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## **Fasting Focus:** ***That Our Church Would Move the World Toward Christlikeness***

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### **Day 1: *Read Isaiah 55***

- Pray that we as individuals and a church would truly seek the Lord so that He would be found.
- Pray that we would forsake any of our evil ways as individuals and as a church. That the Lord would reveal those things that are evil so that we can see new areas that need cleansing by Him.
- Pray that we would desire the Lord's thoughts as individuals and as a church. That our minds would not be so focused on what we want that we miss our Creator's ways of handling life and people.

### ***Read Isaiah 58***

- Jesus' life exemplified true fasting. Pray that the Lord would restore us as a church to our heritage – we were called to be a people who participated in loosing the chains of injustice and helping to set the oppressed free. Ask the Lord to help us see the true, obvious and subtle injustices and ways of oppression. Ask Him to lead us how to pray against these in our prayers. Speak aloud that we know Jesus has overcome the tactics of Satan and we want to acknowledge that we know he is defeated. Ask the Lord to convict us and empower us as a people to once again participate whether through prayer or in our actions to be as Jesus in loosing the chains of injustice and freeing the oppressed.
- Thank the Lord for His promise that when we follow His ways we will be like a well-watered garden, He will guide us always, satisfy our needs, and that we will find joy in Him. Ask the Lord to take these blessings and pour them out on those of us who are already involved in anti-abortion movements, food banks, half way houses, street ministries, clothing ministries, homes for abused women, under paid workers, etc. Ask Him that as a church we would send forth more laborers into those fields. Ask Him to help us to encourage these people in our words and in our actions.
- Pray that the church's instruments for communication (magazine, website and publications) would be used to rekindle our sense of purpose as a church.

### **Day 2: *Read Philippians 2***

- Pray that we as a church would not do anything out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but that we would in humility, consider others better than ourselves. That we would not look to our own interests but also to the interests of others.
- Pray that our attitude would be the same as Christ Jesus who made Himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant. That we would be humble and exemplify Jesus' kind of serving. Ask the Lord to help us to be obedient as He was - to the exact degree that God the Father calls us. Ask the Lord to help us as a church not to be afraid or too proud to make ourselves nothing. That our "position" and "being heard" not be a part of our focus. That we would listen and follow only what the Lord wants us to do.

- Ask the Lord to enable us to do everything without complaining or arguing so that we may become blameless and pure - that as a church we will shine like stars in the universe as we hold out the word of life.
- Pray that the church's communication instruments would be used to connect us in love for one another.

### **Day 3: Read John 17**

- Thank Jesus for how He lived his life here on earth. He humbled himself to be a servant. He lived a life loosing the chains of injustice and setting the oppressed free. He lived to obey the Father and to love us. He poured Himself out physically, emotionally, mentally and spiritually on our behalf. He made it possible for us to be reunited with the Father – all because He loved the Father and loved us. Take time to focus on the goodness of God through Christ Jesus and verbalize praises for who He is and what He has done and is still doing for us.
- Ask the Lord to forgive us as a people for living our lives so self-centered. Ask the Lord to work in our hearts and minds to purify us from all unrighteousness that we would live as Jesus.
- Pray that we as a church would so love the Father through Christ Jesus that our obedience would flow from love and not obligation. That we as a church would bring glory to the Father through the testimony of our lives and what Jesus is doing in and through us.
- Re-read this chapter and focus on how much Jesus wants us to be protected from the evil one and to know the love of the Father. Pray that we would see how we are deceived in so many ways to justify self-indulgence. Ask the Lord to protect us as a church from the evil one and to implant His love of the Father in us.
- Pray and ask the Lord to truly sanctify us as we read the written Word and give ourselves to knowing the Living Word (Jesus) through prayer. That we would be transformed into the likeness of Jesus.
- Pray that we, as a church, would be so open to having Jesus fill every part of our lives that our heart's desire would be to have others know the love of the Father. This was His heart's desire.
- Whether it be in our worship services, our church communication venues, our church ministry center, our offices, our homes, our malls, our schools, etc. ask the Lord that we would bring Christ-likeness to the world. That through our lives others would be attracted to Jesus and desire his saving, transforming presence in their lives.
- Pray that our communication instruments would be used to connect us in a common passion for God and Christlikeness (true holiness).