

SCHEDULE

9.00am - 5.00pm Friday 17 Feb

The Pursuit Of Whole-heartedness I

Renewal Of Desire

- For desire for intimacy with God.
- For an awareness of sin and desire for holiness.
- For the rooting out of idolatry and bitterness.

5.00pm - 1.00am Friday - Sunday 18 Feb - 19 Feb

The Altar Of The Home I

Discipleship At Home

- For fervency in habits, rhythms and discipling our children.
- For our family members to come to know Jesus.

1.00 am - 9.00 am Saturday 18 Feb

The Church As A House Of Prayer I

Revival In The Church

- For the empowerment and unction of the Spirit to do His work.
- For a shift in our prayers and focus from being selfcentred to burdened by what burdens God's heart.

9:00am - 5.00pm Saturday 18 Feb

The Pursuit Of Whole-heartedness II

Receiving God's Desire

- For our hearts to be yielded to His purposes and will.
- To experience His desire for the lost.

5.00pm - 1.00am Saturday - Sunday 18 Feb - 19 Feb

The Altar Of The Home II

Witness To The World

- For the strength of families and marriages to be a witness to the world around.
- For forgiveness and reconciliation starting in our homes.

1:00am - 9.00am Sunday 19 Feb

The Church As A House Of Prayer II

Revival In The World

- For the Persecuted Church.
- For Israel.
- For the sanctification of the Bride.

OPENING LETTER

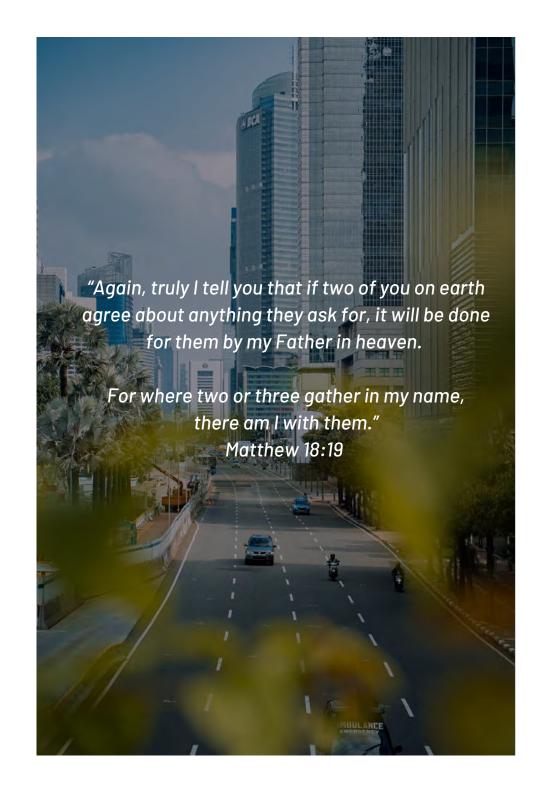
Thank you for 'showing up' to pray!

Each year, we begin our year with a time set apart to humble ourselves in seeking the Lord in prayer.

This year, we will be praying along the emphases of Pastor Andre's Vision Series: The Pursuit Of Whole-heartedness, The Altar Of The Home, and The Church As A House of Prayer.

This guide is to help you better engage with God and each other as you cover the prayer points and attend to what His Spirit is saying. May you encounter God and feel the desires of His heart deeply in your time of prayer, in your groups and families.

Seek First Team



GROUP PRAYER GUIDE

"Again, truly I tell you that if two of you on earth agree about anything they ask for, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven.

For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them." Matthew 18:19

Corporate prayer has marked church life since the days of the New Testament - an instinct of the early church in times of trouble and uncertainty.

Jesus promised His Presence when the disciples gathered to pray and that He would answer them. Power and presence is released in the coming together of the saints to intercede and ask God to do what He has already promised.

You can follow this group guide to fill up your hour of prayer in an engaging way as a CORD Group, LifeGroup, or family!

FOCUS (10MINS)

Begin by explaining the prayer Focus for that hour, and then invite everyone to lift their eyes and thoughts toward King Jesus. You may do this in any of the following ways you find helpful:

- (1) Have one person open the time with a prayer for the group as you intercede for the 1 hour.
- (2) Read the Focus bible verse out loud together and meditate on the nature of God revealed in it.
- (3) Should you have someone with the skill or sound equipment, plan musical worship for your meeting to welcome the Holy Spirit, and to lift our eyes to God's power and declare His victory.
- (4) If you are praying as a family, this would be the time to use the Family Teaching Tool to explain why you are praying.

PRAYER (25MINS)

A designated prayer leader can then direct the group to pray through the Prayer Points for that hour. You may choose to segment the time according to the prayer points. It can be helpful to use different models of prayer to engage your group:

- (1) ABC a great way to actively engage everyone in prayer is to split the room into groups of three, asking each person to allocate themselves 'A', 'B', or 'C'. Having done this, give the three prayer pointers relating to the hour, allocated to each of the three letters. This simple model multiplies the prayer and engages everyone, providing them with clear guidance. Switch around til everyone has had to pray for each point!
- (2) Zones try splitting the room into zones, according to the size of the prayer meeting, around each prayer point. Provide written prayer points for each one, or allocate different people to lead the prayers in each zone while the rest of the people spend a few minutes in each one.
- (3) Crying out The Early Church raised their voices together in prayer. Even if it feels uncomfortable, challenge your group to pray out loud together, at the same time.

COMMUNAL SENSING (15MINS)

Have a time of listening to God for the issues and burdens on His heart for the Focus/Theme. You may follow these steps to direct this time of listening:

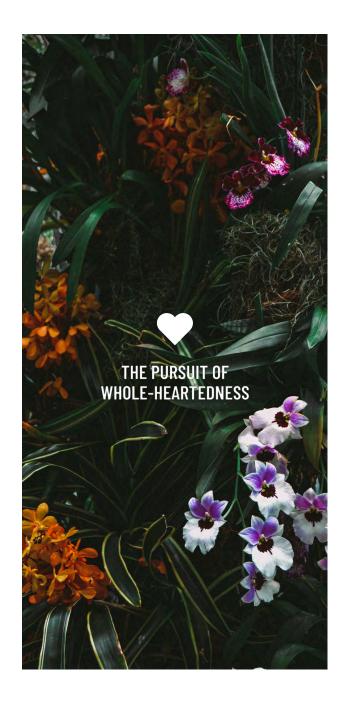
- (1) Share how God speaks Provide some context and teaching for your group. Sharing a personal example is a great way to start.
- (2) Invite the Holy Spirit to speak This is a really practical way to start your listening time. Give space for silence and a set time for people to hear from God. It is helpful to have writing or drawing material for out for people to use to express what they sense.

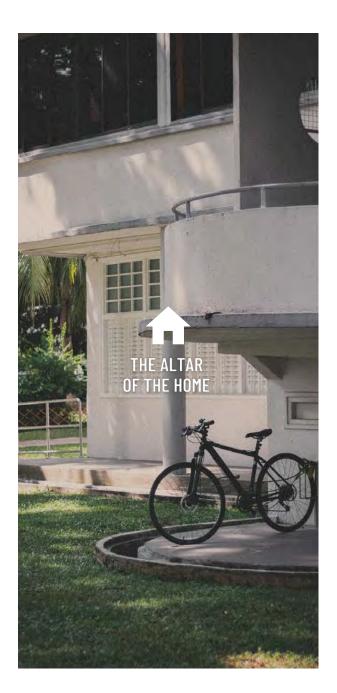
GROUP RESPONSE (10MINS)

- (1) Share together Invite people to share what they have heard from God. Record what each person shares, and highlight any patterns that emerge.
- (2) Commit together From the patterns felt by your group or family, ideate and commit to some group actions or rhythms you can pursue in response to what God has revealed.
- (3) Share with The City Along with a photo of your group prayer time, post what has been sensed from the prayer time to the Communal Sensing page for the community to be encouraged, to continue praying into them, and to help our planning.

Click here for Communal Sensing Page

(4) Closing Prayer - Finish the time with a prayer for the sensing highlighted and a note of agreement!







THE PURSUIT OF WHOLE-HEARTEDNESS

FOCUS (5MINS)

The heart is the executive center of a human life - where we make decisions and choices to pursue Jesus and His Kingdom - yet where darkness crouches at the doorstep in our inclination to wander and our disordered desires. In these hours, we lift up the hearts of each and every member of our community that God would give us a new heart which trembles at His Word.

Before you begin asking from God, pause and reflect on this verse: "I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; I will take the heart of stone out of your flesh and give you a heart of flesh." Ezekiel 36:26

PRAYER (30MINS)

- As God's eyes roam the earth in search of those who are blameless, pray for our church, The City, to relentlessly seek intimacy – through honest prayer – with the One who ultimately helps us to remain faithful (2 Chronicles 16:9).
- Jesus calls us 'friend' (John 15:15). Pray for our community to grow in desire for intimacy with Him, as we corporately invite His voice to be the steering wheel of our church.
- We become what we give our attention to (Matthew 6:21-23).
 Pray for God to reveal to us the things that we have chosen above Him. These can be our struggles with unforgiveness, addiction to social media, desire for recognition in our work, popularity with people, etc.

COMMUNAL SENSING (10MINS)

"For we know in part, and we prophesy in part." (1 Cor. 13:9) We lean upon our collective discernment to move us toward the works God has for us as a community.

Take some time to quiet yourself and ask the Lord what He wishes to speak to our community about this area. We encourage you to share what you have received on our Communal Sensing page here!

Click here for Communal Sensing Page

PERSONAL RESPONSE (15MINS)

Take this time to reflect on these prompts or anything you may feel the Holy Spirit stirring in your heart. It would be helpful to write down your reflections and further action steps in a journal as you continue your spiritual journey.

- Are there areas in which I need God's help to search and reveal to me things that I need to repent of, change or heal from?
- Have I found myself growing attached to certain kinds of outward expressions of my faith, rather than pursuing a deep, intimate friendship with God?
- Who outside of my usual prayer list can I intercede for? Ponder about people outside your immediate circles or family.

FAMILY TOOL

WHO CAN CURE IT?

Brainstorm situations with your children about needs and cures. Some examples to get you thinking:
You are going to school, but the bus engine stalled.
Who do you need: mechanic or dentist?

Your kitchen sink is clogged and the water is not draining out! Who do you need: a librarian or a plumber?

Your grandma slipped and took a fall. She cannot get up. Who do you need to call: Blackpink or your parents?

For each of these situations, we go to the right person or source that can help with the need. To cure a flu, we do not go to a policeman. To learn painting, we seek out a painter instead of a drummer.

Who do you need to cure a stubborn, hard or cold heart? Jesus! He is familiar with us inside-out; He knows us through and through. He promises to give us new hearts.

Only Jesus can change our hearts and fix our sin problem. Pray to ask for His help with our hearts.

(Adapted from Splink! November 21, 2021)

17 FEB (FRI) 5PM TO 18 FEB (SAT) 1AM

THE ALTAR OF THE HOME

FOCUS (5MINS)

More than the activity of Sunday school, discipleship begins in the home. We want to teach our children the ways and wonders of the Lord that they may walk closely with Him. In these hours, we lift up our families and each individual member in prayer.

Before you begin asking from God, pause and reflect on these verses: "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength. And these words which I command you today shall be in your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children". Deuteronomy 6:5-7a

PRAYER (30MINS)

- Pray that God will teach us how to instruct our children in the ways that they should go, so that when they grow up, they will not depart from it (Proverbs 22:6).
- Pray that God will help us as parents to not 'provoke our children', but to instead teach and discipline them in ways that are loving, gentle and compassionate — that through us, they can experience the love of Christ that is full of life rather than death and condemnation (Ephesians 6:4; 2 Corinthians 3:6).
- Ask God for creativity and resolve to disciple our next generation to navigate the challenges of the times, to have thoughtful and honest discussions with them, and contend for them to experience personal encounters, so that they will have an unflinching faith in God (Philippians 2:15). Pray for 'fathers' and 'mothers' to answer this call of discipling the younger generation.

COMMUNAL SENSING (10MINS)

"For we know in part, and we prophesy in part." (1 Cor. 13:9) We lean upon our collective discernment to move us toward the works God has for us as a community.

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PERSONAL RESPONSE (15MINS)

Take this time to reflect on these prompts or anything you may feel the Holy Spirit stirring in your heart. It would be helpful to write down your reflections and further action steps in a journal as you continue your spiritual journey.

- How can I cultivate healthy rhythms for my family to pray and to talk about God regularly?
- Are there new ways that I can make more room for my children to be curious about God?
- Who in my family can I intentionally reach out to and share God's love with in this season?

FAMILY TOOL

ACT IT OUT

Items needed: A notepaper, pens/pencils.

How we respond to others matter.

Our attitude can either be a good or bad influence. Let's create a list of situations at home, and then act out the different attitudes we can have when they happen. Some examples: Dad says, "No snacks before dinner." Parent says, "Pick up your toys and make your bed, please." Mom says, "Because you did not finish this like you promised, we cannot go out anymore." Aunty says, "It's time to turn off the TV."

Once you're done acting out the attitudes, sit in a circle and get talking! How does an attitude influence in a good or bad way? Does having a good attitude mean we should dismiss any negative emotions and not talk about them? Have each family member share.

The Bible tells us that David prayed: Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me. (Psalm 51:10, NRSV). We are wired differently, but we are all wired anew with the help of God's Spirit.

How can we help YOU to grow a good attitude? Pray for each other.

THE CHURCH AS A HOUSE OF PRAYER

FOCUS (5MINS)

We believe that we need revival in the church - to 'groan that we have no burden', to despise our self-sufficiency and ache for the empowerment of the Holy Spirit. In these hours, we ask the Spirit for utterance as we intercede beyond ourselves for the purposes on God's heart.

Before you begin asking from God, pause and reflect on this verse: "if My people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land." 2 Chronicles 7:14

PRAYER (30MINS)

- Pray for a renewal of desire for the tangible presence of God amongst our community, each time we gather throughout the weeks in various groups / platforms (Matthew 18:20; Colossians 3:16; Acts 2:42).
- Pray for a restlessness in the spirit that cannot be stifled or shelved, but a deepening and irresistible yearning for God and a contriteness of heart due to our sinfulness as God's people (Jeremiah 2:12-13; 2 Chronicles 7:14; Revelation 2:4-5). Hunger and humility.
- Declare words of scripture over the church as resistance to the destructive works of the enemy, and more importantly, as demonstration of what God is able to do in us and through us, when we rely on Him (Ephesians 3:18; John 13:34-35; 1 Corinthians 1:18; Romans 8:37).

COMMUNAL SENSING (10MINS)

"For we know in part, and we prophesy in part" (1 Cor. 13:9) - We lean upon our collective discernment to move us toward the works God has for us as a community.

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PERSONAL RESPONSE (15MINS)

Take this time to reflect on these prompts or anything you may feel the Holy Spirit stirring in your heart. It would be helpful to write down your reflections and further action steps in a journal as you continue your spiritual journey.

- How can I pray more for others during my personal prayer time?
- Reach out to someone and ask if the both
 of you can be committed to praying for
 each other for a season of time. Regularly
 check in and share personal prayer
 requests to intentionally cover each other
 in prayer.

FAMILY TOOL

WHO CAN CURE IT?

Items needed: Device to show video (optional), a large piece of paper, a bunch of colour markers.

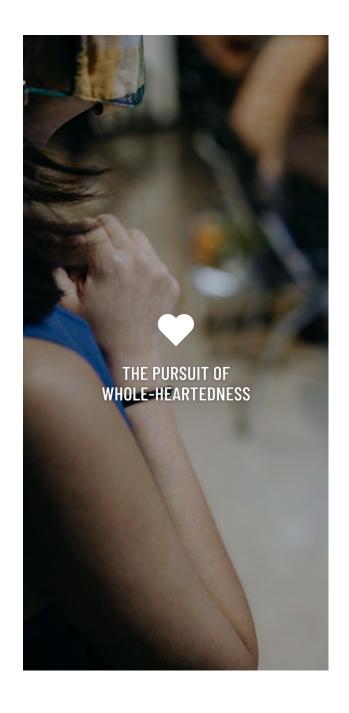
Remember the story of the Israelites marching around the city of Jericho? What happened to the walls? (Reference <u>Video 01</u> or <u>Video 02</u>) It reminds us how powerful it is when God's people put their faith in Him and work together in unity!

Take the largest piece of paper you can find in your house and lay it flat on the ground. Write "THE CITY" smack in the center. First, have everyone draw pictures of what comes to mind when we think of our church family. For example, a plate with food because we often eat together, or a microphone, or a balloon, etc. Go creative and colourful! Second, have each person write one quality that God wants in His church, wherever on the paper.

When done, form a circle around the paper. Inspired by God's promise to Joshua and the Israelites, now walk slooooowly around, while taking turns to pray short prayers, using what you drew and wrote. For example, "God, we pray our church will always be generous in sharing meals," "God, help us grow in faith like Joshua." You can time this or just go as long as you wish.

There, you have just done a prayer walk together! Did you know you can prayer walk when you're walking from your classroom to the canteen, or to the train station, or wherever you go?

"There is not a square inch in the whole domain of our human existence over which Christ, who is Sovereign over all, does not cry, 'Mine!" Abraham Kuyper







THE PURSUIT OF WHOLE-HEARTEDNESS

FOCUS (5MINS)

Our pursuit of whole-heartness with God does not stop at fixing what is within us, but a reorientation towards His purpose through us. In these hours, we lift up The City and its membersthat we would be a people who pursue His calling and HIs heart for others.

Before you begin asking from God, pause and reflect on this verse: "For the eyes of the Lord run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to show Himself strong on behalf of those whose heart is loyal to Him. In this you have done foolishly; therefore from now on you shall have wars." 2 Chronicles 16:9

PRAYER (30MINS)

- We owe nothing to the world around us, except to love them (Romans 13:8). Pray for the wider church to find a renewed passion and purpose in loving the people who have yet to encounter the life-changing love of Jesus Christ.
- Pray for God to help us, His people, to be marked by our love for each other (John 13:33-34), and extend this love to the ones who are at odds with us.
- It is God who helps us to desire and to do His will (Philippians 2:13). Pray for our God to help us, and brothers and sisters, to keep our hearts yielded to Christ and to fiercely protect our allegiance to the One who loved us first.

COMMUNAL SENSING (10MINS)

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PERSONAL RESPONSE (15MINS)

Take this time to reflect on these prompts or anything you may feel the Holy Spirit stirring in your heart. It would be helpful to write down your reflections and further action steps in a journal as you continue your spiritual journey.

- Have I forgotten the joy of my salvation?
 How can I regularly be reminded of God's saving grace over my life?
- Have I been faithful in sharing the love of Christ with those who have yet to know Him? Who can I be praying for and intentionally working towards sharing the good news of God's love with in this season?

FAMILY TOOL

MAKE A JOYFUL NOISE

Items needed: A Bible, device for playing praise music, some plastic bottles, ingredients such as popcorn kernels, beans, rice or whatever you have on hand.

Carefully fill one of the bottles with an ingredient, about half or a-third full. Cap the bottle and give it a shake. Sound nice? Now fill up the other bottles, or if you prefer, create something different with other items around the house. The following activity is more fun if everyone has an instrument to play with.

Done? Great! Crank up some praise music! Have one person read these verses out loud: Oh come, let us sing to the Lord; let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation! Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving; let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise! For the Lord is a great God, and a great King above all gods. (Psalm 95:1-3 ESV)

Now, sing along with the praise music and your variety of instruments. Hopefully it is a joyful noise!

After the time of praise, quiet down and sit in a circle. Based on Psalm 95:6-8a, pray this prayer together: Almighty God, we come to You. We worship and bow down, we kneel to express we are Your creation and You are our Maker! You are our God, and we are Your people, the sheep of Your hand. Today, we choose to listen to Your voice. We do not harden our hearts. We are grateful for Your love, God. Amen.

18 FEB (SAT) 5PM TO 19 FEB (SUN) 1AM

THE ALTAR OF THE HOME

FOCUS (5MINS)

The Church is to be a witness to a broken world of God's will and design for flourishing. In these hours, we lift up believers, marriages and families to hold firm to God's truth and reveal God's love.

Before you begin asking from God, pause and reflect on this verse: "This is a great mystery, but I speak concerning Christ and the church. Nevertheless let each one of you in particular so love his own wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband." Ephesians 5:32–33

PRAYER (30MINS)

- "Therefore what God has joined together, let not man separate."
 (Matthew 19:6). Pray for the strengthening of marriages, for the renewal of passion and intimacy, for God's faithful love to be revealed through the covenant of marriage.
- Pray against criticism and contempt that cause much hostility in marriages and families, but instead, that God's healing and enduring lovingkindness and hopefulness will disrupt cycles of unhealth in our homes, and give room for God to mend the fractures (Romans 12:9; Ephesians 5:21; Ephesians 6:2).
- Pray for supernatural revelation of God's covenantal love (abiding, unconditional) to His people which breaks the power of systemic and familial bondages, that His flourishing abundant life flows and the world is drawn to experience and taste Him too (John 10:10; 2 Corinthians 9:8; Revelation 22:1-2).

COMMUNAL SENSING (10MINS)

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PERSONAL RESPONSE (15MINS)

Take this time to reflect on these prompts or anything you may feel the Holy Spirit stirring in your heart. It would be helpful to write down your reflections and further action steps in a journal as you continue your spiritual journey.

- How have I taken real steps towards forgiving my family, my spouse, or my parents? Invite someone to pray with you, as you prayerfully move towards reconciliation with those who are closest to you.
- How has my marriage or my relationship with my children displayed the tender, always forgiving, and compassionate love of the Father?
- How can I strengthen my relationship with my children so that they grow up rooted in security that they are first most loved by Jesus, even when they feel like they are hard to love?

FAMILY TOOL

ONE THING...THEN ANOTHER!

Items needed: Dominoes.

Watch <u>this video</u> of the ripple effect of dominoes to see an amazing demonstration.

Stand up a row of Dominoes (just enough to see how each piece affects another, when toppled).

What happened when we tapped the first Domino? One thing affected another thing. There is impact when we do certain things, and the impact spreads. Similarly, how we live our lives affects other people. Each time we choose to have a positive impact on those around us, that impact leads to another positive impact, and another.

What does it take to have this kind of thing be possible? Patience! Perseverance! Belief that even little things can have impact! God has placed us in our families and relationships for His purpose and by His design. Together, we can be little domino pieces that spread God's grace and truth, healing and forgiveness in the world.

- What is one way our family has positive impact in society?
- What is a little habit you can practise that can have impact?
- Take some time now to pray for your family and your habits.

(Adapted from Splink! November 14, 2021)

THE CHURCH AS A HOUSE OF PRAYER

FOCUS (5MINS)

We are to be a 'house of prayer for all nations' (Is. 56:7). In these hours, we intercede for The Church, the nations and God's divine plan in them.

Before you begin asking from God, pause and reflect on this verse: "My name will be great among the nations, from where the sun rises to where it sets. In every place incense and pure offerings will be brought to me, because my name will be great among the nations," says the Lord Almighty." Malachi 1:11

PRAYER (30MINS)

- Ask God for His burden of intercession for His persecuted people around the world, for those of the Church who are suffering, in need and under political or economic oppression (Psalm 10:17-18; Psalm 82:3-4; Amos 5:24).
- Pray for the Jewish people to know God as their refuge (Psalm 9:9; Psalm 103:6), for them to call on the Lord and be saved (Romans 10:12-13), and for the Church to seek God's heart for Israel and the Jewish people (Genesis 12:3; Romans 11:11).
- Pray for a greater release of apostolic passion for God's glory to be made known among the nations amid unbelief, hostility, secularism and evil, that followers of Jesus be agents of reconciliation through word, deed and power, that all peoples may hear the message of the gospel and turn to Him (John 14:12; 2 Corinthians 5:20; Acts 3:19; John 17:23).

COMMUNAL SENSING (10MINS)

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PERSONAL RESPONSE (15MINS)

Take this time to reflect on these prompts or anything you may feel the Holy Spirit stirring in your heart. It would be helpful to write down your reflections and further action steps in a journal as you continue your spiritual journey.

- How can I privately cultivate a house of prayer in my own heart for God to dwell?
- Invite God to reveal to you His heart for Israel and ask God how you can be praying for the people of the land.
- Ponder about countries that find it hard to worship God freely (i.e. Myanmar, China, North Korea, Pakistan, Iran). Think about them as you pray for God to sustain them with joy and endurance.

FAMILY TOOL

A HOUSE FOR ALL PEOPLES

Items needed: Papers in different colours (origami paper works best), colour markers/pencils.

On each piece of paper, draw a human figure outline See example here.

Decorate each of the persons to represent something about them that may be different from you, e.g. glasses, country flag, wheelchair, hobby, etc.

Next, on each person, think of one thing that Jesus gives us that you would like that person to have.
Write it on him/her.

God says, "for my house shall be called a house of prayer for all peoples." (Isaiah 56:7 ESV) This means that everyone from any nation can be part of God's House of Prayer --- these paper figures we just made remind us of this! Commit this verse to memory using the following actions:

For my - point up with index finger
house - shape a roof over your head with your arms
shall be called - hands on both sides of mouth
a house - same as above
of prayer - fold hands to pray
for all peoples - draw circle, like a globe

Repeat until you can do it without prompting.

Chat: If all nations are welcome in Jesus' church, how can we include and learn from everyone's ways of praying, singing and serving God?

Using the paper figures, pray for people of all nations / groups of people that come to mind. End with one last time of doing the actions. After this, you can stick the paper figures onto a wall or door as a visual reminder of Isaiah 56:7.

