



December 31, 2017

Icebreaker: At the beginning of every new year, we take time to set our resolutions and determine ourselves to be better, act better, to take up a new hobby, or get rid of bad habits ... Pastor Marcus ran through a list of common "New Year" resolutions. As a group compile a list of last years resolutions that you had for 2017. Of those, how many were successfully completed? Next make another list of this years resolutions. How many on this list do you expect will be successful?

Encouragement: What if this year we committed to asking God to give us each day our daily bread? What if in the new year, we committed to living fully present and in prayer each day, living with the expectation that if today's prayers are sufficient, tomorrow's prayers may be unnecessary! Looking back on 2017 bring to mind all of the trials God lead you through. God is with you and will never leave you or forsake you! How can you guarantee that you will have a blessed day, a blessed year? Spend it with the Lord!

Scripture: In the upcoming 4-part series, we will dive deeper in how to pray, what to pray for, and learn more about what it means to pray for our daily bread. Our Father provides our daily needs. In Our Lord's Prayer (**Matthew 6:11**) Jesus teaches us to pray that God would "give us this day our daily bread". Our Father provides our mission. It is to join Him in His mission. Our Co-mission (**Matthew 28:19**). To go and make disciples.... Our Father gives us the priorities "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind (**Matthew 22:37**).

Prayer: Imagine the blessings God has for you if you prepare your heart and surrender it all to Him. Pray and ask God to reveal His Kingdom agenda for your life and say, *Not my will, but thy will be done.*

Pray about what to surrender to God during this time of fasting and praying. During this time of prayer and fasting, trust that He is waiting for each of us with promises abundantly above and beyond what we could ask or imagine. Prayerfully

consider what God is asking you to give up—that you would decrease and He would increase in your life. It’s one thing to know about God, but it’s a different thing to be known by God. Ask yourself, *What am I allowing to come between me and God’s presence?*

Next Steps: As a group make a "New Years" list of resolutions that Jesus might make for you. Compare it to the 2018 list you made earlier. If they were both on one list number each item from 1st to last in order of priority. Post your own personal list on your door.

Upcoming Events: Prepare your heart and mind to be challenged by God’s word. Sign up to get daily devotionals starting January 8. To commit to pray and fast for 21 days and wish to receive the daily encouragement emails. [Click here »](#) **WHAT IS A FAST?**

Quote: No matter where you are in life or what challenges you face today, I invite you to devote yourself to be in His presence, feast on His word, and worship Him daily, pushing everything else aside, so that you will know Him and carry His presence into any circumstance. Miles

Memory Verse: Jeremiah 29:11 "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."