the Holy Spirit saying to you?

LOVE GOD.
LOVE PEOPLE.
CHANGE THE
WORLD.

EDGE
CHURCH