

HUNGER

and

THIRST



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HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE

This prayer guide has been designed to be used in conjunction with the ***Hunger and Thirst sermon series at King's Harbor Church***. Each day is meant to lead you into intentional times of prayer during our fast.

This week's guide seeks to cultivate a deep hunger for the Lord in you. There will be material for Monday through Friday. Saturday is a grace day to allow you to catch up or go back and review a day that was especially impactful for you. Each day consists of two major sections- a devotional written specifically for this series, and a closing prayer section.

Before you dive in, special thanks to Melanie Anderson and Marie Constable for their dedication to develop the devotional content for the guides related to this series.

As we begin, pray this with us, "Lord, day by day, deepen our hunger for You. May our appetites only be fully satisfied by Your Presence."

WEEK 3: THE NATIONS

MONDAY, JANUARY 24- **God's Heart for the Nations**

"Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness for they shall be satisfied" (Matthew 5:6). Satisfied is such a hopeful word. Imagine how it sounded to the cracked and broken image bearers on the mount that day. Think of what hope it offers to the lost in our world today. Hungering for righteousness is hungering for God. The only satisfaction for this hunger is HIM, which is exactly what the gospel offers. In 2 Corinthians 5:21, Paul wrote, "For our sake [God] made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in [Jesus] we might become the righteousness of God." The beautiful, mind-boggling exchange that Jesus made possible on Calvary – our sin for the righteousness of God! And he offers this to all who would believe, no matter who they are, what language they speak, or where they live.

The Bible is the story of God's glory and it ends with God receiving worship from the recipients of this beautiful exchange, multitudes "from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages." When Jesus spoke about God satisfying our hunger, his audience was mostly Jewish. But decades later, Paul wrote the above words (2 Cor. 5:21) to Gentile believers in Europe. God's plan was always Matthew 24:14 "This gospel of the kingdom will be proclaimed throughout the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come." Jesus instructed his disciples to go into all the world. He sent the Holy Spirit to empower them as his "witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria and to the end of the earth." The blessing of being satisfied comes as we enter into what he is doing, love what he loves and give him glory!

CLOSING PRAYER

As we fast, prayerfully consider these points throughout the day:

- Pray for a deeper hunger for his righteousness, knowing God wants to satisfy you!
- Consider this quote: “Missions is not the ultimate goal of the church. Worship is. Missions exist because worship doesn’t. Worship is ultimate, not missions because God is ultimate, not man. When this age is over, and the countless millions of the redeemed fall on their faces before the throne of God, missions will be no more. It is a temporary necessity. But worship abides forever. Worship, therefore, is the fuel and goal of missions” (John Piper, Let the Nations Be Glad).
- Ask God to show you where you fit into his plan to gather people from every nation, tribe, and tongue.
- Pray for all of us at KHC to have a clear understanding of the mission he has given his Church.

Piper, John. Let the Nations Be Glad p.35 (Baker Academic) 2010

TUESDAY, JANUARY 25- **Engaging in Prayer for the Harvest**

In August 1806, five college students from Williams College in Massachusetts were caught in a thunderstorm on their way home from a prayer meeting. They took shelter in a haystack to wait out the storm and for the next few hours they were moved to pray “for the awakening of foreign missionary interest among students.” The Haystack Prayer Meeting is credited with igniting the American Missionary Movement.

In Acts 13, we hear about 5 men: Barnabas, Simeon, Lucius, Manaen, and Saul, all leaders in the church at Antioch. While they were worshipping and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, “Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them. Then after fasting and praying they laid their hands on them and sent them off.” The movement to bring the gospel to all the world took a big leap forward!

In Luke 10:2, Jesus tells his disciples, “The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few. Therefore, pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send laborers into his harvest.” He was sending 70 of them ahead of him and giving them instructions. I would have thought he would say, “Therefore, go.” But instead, the first step, the first priority, is to pray!

The spread of this Gospel of the Kingdom begins with prayer. It is sustained by prayer. The completion of the task will be driven by prayer. And this prayer is not the brief, occasional kind. This is serious, sacrificial, intercessory prayer in agreement with God’s heart on behalf of those who need to hear the Good News. David Wells says, “In essence, [prayer] is rebellion – rebellion against the status quo, the state of the world in its sin and fallenness. It is the absolute and undying refusal to accept as normal what is completely abnormal.” Let’s join this rebellion.

CLOSING PRAYER

As we fast, prayerfully consider these points throughout the day:

- Take opportunities to pray for the nations. Join or start a prayer group or suggest your small group set aside time to ask the Lord of the harvest to send workers. Use resources like Operation World by Jason Mandryk or the kid's version Window on the World. They also have an app and website (www.operationworld.org) with prayer calendars available.
- Pray for the gospel to reach and redeem the people in places you hear about in the news. (Don't let the news discourage you; use it for the Kingdom.)
- Intercede for the souls of people who scare you.
- Refuse to settle for the status quo!

Wells, David "Prayer: Rebelling Against the Status Quo" Perspectives on the World Christian Movement: A Reader Fourth Edition p.160 (William Carey Library) 2009

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 26- **God's delight in Diversity**

God clearly loves diversity. Just look at his creation – countless varieties of flowers and trees, animals with amazing traits that often defy classification, biomes, and ecosystems from one extreme of the spectrum to the other. He made men and women in his image to have fellowship with him. And there are no two people exactly alike, even identical twins. We may have trouble with our differences, but he delights in the uniqueness of each human being. Revelation chapters 5 and 7 give a glimpse of worshippers from every tribe, tongue, people, and nation. Establishing his global church and reaching the nations was not a new idea formed when Israel rejected their Messiah. It was in God's heart from the beginning. When he called Abram away from his country and kindred, he promised to bless him and make his descendants a great nation. Then he said, "I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing ...and in you, all the families of the earth will be blessed" (Genesis 12:1-3). The Old Testament is full of references to God's plans for every people group. Here are a few:

Psalm 86:9 – **All the nations** you have made shall come and worship before you, O Lord, and shall glorify your name.

Isaiah 11:10 – In that day the root of Jesse, who shall stand as a signal **for the peoples** – of him shall the nations inquire, and his resting place shall be glorious.

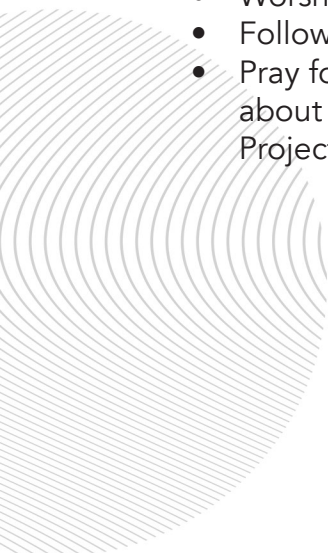

Isaiah 56:7 – These I will bring to my holy mountain, and make them joyful in my house of prayer; their burnt offerings and their sacrifices will be accepted on my altar; **for my house shall be called a house of prayer for all peoples.**

God's purpose for all of history is to bring into his eternal Kingdom diverse worshippers from all nations. One day we will witness the indescribable worship that is the result of our prayers to the Lord of the harvest!



CLOSING PRAYER

As we fast, prayerfully consider these points throughout the day:

- Worship the Lord in song with a YouTube video or other music source.
 - Follow with prayers of worship in your own words.
 - Pray for an unreached people group. One resource for learning more about unreached people groups and how to pray for them is Joshua Project (www.joshuaproject.net).
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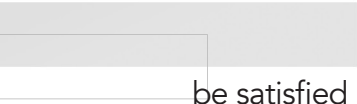
THURSDAY, JANUARY 27- **Supporting Workers with Prayer**

When William Carey, the father of modern missions, set sail in 1793 for India from England, there was no guarantee he would ever return. Correspondence was infrequent and there were few opportunities to communicate how the work was going. The apostle Paul may have had it easier seventeen centuries earlier with shorter distances and Roman roads. He was able to keep in contact with believers throughout the empire.

Almost half of the books in the New Testament are letters from Paul to the churches. In many of those, he asked for prayer. In 1 Thessalonians 5:25, he writes simply, "Brothers, pray for us." In Romans 15:30-33, he is much more specific. "I appeal to you, brothers, by our Lord Jesus Christ and by the love of the Spirit, to strive together with me in your prayers to God on my behalf, that I may be delivered from the unbelievers in Judea, and that my service for Jerusalem may be acceptable to the saints, so that by God's will I may come to you with joy and be refreshed in your company." In 2 Corinthians, Ephesians, Colossians, and 2 Thessalonians he asks the churches to pray for boldness, the right words to speak, doors to open, and to be delivered from wicked and evil men.

Intercessory, petitionary prayer for the workers in the field is critical to accomplishing the task of taking the gospel to the nations. Corporately and individually, we need to be lifting them up in prayer consistently. Though we should support them financially and encourage them in letters, emails, etc. the most important and powerful contribution we can make is fasting and praying, pleading with the Lord of the Harvest on their behalf.

King's Harbor has two families currently on the field and is associated with others. Let's enter into the battle with them. God will be glorified and we will



be satisfied as the power of darkness gives way to the Light of the World.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Here is a link to download the app, Prayer Shield: 40-Day Prayer Guide for Sent Ones – <http://smarturl.it/PrayerShieldApp>



FRIDAY, JANUARY 28- **Welcoming the Nations That Have Come to Us**

God has called his church to go into all the world. But sometimes he brings the nations to them. In the Old Testament, foreigners were drawn to the God of Israel. Rahab, Ruth, Naaman, and the Queen of Sheba are a few examples. When the temple was completed, Solomon prayed that foreigners would come and God would answer their prayers. And when the Holy Spirit came at Pentecost, God had prepared an audience from many nations to hear “the mighty works of God” in their own tongues.

In 2009, Todd Ahrend wrote, “Today the strategic importance of welcoming can hardly be overstated. Migrating peoples are scattering all over the world as never before. Over 750,000 international students are studying in America right now. There are people in the USA from almost 200 countries of the world. This could be the largest number of countries and peoples to be found in one country at any time in history.” The statistics are probably higher now. Ahrend ends with this: “God Himself has moved them into your sphere of influence for a reason.”

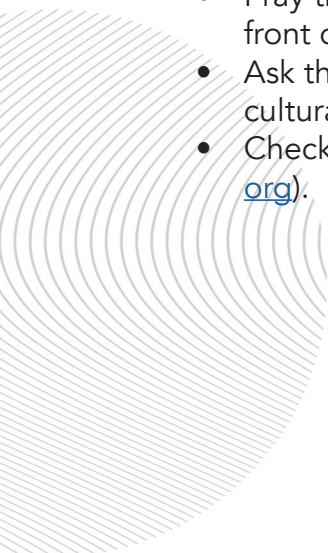

We live in a multicultural metropolitan area. We are an easy drive away from “Little Ethiopia” or “Little Arabia.” We probably all have neighbors, co-workers, business owners, or other internationals with whom we interact daily. Let’s live intentionally right here in our borders. The nations have come to us!

Pray that God would open our eyes to the plentiful harvest right in front of us. Ask him to give you a heart for the nations in our midst. Ask the Holy Spirit to guide you as you intentionally interact cross-culturally.



CLOSING PRAYER

As we fast, prayerfully consider these points throughout the day:

- Pray that God would open our eyes to the plentiful harvest right in front of us. Ask him to give you a heart for the nations in our midst.
 - Ask the Holy Spirit to guide you as you intentionally interact cross-culturally.
 - Check out organizations like International Students, Inc. (www.isiwest.org).
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SATURDAY, JANUARY 29- GRACE DAY

Today is meant to allow you to catch up or review a previous day. And make plans to join us for the conclusion of our fast as we hear about God's work in the Middle East and close our night in worship at Night for the Nations. You can register [here](#).

SUNDAY, JANUARY 30- **Strengthening Our Hands for War**

Psalm 144:1

Blessed be the Lord, my rock.
Who trains my hand for war
And my fingers for battle

I love this Psalm. Even though it may start out sounding like a war rally, David is overflowing with praise and worship to God, his “steadfast love and fortress.” This Psalm puts the fact that we are at war into the context that God is in control and he loves us without limits.

When we begin to pray for the gospel to reach all people groups, we enter into warfare. Satan does not want people delivered from his domain of darkness and transferred to the Kingdom of Jesus. (Colossians 1:13) The scenes from Revelation with people from every tongue, tribe, and nation worshiping before the throne of God enrage him! And even though this battle is still unfolding, the victory is already won. Jesus already conquered sin and death on the cross.

In the book *Let the Nations Be Glad*, John Piper says this: “In Ephesians 6:17-18, Paul makes the connection between the life of war and the work of prayer: ‘Take...the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God, praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints.’ Notice that, true to the original Greek, verse 18 does not begin a new sentence. It connects with verse 17...Take the sword...praying! This is how we are to wield the word – by prayer.” Earlier in the same chapter he writes: “Prayer is primarily a wartime walkie-talkie for the mission of the church as it advances against the powers of darkness and unbelief. It is not surprising that prayer malfunctions when we try to make it a domestic

intercom to call upstairs for more comforts in the den. God has given us prayer as a wartime walkie-talkie so that we can call headquarters for everything we need as the kingdom of Christ advances in the world. Prayer gives us the significance of frontline forces and gives God the glory of a limitless Provider.”

As our time of fasting is ending, let’s continue in prayer – corporately and individually – with even more earnestness. Let’s pursue a heart for the things of God. Let’s be hungry and thirsty for righteousness.

Piper, John. Let the Nations Be Glad pp.65,68 (Baker Academic) 2010



