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Introduction

God is giving us a breathtaking invitation in these first two weeks of our journey, much like He did for John in Revelation 4 when He said, "Come up here, and I will show you" He is inviting us to seek and find His very presence.

Seeking the presence of God is a theme that runs through the Scriptures. God's promises are strong and sure for those who seek Him. If you seek Him, 1 Chronicles 28:9 says, He will let you find Him!

Pour over these Scriptures and other favorites of yours on seeking God.

This is God's invitation and our response.

When You said, "Seek My face," my heart said to You, "Your face, O LORD, I shall seek" (Psalm 27:8).

These first two weeks are a "one-request zone."

One thing I have asked from the LORD, that I shall seek: That I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the LORD and to meditate in His temple (Psalm 27:4).

We're taking two weeks for this because Jesus said those who keep seeking will find. Keep asking, and it will be given to you; keep seeking, and you will find; keep knocking, and it will be opened to you. For everyone who keeps asking receives, and he who keeps seeking finds, and to him who keeps knocking it will be opened (Matthew 7:7,8).

As we walk through these first two weeks of our 40-Day Prayer Journey, let's seek God's presence as never before. Let's be like Jacob who said, "I will not let go unless You bless me" (Genesis 32:26). May His presence become as real to us as He desires it to be! Trust Him to take you to a deeper place of experiencing His presence.

Seeking God and His Presence (Week 1)

Day 1: Enter His Gate

Enter His gates with thanksgiving and His courts with praise; give thanks to Him and praise His name (Psalm 100:4 NIV).

This is the first step in entering the Tent of Meeting as we seek the Lord together. We enter the gates with worship. We praise. We give thanks. Sing one of your favorite worship songs. Links have been provided below to help you. Ask God for nothing. Just focus on Him. Sing. Rejoice. Allow His beauty to wash over you, ushering you deeper and deeper into the love relationship your Father paid the highest price to provide. Seek God to capture your heart, your full attention, your soul and spirit. Experience true worship.

- Reflect: Describe the gate and the courts you are entering. What feelings arise as you picture entering the gates of His presence today with other Navigators who are similarly seeking God through these weeks of prayer? Pray from Psalm 100:4 as you enter the gate of thanksgiving.
- Sing to the Lord a song of your choice, such as:
- o Open The Gates https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JiiQeGo4w4U
- o I Will Enter His Gates https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IUPihaH9p-Y
- What A Beautiful Name https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nQWFzMvCfLE
- Way Maker https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iJCV 2H9xD0
- o Before the Throne of God Above https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=/U4N4hlsCaZO

- We Praise You, https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=/hDSoMLnUwJA
- o Such an Awesome God https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=/JA0A3PA98zk

Day 2: Enjoy Your Shepherd

The young lions do lack and suffer hunger; but they who seek the LORD shall not be in want of any good thing (Psalm 34:10 NASB1995).

This is reminiscent of Psalm 23:1. I don't need anything because the Lord is my Shepherd! As you seek the Lord, concentrate on seeking Him as your Shepherd. Do you realize that He was seeking you long before you sought Him? Relax and enjoy the constant presence of your Good Shepherd.

• Reflect: Consider these verbs describing what shepherds do for sheep: care, provide, soothe, steer, lead, direct, protect, be present in darkness, comfort, nourish, anoint, fill, pursue, restore, revive, lead, prepare. Which verb or verbs stand out to you? Pray from Psalm 23 in response.



- Sing to the Lord a song of your choice, such as:
 - Savior, Like A Shepherd Lead Us https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SQe8slFjX-o
 - o Lion and The Lamb https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C9ujBoud26k
 - Shepherd https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qyONG4uTiuE
 - Psalm 23 https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pN4tPkX0MG0
 - Worthy Is The Lamb https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4Gae-n0Pb7Q
 - Great Are You Lord https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FZOBNyrOpKM
 - o Psalm 23, Jason Upton https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=/etrvS-vflmg
 - What a Friend We Have in Jesus https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=/znWu2HCJ92c
 - Shepherd https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=/xMxfBbr2FTM

Day 3, July 17: Take a Drink

O God, You are my God; I shall seek You earnestly; My soul thirsts for You, my flesh yearns for You, in a dry and weary land where there is no water (Psalm 63:1 NASB1995).

We can live a long time without food but can only live a short time without water. How thirsty are you for God? Take that first phrase, "O God, You are my God." Write out your own prayer that emphasizes the word "You." Only God is your God, no other. Make a declaration in the heavenly realms that God—and God alone—is your God!

 Reflect: Are you currently in a dry or weary place? How does it look and feel to seek God when going through dryness or suffering, versus when in a place of joy and abundance? How do you think your Father feels as you seek Him in these various situations? Cry out to God to slake your thirst for Him.



- Sing to the Lord a song of your choice, such as:
 - o As The Deer Pants https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FBppKZ0eJIQ
 - Hungry https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lvnbfypZ4wY
 - o Breathe https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tzOz9oZVrtA
 - o Know https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=/A8TtOIMaKKA
 - o It Is Well https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=/VaxxtlxXKF0
 - o God, I Look to You https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=/5fTiQLzHZrk
 - Yet Not I, But Christ Through Me https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=/dHJPwI1Qioo

Day 4, July 18: Taste the Glory

Glory in His holy name; Let the heart of those who seek the LORD be glad. Seek the LORD and His strength; Seek His face continually (Psalm 105:3,4 NASB1995).

Is your heart glad? Do you experience His strength going far beyond your meager ability? Do you sit at His feet like Mary, gazing into His face, listening to His words of life? The word "seek" can also be translated "search, study, inquire." How do these words add light as you explore and probe the depths of knowing God?

- Reflect: As you imagine watching this brilliant sunrise or sunset, what is the Lord showing you about Himself? How does the beauty of creation motivate you to seek Him? What most motivates you to seek Him? Respond to the instructions of Psalm 105:3 in prayer.
- Sing to the Lord a song of your choice, such as:
 - How Great Thou Art https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uHrgaOz10HA
 - How Great Is Our God https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bHAZGXsVF1k
 - o Such An Awesome God https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JA0A3PA98zk
 - Total Praise https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZME9t4nsCrc
 - o Great Are You Lord https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FZOBNyrOpKM

- o Revival's in the Air https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=/u9TCQuni5Jw
- Only a Holy God https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=/7HSdeeCm8_g

Day 5: Savor the Bread

You shall set the bread of the Presence on the table before Me at all times (Exodus 25:30 NASB1995).

Freshly baked bread was always set out in the presence of Yahweh. Today, you are always in the presence of Yahweh. If you have bread available (the type of bread in not critical), thoughtfully, reflectively eat a piece of bread as you sit in the presence of God. Savor the taste. Jesus even taught us to pray, "give us

this day our daily bread." Thank God for His provision.

 Reflect: What do you imagine this bread smells like? Tastes like? What qualities of bread reveal to you how God wants to be your heavenly bread today? Tell God how hungry you are for Him and how much you enjoy His presence.



- Sing to the Lord a song of your choice, such as:
 - o Fill Me Up https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OKWkYxikygQ
 - o In Christ Alone https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3ch6eXkQWU8
 - Home https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=/mRomaFlBp7U
 - Hungry https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lvnbfypZ4wY
 - o Breathe https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tzOz9oZVrtA
 - Gratitude https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=/vA83MufOCoA

Day 6: Enter His Joy

O come, let us sing for joy to the Lord, Let us shout joyfully to the rock of our salvation. Let us come before His presence with thanksgiving, Let us shout joyfully to Him with psalms. For the Lord is a great God And a great King above all gods, In whose hand are the depths of the earth, The peaks of the mountains are His also. The sea is His, for it was He who made it, And His hands formed the dry land. Come, let us worship and bow down, Let us kneel before the Lord our Maker. For He is our God, And we are the people of His pasture and the sheep of His hand (Psalm 95:1-7 NASB1995).

Sing! Sing loudly! Shout with genuine joy to God, your Rock. Give Him thanks. Shout (with joy) some of your favorite Psalms. Worship Him for the reasons given in this Psalm. Bow down, dance, or kneel as you worship. Worship in silence. Worship in His presence.

• Reflect: Jesus said the Kingdom of heaven belongs to those such as children (Matt 19:14). What qualities of children do you supposed He was referring to here? Imagine Him entering into heartfelt worship with you as you seek Him today. Pray from Psalm 95 as you enter the gate of thanksgiving.



- Sing to the Lord a song of your choice, such as:
 - Who You Say I Am https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IKw6uqtGFfo
 - o God Leads His Dear Children Along https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lqoQe5Xg7-0
 - Every Praise https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UuuZMg6NVeA
 - Worthy Is The Lamb https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4Gae-n0Pb7Q
 - Temple https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=/XF6T4rV5waY
 - Egypt https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=/uEeCl1KyXil

Day 7: Experience His Smile

I can never escape from your Spirit! I can never get away from your presence! If I go up to heaven, you are there; if I go down to the grave, you are there. If I ride the wings of the morning, if I dwell by the farthest oceans, even there your hand will guide me, and your strength will support me. I could ask the darkness to hide me and the light around me to become night—but even in darkness I cannot hide from you. To you the night shines as bright as day. Darkness and light are the same to you (Psalm 139:7-12 NLT).

As you pray, compare this Psalm of David to the following secure position Paul expresses in Romans.

For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, will be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord (Romans 8:38,39 NASB1995).

Reflect: How does this baby feel, do you think? What qualities of the mom allow the baby to rest securely? How can you rest today in the character and provision of the Lord? Tell your Heavenly Father how you feel about Him, as if you were writing a Father's Day card to Him.



- Sing to the Lord a song of your choice, such as:
 - o Good, Good Father https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-ak0OoFBw3c
 - You Know My Name https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t7owFiihXgg
 - My Redeemer Lives https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y8Slcb2j1kQ

- o All Hail, King Jesus https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=/VZaIA0IAIhI
- Every Tribe (Israeli and Native American worship) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=/jpoBc-f4RIc
- Evidence https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=/Q6jD7N1Hvbl

Seeking God and His Presence (Week 2)

Day 8: A Door Standing Open

After these things I looked, and behold, a door standing open in heaven, and the first voice which I had heard, like the sound of a trumpet speaking with me, said, "Come up here, and I will show you what must take place after these things." Immediately I was in the Spirit; and behold, a throne was standing in heaven, and One sitting on the throne (Revelation 4:1,2 NASB1995).

Do you ever get lost in the weeds of life? After Jesus had shown John the sins and virtues of the seven churches he oversaw, He invited John to come up out of the weeds and into His throne room for a higher view of life. Jesus is inviting you to "come up here" for a better view. Things look different from the throne room. We pray differently from there.

Reflect: How do you feel when a door is closed and locked, or even closed in your face? How do you feel when someone warmly welcomes you into their home? Go through that open door in prayer as you slowly and prayerfully read through Revelation 4 aloud.



Sing to the Lord a song of your choice, such as:

- Revelation Song https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rGgX oqdib4
- <u>Crown Him With Many Crowns</u> <u>https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YuMh_ept-Js</u>
- Come, Now Is the Time to Worship https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wyCHzsSJ-cQ
- Open Door https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z2j5NG- Tos
- Be Thou My Vision https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ihJAJA4ibEs
- O The Deep, Deep, Love of Jesus https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KLTu1xv2-Us

Day 9,: A Sanctuary

One thing I ask from the Lord, this only do I seek: that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to gaze on the beauty of the Lord and to seek him in his temple (Psalm 27:4 NIV).

David said, "One thing . . . this only do I seek." It's reminiscent of Jesus' words to Martha in Luke 10:41,42: "'Martha, you are so anxious and concerned about a million details, but really, only one thing matters'" (VOICE). As we continue our journey of seeking God and His presence today,

be aware of the still, small voice throughout the day inviting you to the feast of His presence, the one thing that really matters.

Envision a beautiful, secret sanctuary, place of retreat, or a safe place wherein you can meet the Lord. What does this place look like in your imagination?

Reflect: Recall a recent time alone with God when you spent a half day or more, simply seeking the Lord. Would you say you experienced new facets of the beauty of Jesus during that time? If not beauty per se, what did you experience? Recall your thoughts during the time, as well as your emotions or feelings. Write verse 4 above in your own



words as you pray your "one thing" request that you really want, back to God. And perhaps, get another extended time alone with God on your calendar.

Sing to the Lord a song of your choice, such as:

- A Mighty Fortress is Our God https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uBhVuCcz9GI
- In the Secret https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F9qreZA--ks
- Audience of One https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EFxVfAZj5Q0
- Running to the Light https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f0EDCp6lOwl
- Sanctuary https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AxB9VH3cCN4

Day 10: An Oasis

Now on the last day, the great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, "If anyone is thirsty, let him come to Me and drink. He who believes in Me, as the Scripture said, 'From his innermost being will flow rivers of living water.'" But this He spoke of the Spirit, whom those who believed in Him were to receive; for the Spirit was not yet given, because Jesus was not yet glorified (John 7:37-39 NASB1995).

This feast (the feast of booths, tabernacles, or tents) was an annual week-long camping trip. It was to remind the Israelites that in this life, we are on a journey through a desert. But this year, at the end of the feast, Jesus offered Himself and His Holy Spirit to the Israelites (and to us) as our spring of life-giving water . . . our oasis in the desert.

Reflect: What would it feel like to come upon this oasis during a long, dry journey? What would you do to try to reach it? What would you do when you got there? What would that feel like? How long would you stay? Pray in response to each phrase of Jesus' invitation in John 7:37-39.



Sing to the Lord a song of your choice, such as:

- Spring Up O Well (Carla Ribeiro) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mljNwwD52Ew
- Spring Up O Well (Advent Birmingham) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mha5-sj33ng
- Living Water (Gateway) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yzC4aZuvxC0
- Living Water (Getty) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LA9UfBEHciY
- Come, Now Is The Time To Worship https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=usBFdlbGZvk
- Come To Me https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZvzznNAcL24
- All Who Are Thirsty https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=coWRDjX02pU
- As the Deer https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UZv3jzOTE70

Day 11: A Suitcase

"If Your presence does not go with us, do not lead us up from here. For how then can it be known that I have found favor in Your sight, I and Your people? Is it not by Your going with us, so that we, I and Your people, may be distinguished from all the other people who are upon the face of the earth?" (Exodus 33:15,16 NASB1995)

God had said to Moses, "I will send an angel before you and I will drive out [your enemies] before you . . . [but] I will **not** go up in your midst" (Exodus 33:2,3 NASB). Many of us would have gladly taken such a promise of miraculous victory even if it meant missing God's presence. That would make us like many others. But our Navigator Mission doesn't distinguish us. Our motto doesn't distinguish us. Our Calling, Core Values, and Vision don't distinguish us. One million multiplying disciplemakers won't distinguish us. It's the very presence of God that will distinguish us.

Reflect: Do you pack well in advance or the morning of your departure? What are the things you just won't travel without? What do you think might have happened if Moses and the Israelites had taken God up on His offer of victory without His presence? Look at Moses' Exodus 33:15,16 prayer and say it in your own words.



Sing to the Lord a song of your choice, such as:

- Here In Your Presence https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jkkWOUZNIOU.
- <u>Breathe</u> <u>https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dSKH3MmX-Zw</u>.
- Me Without You https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8qGa5rIOB28
- You Raise Me Up https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rcLl0A-lXlc
- You Are My All in All https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DbMejWoW1XI
- In Christ Alone https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rjiiF83q7G0

Day 12: A Treasure Hunt

And without faith it is impossible to please Him, for He who comes to God must believe that He is and that He is a rewarder of those who seek Him (Hebrews 11:6 NASB1995).

What fun it is to watch the unbridled excitement on the faces of children in a treasure hunt. They scurry about with wide-eyed hope that their next clue will lead them to a reward. They don't need to be coaxed or pushed because they are convinced that treasure waits for them at the end of their journey. They abandon all reserve and care and throw themselves into finding every clue, knowing that what they have not yet seen will be worth the quest to find it. They trust the one who has promised the reward; it is a simple and powerful trust. It is the trust our heavenly Father desires of us.

Jesus told the parable of a treasure hidden in a field (see Matthew 13:44-46). When someone found it, they sold everything they had to be able to get that treasure. God **is** a rewarder of those who seek Him. We are encouraged to seek His presence like a treasure. He **promises** we will find His presence. The greatest gift we can receive is Him, a deeper true knowledge of Him interwoven into our lives.

Reflect: What feelings come to mind when you remember treasure hunts that you've done? Why do you think faith or simple trust brings such great pleasure to the heart of our Father? How does this increase your desire and determination to seek God and His presence? Flesh out this



prayer from Hebrews 11:6,7, beginning by saying, "Lord, I believe "

Sing to the Lord a song of your choice, such as:

- Trust and Obey https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4dh02OnJple
- I Saw the Lord https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cW59exlpnyE
- Treasure https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vyOwbFKeDho
- Love Changes Everything https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bcZGtAOCftI
- You Are My All in All https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DbMejWoW1XI

Day 13: A Quiet Path

And He said to them, "What is this conversation that you are holding with each other as you walk?" And they stood still, looking sad. Then one of them, named Cleopas, answered him, "Are you the only visitor to Jerusalem who does not know the things that have happened there in these days?" And he said to them, "What things?" [Later] they said to each other, "Did not our hearts burn within us while he talked to us on the road, while he opened to us the Scriptures? (Luke 24:17-19, 32 ESV).

These men were walking right next to Jesus yet were unaware of His presence until later. This can often be the case with us in our busy lives—unawareness of the nearness of our "Immanuel." Jesus drew the men out with the question, "what things?" (i.e., "What things have been going on with you lately?") They answered in detail and probably with some emotion.

Reflect: Imagine walking down this path. Jesus comes along and walks near you, asking, "What things have been going on in your life recently?" How would you answer him? Can you tell him in detail, with any emotion that you might feel (positive or negative) right now, what you're currently



facing or concerned about? Be aware of His presence, listening for any way in which he opens the Scriptures to you.

Sing to the Lord a song of your choice, such as:

- What a Friend we have: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3zgUkgnxtms
- What a friend, Matt Maher: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n6qXfZPtzsM
- Highlands (song of ascent): https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mkbxP0rxt6E
- Fairest Lord Jesus: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-lhP982XuBs
- Beautiful: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FzyHS8smVrQ

Day 14: A Meal

They came to the edge of the village where they were headed. He acted as if he were going on but they pressed him: "Stay and have supper with us. It's nearly evening; the day is done." So he went in with them. And here is what happened: He sat down at the table with them. Taking the bread, he blessed and broke and gave it to them. At that moment, open-eyed, wide-eyed, they recognized him. And then he disappeared (Luke 24:28-31 MSG).

Continuing the Emmaus Road reflection from yesterday, there came a decision for the two disciples: they had to take a risk by inviting this man Jesus, whom they still didn't recognize, to come further into their private lives. The Luke account implies that Jesus wouldn't do this without an invitation. As they ate with him, he became known to them in a more recognizable and revelatory way as he "broke bread."

Reflect: Our hearts burn when the Lord opens the Scriptures to us, as he did to the men on the Emmaus Road. Do you sometimes sense a desire for more—more of the actual Presence of God? In what ways have you risked opening-up your more private life to him in the past, and what was the result? Would you invite him now, in your own



words, to come further into your life and "share a meal" with you? And are you willing to linger until he "breaks bread," revealing His presence in a more tangible way? Talk to Him about this from Revelation 3:20.

Sing to the Lord a song of your choice, such as:

- Holy, Holy, Holy: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UvRp_xKLP8I
- Here as in Heaven: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rCog-fv4PGw
- Breakthrough: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OUvLKa G 98
- Here In Your Presence: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Aq8P5i9U7-g
- Be Thou My Vision: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Optrm7lF16s

Seeking Repentance and Revival (Week 3)

Day 15: On Our Faces

For thus says the high and exalted One Who lives forever, whose name is Holy, "I dwell on a high and holy place, and also with the contrite and lowly of spirit, in order to revive the spirit of the lowly and to revive the heart of the contrite (Isaiah 57:15 NASB1995).

These past two weeks, we've been entering and enjoying God's presence. In the Scriptures, the prevailing response of those who realize they are truly in the presence of God Almighty is to fall on their faces. Like Isaiah, we gasp, "Woe is me, for I am ruined!" Like Peter, we cry out, "Depart from me, for I am a wicked man." And God notices and moves toward us with compassion. He is opposed to the proud but give grace to the humble. When Daniel collapsed in God's presence, he said that "a hand touched me and set me trembling on my hands and knees . . . Strengthened me . . . [and] said, 'Man of high esteem, do not be afraid'" (Daniel 10:10-19 NASB1995). What a tenderhearted encounter between the Holy One and one who desperately needs Him.

Reflect: Our physical posture in prayer can influence our heart posture. Prostrate yourself before our God in a way that is meaningful to



you. Linger there in silence. Then allow Him to touch you and lift you up to your hands and knees. Listen for what He whispers next. · Humble Yourself (Maranatha)

Sing to the Lord a song of your choice, such as:

- Just As I Am
- Broken Vessels
- Come As You Are
- Lord, I Need You
- Humble Yourself (Maranatha)

Day 16: Facing the Throne

In the year of King Uzziah's death I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, lofty and exalted, with the train of His robe filling the temple. Seraphim stood above Him, each having six wings: with two he covered his face, and with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew. And one called out to another and said, "Holy, Holy, Holy, is the LORD of hosts, The whole earth is full of His glory."

And the foundations of the thresholds trembled at the voice of him who called out, while the temple was filling with smoke. Then I said, "Woe is me, for I am ruined! Because I am a man of unclean lips, And I live among a people of unclean lips; For my eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts." Then one of the seraphim flew to me with a burning coal in his hand, which he had taken from the altar with tongs. He touched my mouth with it and said, "Behold, this has touched your lips; and your iniquity is taken away and your sin is forgiven." Then I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, "Whom shall I send, and who will go for Us?" Then I said, "Here am I. Send me!" (Isaiah 6:1-8 NASB1995).

Oh, that we might see God the way Isaiah saw God and fall prostrate in His presence! Certainly, we would have the same response as the prophet. But perhaps Isaiah's experience in the Holy of Holies is not locked in history, only to be viewed from afar. Could Isaiah's convicting vision still be alive and real for us to taste today? A.W. Tozer once said, "A word of God once spoken continues to be spoken." He also said, "Can we receive it as God's currently spoken word?"

Reflections: As you pour over Isaiah 6:1-8 again and again, enter Isaiah's heart and soul. Allow his emotions to flood into your experience. Use Isaiah's words as your own. Lie



prostrate. Be still. Wait for the Lord to touch you and cleanse you. Wait. Trust. Welcome His touch and forgiveness.

Sing to the Lord a song of your choice, such as:

- We Fall Down
- At Your Feet
- The Well
- Thank You Jesus for the Blood
- Dying Star
- Take Me In
- For Your Name Is Holy

Day 17: Extending Our Empty Hands

To some who were confident of their own righteousness and looked down on everyone else, Jesus told this parable: "Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee stood by himself and prayed: 'God, I thank you that I am not like other people—robbers, evildoers, adulterers—or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week and give a tenth of all I get. 'But the tax collector stood at a distance. He would not even look up to

heaven, but beat his breast and said, 'God, have mercy on me, a sinner. 'I tell you that this man, rather than the other, went home justified before God. For all those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted" (Luke 18:9-14 NIV).

What is it about us that causes righteousness to deteriorate into self-righteousness so easily? How do we so easily drift into looking down on others who think and live differently from how we do? What causes us to begin thinking God is fortunate to have us on His side, while we simultaneously wonder how He tolerates others who vote differently or have different priorities from ours?

Reflect: What assumptions come to mind when you see a beggar? What do those assumptions reveal about you? Open your hands before God. Linger there and consider what you most need from Him. Craft your own honest prayer before God, confessing how you resemble the Pharisee, then putting the prayer of the tax collector into your own words.



Sing to the Lord a song of your choice, such as:

- <u>Amazing Grace</u> (My Chains Are Gone)
- Lord, I Need You
- <u>I Repent</u>
- Amazing Grace
- You Say

Day 18: Renouncing Our Pride

O Lord, my heart is not proud, nor my eyes haughty; nor do I involve myself in great matters, or in things too difficult for me. Surely I have composed and quieted my soul; like a weaned child rests against his mother, my soul is like a weaned child within me. O Israel, hope in the Lord from this time forth and forever (Psalm 131:1-3 NASB1995).

A young child without any want and completely at rest with her mother is beautiful. It is a desirable image. Don't we want our souls to be like that? This kind of soul is only possible with a heart that is not proud and eyes that are not haughty. In the tax collector meditation yesterday, Luke describes proud hearts and haughty eyes as those who trust in themselves that they are righteous and view others with contempt. Where does that come from? Today we come to God together to look for any areas of pride in us and renounce them. Then we can compose and quiet our souls before God.

Reflection: Think back over the past week. Did you feel contempt for anyone or any group of people? How might these feelings reveal a trust in yourself and your own righteousness? Your own self-sufficiency? Bring your heart to Jesus in prayer and surrender. Let Jesus compose and quiet the noisy, contemptuous thoughts and bring them into the



harmony of His rhythms of grace and forgiveness.

Sing to the Lord a song of your choice, such as:

- Humble Thyself in The Sight of The Lord
- Gracefully Broken
- Child of God
- God Leads His Dear Children Along
- Dying Star

Day 19: Coming into the Light

I sought the Lord, and He answered me, and delivered me from all my fears. They looked to Him and were radiant, and their faces shall never be ashamed (Psalm 34:4,5 NASB1995).

When we think about extracting a splinter, we may wince. But if left, it can fester. A darkness in our lives, when left in the dark, grows darker. What is brought into the light becomes visible and becomes light. Ephesians 5:13 says," But all things become visible when they are exposed by the light, for everything that becomes visible is light" (NASB). Shame can be paralyzing. The voice of our enemy can come through our own thoughts, convincing us that we are fatally flawed and hopeless. The voice of God brings us truth in love, and there is light and hope. Who are we listening to? We can be like a hurt bird, frantically escaping the helping hand, or we can be like an injured child, running to our parent.

Reflect: Take a moment and write down two or three things about which you feel fearful or ashamed. Now take your mental and emotional focus away from those things and put them on Christ. Seek the Lord. Look to Him. Talk with Him. Thank Him for His presence



with you. Ask Him for insights into His perspective on each of these. Take those insights and ask for His help in delivering you from those fears.

Sing to the Lord a song of your choice, such as:

- Whom Shall I Fear (The God of Angel Armies)
- No Longer Slaves
- Abide with Me
- Forgiven
- Resurrecting Me
- Turn On the Light
- Jesus, I Come
- Oh, The Deep, Deep Love of Jesus

Day 20: Inviting a Search

Search me, God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting (Psalm 139:23,24 NIV).

Make this your prayer as you prostrate yourself before God: "Search me, examine me,

investigate my life. Test me, cross-examine me, try me. Is there an offensive path, an idolatrous way, a hurtful pattern that I am prone to choose? Oh God, lead me, guide me, walk with me in the path of life.



Reflect: As you pray and listen

to God respond to your prayer, write down whatever enters your mind. Do not debate it or scrutinize your thoughts. Are you surprised by what God reveals? Offer it up to Him as a sacrifice.

Sing to the Lord a song of your choice, such as:

- I Repent
- Reckless Love
- Search Me, Oh God
- Search Me (Kathryn Scott)
- You Know My Name
- <u>Broken Vessels</u> (Amazing Grace)

Day 21: Facing Our Impact on God

Have mercy on me, O God, because of your loyal love. Because of your great compassion, wipe away my rebellious acts. Wash away my wrongdoing. Cleanse me of my sin. For I am aware of my rebellious acts; I am forever conscious of my sin. Against you—you above all—I have sinned; I have done what is evil in your sight. So you are just when you confront me; you are right when you condemn me (Psalm 51:1-4 NET).

Together with David, I appeal to God's mercy. I appeal to His loyal and unfailing love. I make no excuses. I see my sin as a stain, as a smear on the glory of God He has entrusted to me. Pray Psalm 51:1-4 as a heart cry for cleansing, for purification.

Reflect: Ponder verse 4, "Against you—you above all—I have sinned." Why would the psalmist make such a statement in light of his obvious sin(s) against others?

Sing to the Lord a song of your choice, such as:

- In Christ Alone
- The Hurt and The Healer
- Alabaster Jar
- Create In Me A Clean Heart
- Here I Bow
- Whatever May Come



Seeking Repentance and Revival (Week 4)

An Introduction to Strongholds

Over the past few days, we've focused on repenting of *individual* sins. Now we turn our attention to repenting of *corporate* sin patterns. We are using the word "stronghold" to refer to deeply rooted patterns of thought and attitude and their associated emotions and values that can form barriers, holding in our accepted ways of reasoning and keeping out different ways of reasoning. Hence, the stronghold becomes a fortress of thoughts and attitudes with emotions and values attached to them.

Spiritual strongholds are ways of thinking or behaving that we look to, often unconsciously, for identity and security—and that the devil uses to harm us or others. These beliefs or habits are hard to uproot and tear down. Some strongholds are personal; others are collective. Regardless, they are places of resistance to God that give the enemy a foothold.

Paul teaches on collective strongholds among believers in 2 Corinthians 10:3-5. For years, the Lord has been putting His finger on a handful of strongholds among us Navigators, with increasing clarity and persistence. Various national and international leadership groups have

identified and sought the Lord concerning these strongholds over the past year: quenching the Spirit, control prompted by fear, and pride resulting in independence and a critical spirit.

Daniel, Ezra, and Nehemiah give helpful examples of how to address such collective sin patterns. Daniel emphatically used the word "we" in repenting of sins he probably had not personally committed, but that had become endemic among his people (see Daniel 9:3). Ezra and Nehemiah led their people to repent of such patterns collectively. Over the next few days, we have an opportunity to follow their example by coming together to confess and repent of strongholds wherever God's Spirit exposes them.

Day 22: Quenching the Holy Spirit

Do not quench the Spirit; do not despise prophetic utterances. But examine everything carefully; hold fast to that which is good (1 Thessalonians 5:19-21 NASB1995).

Do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, . . . but be filled with the Spirit (Ephesians 4:30; 5:18 NASB1995).

Therefore, I tell you, every sin and blasphemy will be forgiven people, but the blasphemy against the Spirit will not be forgiven. And whoever speaks a word against the Son of Man will be forgiven, but whoever speaks against the Holy Spirit will not be forgiven, either in this age or in the age to come (Matthew 12:31,32 ESV).

There are many ways we can quench the Holy Spirit. The contexts of these three exhortations point to three examples: disregarding certain gifts of the Spirit, disregarding the Spirit speaking through others, and attributing the works of the Spirit to Satan.

Perhaps it's easy for us to think we have little or no effect upon the Holy Spirit. But try to imagine the Holy Spirit standing in front of us, weeping with grief due to our lack of belief and engagement in His constant presence, gifting, anointing, empowering, and comfort of us. But we reject Him, our only alternative being to walk in the flesh (see Galatians 5:16-21). Express our corporate repentance for grieving Him. Start with, "Holy Spirit, we have sinned"

Now picture the Spirit of God descending as a dove, coming to rest upon Jesus following His baptism (see Matthew 3:16). Now imagine this same Holy Spirit, so often portrayed as a beautiful and elegant dove, captured and caged due to our unbelief and rejection of His leadership and gift-giving in our lives. This seems absurd, but perhaps not so bizarre in light of the ways we can yield to our fears and resist His ministry in and among us. Express our corporate repentance for caging and controlling Him. May we together come to the Lord, the Holy Spirit, and say, "We have sinned."

It has been said that the difference between an idol and our God is that our living God can surprise us. God may be calling The Navigators into uncharted territory. Will we follow?

Reflect: What is wrong in this picture? What feelings arise as you imagine this dove being captured and penned in? What feelings arise in you as you imagine this dove flying free in the wild, descending to land wherever he chooses? Transition these thoughts to the Holy Spirit flying free in your life to touch, heal, gift,



and anoint wherever He chooses. Pray through the passages above, confessing and renouncing any ways we Navigators have quenched, grieved, or even blasphemed the Holy Spirit.

Sing to the Lord a song of your choice, such as:

- Holy Spirit You Are Welcome
- Break Every Chain
- Spirit of The Living God
- Spirit Rise
- I Surrender
- This Is a Move

Day 23: Confronting Our Pride

One of the Pharisees asked him over for a meal. He went to the Pharisee's house and sat down at the dinner table. Just then a woman of the village, the town harlot, having learned that Jesus was a guest in the home of the Pharisee, came with a bottle of very expensive perfume and stood at his feet, weeping, raining tears on his feet. Letting down her hair, she dried his feet, kissed them, and anointed them with the perfume.

When the Pharisee who had invited him saw this, he said to himself, "If this man was the prophet I thought he was, he would have known what kind of woman this is who is falling all over him."

Jesus said to him, "Simon, I have something to tell you."

"Oh? Tell me."

"Two men were in debt to a banker. One owed five hundred silver pieces, the other fifty. Neither of them could pay up, and so the banker canceled both debts. Which of the two would be more grateful?"

Simon answered, "I suppose the one who was forgiven the most."

"That's right," said Jesus. Then turning to the woman, but speaking to Simon, he said, "Do you see this woman? I came to your home; you provided no water for my feet, but she rained tears on my feet and dried them with her hair. You gave me no greeting, but from the time I arrived she hasn't quit kissing my feet. You provided nothing for freshening up, but she has soothed my feet with perfume. Impressive, isn't it? She was forgiven many, many sins, and so she is very, very grateful. If the forgiveness is minimal, the gratitude is minimal" (Luke 7:36-47 MSG).

Put yourself in the sandals of one of Simon's dinner guests. You are not just roleplaying the part. It's really you. Watch. Listen. Be attentive. Smell the aromas. Jesus has just come to dinner. You are one of a few dinner guests invited. The Teacher chose to sit right beside you! But a woman of the street has disrupted the meal! She is crowding you as she tries to get closer and closer to Jesus. She's weeping. She's bent over His feet. She's undoing her hair! My gosh! This is totally inappropriate!

Reflect: What is your deep inner response to the woman? Do you politely slide over as she expresses her devotion and love for Jesus? Is her unbridled worship and emotion too much for you? Are you disgusted? Why? Are you thinking of some way to remove her? Are you just curious? Now



you hear Jesus talking to Simon. You listen carefully. Finally, it's time for some good teaching! That's what you came for! What are your thoughts as Jesus makes His teaching more personal for Simon and the woman? Does the Holy Spirit reveal any areas of pride, judging, or critical spirit in us as we place ourselves into this scene from the ministry of Jesus? How does Jesus' final statement land in your heart? "If the forgiveness is minimal, the gratitude is minimal." Another translation says, "He who is forgiven little, loves little."

Sing to the Lord a song of your choice, such as:

- The God Who Sees
- I Won't Go Back
- Broken and Spilled Out
- <u>The Harlot</u> (This is a spontaneous song, lasting nearly 20 minutes. Graphic and powerful, it presents the amazing power of the gospel.)
- Reckless Love, O Come to the Altar, Great Are You Lord

Day 24: Control Prompted by Fear

When the messengers returned to Jacob, they said, "We went to your brother Esau, and now he is coming to meet you, and four hundred men are with him. In great fear and distress Jacob divided the people who were with him into two groups, and the flocks and herds and camels as well. He thought, "If Esau comes and attacks one group, the group that is left may escape" (Genesis 32:6-8 NIV).

Jacob was afraid, so he took control of the situation and created an elaborate strategy to appease his brother and hopefully spare his family (see Genesis 32:17-21). He launched his strategy with an emergency prayer:

"Save me, I pray, from the hand of my brother Esau, for I am afraid he will come and attack me, and also the mothers with their children (v 11).

How many times have we done something similar? How have we sought to put ourselves in a favorable light, particularly around our leaders or those we want to impress? How do we attempt to control outcomes by manipulation? Are we feeling weary under many burdens, finding ourselves complaining more, becoming angry, or going to worst-case scenarios as Jacob

did in verse 8? Are we increasingly anxious, more defensive—fearing failure and looking bad? Desiring control, which sometimes stems from fear, can be a cause.

Image: Instead of an image for today, watch this video that captures how insidiously this stronghold of control from fear can crop up. (Most of the song is in the first person, as if God is addressing us.) Dying Star

Reflect: How did this video affect you? Have you experienced this kind of self-promoting focus at times in our strategies as Navigators?



Recalling Jacob's story from Genesis 32, the very night Jacob felt this paralyzing fear, he ended up wrestling with God—wrestling his fear into submission to faith, so to speak—in verses 24 and 25. Strongholds of fear, control, and/or manipulation often require great struggle before our faith in God's strategy is established. But God transformed Jacob from someone who strove with men into someone who strove with God, from a fleshly manipulator into a pray-er, from Jacob to Israel (vv.27,28).

As Navigators around the world, let's come to the Lord today with open palms, seeking His forgiveness and the filling of His Spirit. Let us align our hearts with the One who brings freedom, joy, and power as we glory in our weaknesses.

Sing to the Lord a song of your choice, such as:

- <u>Broken La</u>dders
- Hymn Of Surrender
- I Surrender All
- All I Once Held Dear

- Refiner
- I Say Yes
- Walking Free

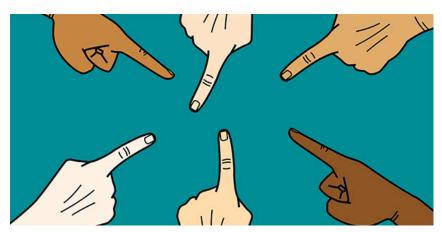
Day 25: Critical Spirit

If you do away with the yoke of oppression, with the pointing finger and malicious talk . . . (Isaiah 58:9b NIV).

Now read the same verse excerpt from The Voice (a dynamic equivalence English translation): If you remove the yoke of oppression from the downtrodden among you, stop accusing others, and do away with mean and inflammatory speech . . .

At times our pride seems to lead us to independence in which we feel the freedom to unjustly criticize others. Our tendency can be to point fingers and accuse when we don't agree with someone, when we think we know better, or when we feel disrespected, overlooked, or not included. Fear can often support our accusatory judgement of someone.

Reflect: Take a few deep breaths. Could we all together ask the Lord, "Have I pointed the finger, engaged in malicious talk, or used mean speech toward others?" Can we reflect on what we've thought or said to friends about our leadership or people on our team? What



about the members of our families? Do we accuse or believe we know better? We can actually contribute to the enemy's work when we accuse and condemn others. Please be honest—there's no condemnation as we bring these things to the Lord. And David reminds us that if we cover our sin, we will not prosper. We want to remember that a critical spirit is something Navigator leaders and elders have identified as a stronghold among us. We need to put it off everywhere it appears. Please be sensitive as you seek the Lord; self-defense is something that can creep up subtly unnoticed.

Now, in the "scorched places" of our lives, let's embrace this promise:

If you take away the yoke from your midst, the pointing of the finger, and speaking wickedness . . . the LORD will guide you continually and satisfy your desire in scorched places and make your bones strong; and you shall be like a watered garden, like a spring of water, whose waters do not fail (Isaiah 58:9,11 ESV).

Sing to the Lord a song of your choice, such as:

- Jesus Paid It All
- Fear Is a Liar
- The Cross Has the Final Word
- Oh, Come to the Altar
- Run To the Father

Day 26: Humbling Ourselves

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 I will forgive their sin and will heal their land (2 Chronicles 7:14 NIV).

Try emphasizing "my" as you read this promise over and over. Does a deep awareness of belonging to God influence your perspective on confession and repentance?

Reflect: Pride is a crippling sin, both individually and collectively. It opens the doorway to independence and all sorts of other harmful conditions. The Scriptures repeatedly teach that God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble. Our appropriate response, in light of who God is, solicits humbling ourselves.



Have you ever thought about the progression of repentance and surrender in this verse? If so, what significance do you see in such a progression? Why would humbling ourselves precede praying? Why would seeking God's face follow praying? Why would turning from our wicked ways be last? Do you think it's significant that "then I will hear" comes after the progression? How would you envision God "healing our land"? What would it look like to move from humility to prayer, to seeking God's face, to turning from wicked ways?

Sing to the Lord a song of your choice, such as:

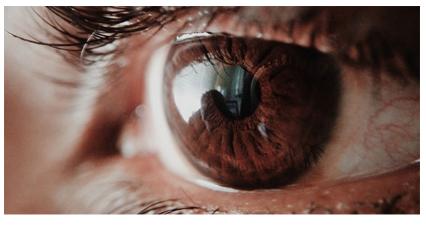
- I Surrender All
- Breakthrough
- I Won't Go Back
- Dying Star
- Break Every Chain
- When We Pray
- Heal Our Land (2 Chronicles 7:14)

Day 27: The Speck in Your Brother's Eye

"Why do you see the speck that is in your brother's eye, but do not notice the log that is in your own eye? How can you say to your brother, 'Brother, let me take out the speck that is in your eye,' when you yourself do not see the log that is in your own eye? You hypocrite, first take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take out the speck that is in your brother's eye" (Luke 6:41,42 ESV).

Jesus clearly stresses the importance of self-examination before ever attempting to help someone else in areas of sin or strongholds. However, the less-stressed encouragement to "take out the speck in your brother's eye" is also an important part of His exhortation.

Reflect: The past few days, we have sought the Lord to repent of stronghold areas of grieving the Spirit, control prompted by fear, pride, independence (self-sufficiency), and a critical spirit. By God's grace, we have earnestly repented and taken steps to eradicate these areas of embedded sin



from our midst. Can we now ask the Lord to make us vigilantly aware, so that when these types of thoughts and behaviors appear in our lives, we will quickly repent of them? And can we also resolve to not only deal with these areas personally, but also be willing to gently help fellow brothers and sisters recognize stronghold areas in their lives and be courageous enough to speak the truth with them in love? Remember the tenderness of an eyeball, as seen in the photo above. We need each other's tender, loving help!

Now, let's consider another set of attitudes and behaviors—Biblical ones, reflecting the fruit of the Spirit and the character of Jesus. We long to see these attitudes and behaviors growing within and around us to replace the stronghold areas:

- Trust instead of control
- Courage instead of fear
- Humility instead of pride

- Interdependence instead of independence and self-sufficiency
- Love and encouragement instead of a critical spirit

Read out loud this list of good "strongholds." Is there one that stands out to you, one you sense you or others around you need help with? Reflect with Jesus about how to grow this godly trait or help others to grow it. Let's pray that we Navigators will exhibit these positive qualities in ever-increasing measure by the love and power of the Spirit.

Choose a song to express your commitment (or better yet, put aside time to listen to all of them):

- Refiner's Fire
- Refiner
- For The One
- Lead On, O King Eternal
- I Say Yes
- <u>Sails</u>
- Not Afraid

Day 28: We Are All the Prodigal

"And the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.' But the father said to his servants, 'Bring quickly the best robe, and put it on him, and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet. And bring the fattened calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate. For this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found.' And they began to celebrate" (Luke 15:21-24 ESV).

Is not every one of us a prodigal? Is not every one of us completely cleansed of sin and darkness because of the gospel of Jesus? This truth is the great "leveler" of The Navigators; we are all God's beloved children, all reveling in His grace and freedom!

Image: Instead of a picture today, please watch this video, putting yourself in the role of the son or daughter: When God Ran

Reflect: What did you experience as you watched this video? Name specific thoughts and emotions. Now quiet your mind, steady your breathing, close your eyes, and feel the Father embracing you. What feelings arise? Remain in His embrace for a lingering moment. Without saying any words to the son, the father in the above passage expressed affirmation to his son by giving him a ring, a robe, shoes, and a party. Imagine the Father giving you a ring! What would it look like? How would you describe that experience? What would it signify to you? Picture Him putting a robe on you. What would that feel like? Ask Him what this robe signifies. He washes your feet, putting on shoes that fit. What kind of shoes are they; what do they look like? How would you walk differently with these shoes on?

He throws a party in your honor. How do you feel, being celebrated like that? Spend a few moments reveling in this party scene, thanking Him for His love, mercy, forgiveness, and empowerment.

Select and sing one of these songs to celebrate your cleansing:

- The Struggle
- The Deep, Deep Love of Jesus
- In Over My Head
- Jesus Paid It All
- Who Am I?
- I Thank God
- Sanctuary

Seeking Oneness with God and With One Another (Week 5)

Introduction to Weeks 5-6

This week begins the third leg of our Prayer Journey. The first leg was "Seeking God and His Presence." The second leg was "Seeking Repentance and Revival." Now we begin our final ascent into "Seeking Oneness with God and With One Another."

This theme is pregnant with meaning. Why does Jesus pray for our oneness in John 17 for the sake of the world? Is His prayer primarily aimed at our experience of oneness with each other? Or is our oneness with God Himself the supreme intention with wonderful byproducts of oneness with each other and impact on the world? As you meditate, pray, and worship through these weeks, may the Lord lead you into a deeper and deeper experience of love and belonging in Him. May God's seeds of revival sprout and grow in the soil of our hearts!

Let us then approach God's throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need (Hebrews 4:16 NIV).

Day 29: Beyond the Veil

Today we enter the final two weeks of our 40-Day Prayer Journey together. We began by entering His gates with praise and thanksgiving. Over the past two weeks, we have humbled ourselves before God using the model of the bronze altar and laver to present our bodies as living sacrifices to God. In brokenness and contrition, we have acknowledged the prodigal in our own hearts; we have confessed, repented, and been cleansed.

Continuing our progression through the tabernacle, our anticipation grows, filled with excitement and holy fear. The beauty of the tabernacle's golden interior quiets our souls in awe. We pass the lamp, the table, and the incense. But we gasp and marvel, because now the barrier is gone. The veil is torn in two because the perfect sacrifice of Jesus, the Lamb of God, has been accepted. We may enter the Holiest of All.

We enter His Presence with worship flowing freely. In communion we are drawn into a deeper relational union with God. We are transformed increasingly into His image, and our oneness with Him intensifies as we open more of our hearts to Him. Worshipping in His presence together, we not only grow in oneness with Him, but with one another.

Reflect: Take a moment to meditate on John 17:21-23, especially "that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you . . . that they may be one as we are one" (NIV). As you pray this for us as Navigators, what do you imagine the result looking like among us? What change is God asking of you personally in light of this high priestly prayer? Would you also take a moment



and pray this prayer for the 40 members of the selection council? May God prepare them with the beautiful and powerful oneness that is the same oneness that Father, Son, and Holy Spirit experience.

Worship Songs

- o Take Me In (Holy of Holies)
- o For Your Name Is Holy
- o Agnus Dei

Day 30: Abide in Me

"Live in me. Make your home in me just as I do in you. In the same way that a branch can't bear grapes by itself but only by being joined to the vine, you can't bear fruit unless you are joined with me. I am the Vine, you are the branches. When you're joined with me and I with you, the relation intimate and organic, the harvest is sure to be abundant" (John 15:4-7 MSG, emphasis added).

Several interesting events took place roughly 18 months ago:

- The Lord led the National Leadership Team to dig deeply into the first theme of our national strategy, **abiding** in Jesus.
- The pandemic hit.
- The song "The Blessing" went viral, covering the globe and was translated into many languages.

Do you sense significance in what the Lord did during these 18 months? Consider this: God asked us to reflect on what it means to actually abide in Him ("make our home in him"). Then He backed up His request with teeth—COVID-19 teeth. We literally couldn't go anywhere, many of us couldn't do much, and we were forced to learn abiding in a whole new way. Then, to protect us from fear and worry, He sang over His people this blessing—"the Lord bless you and keep you, make His face shine upon you and be gracious to you, the Lord turn his face toward you, and give you peace"—and sang it over and over and over us.

Reflect: Recall what impressions/feelings you had, or that you had with your team/family, during the worst of the pandemic. Is there a way your experience connects with the Lord's request to learn to abide more deeply in Him?

Now ask the Spirit to lead you personally into fresh truth about abiding while gazing upon this photo above. What do you notice about the grapes? What's their posture? What emotions are aroused in you personally as you imagine being this branch, with fruit, securely melded to the trunk of Jesus? Let's remember this privilege of abiding in Christ, with Him abiding in us, is an ongoing one! It is intended to be constant. How might your awareness of this reality increase?



Songs:

- o <u>I Am the Vine</u>
- o Sanctuary
- o **Communion**
- o Closer
- o Abide With Me

Day 31: Unity with God

"... that they may all be one; even as You, Father, are in Me and I in You, that they also may be in Us, so that the world may believe that You sent Me. The glory which You have given Me I have given to them, that they may be one, just as We are one; I in them and You in Me, that they may be perfected in unity [literally into one], so that the world may know that You sent Me, and loved them, even as You have loved Me" (John 17:21-23 NASB1995).

This passage is not Jesus teaching; this is Jesus praying! He expresses His heart, passion, and deepest desire for us to experience (not just know about!) oneness with the Trinity. Consider one theologian's summary thought in attempting to grasp this oneness: "God draws near to us in such a way as to draw us near to himself within the circle of his knowing of himself.". Jesus fully intends for us to be drawn into this ultimate oneness with the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. He knows we can't accomplish such oneness alone. So God draws near to us in such a way as to draw us near to Himself, within the circle of His knowing, loving, and experiencing of Himself!*Note: This quoted prayer is a modification taken from Experiencing the Trinity, p. 60, by Darrell W. Johnson (ISBN 1-57383-216-2).

Reflect: Is your heart stirred as you meditate on this image of the Trinity? Can you imagine yourself subtly hidden, woven into the image? If you were to pray, "God, draw near to me in such a way as to draw me near to Yourself, within the circle of Your knowing, loving, and experiencing of Yourself," how would you envision yourself in this image?



If we were going to take some practical steps toward greater unity with each other as Navigators, what might we do? Similarly, if we were going to take practical steps toward greater oneness, would it be different? How might our actions be different? What do you think is at the heart of God praying for our oneness in John 17? How does the model of oneness expressed within the Trinity come into play as Jesus prays for our oneness?

Suggested Worship:

- o <u>Come and Tear Down the W</u>alls
- o Lost in Your Love
- o Chosen
- o Wonderful Merciful Savior
- o There Is None Like You
- o The God Who Sees

Day 32: Fill Us

For this reason I bow my knees before the Father . . . that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with power through His Spirit in the inner man, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; and that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ which surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled up to all the fullness of God (Ephesians 3:14-19 NASB1995).

Here is the birthplace of all that we long for: Christ living comfortably in our hearts so that He can fill us to overflowing. What makes Christ comfortable in our hearts? Our deep trust. What grows such deep trust? Truly knowing His deep love. It's hard to yield to someone when we doubt their love for us, but it's easier to yield when we know that they love us. The more confident we are of their love, the more heart space we yield to them. This is the beauty of a flourishing marriage when *two* increasingly become *one* over the years. They learn to trust and yield to one another more and more. When that maturing marriage is a marriage *with Christ*, the results are even more beautiful, far more abundant than we can ask or think!

Reflect: Where is your most comfortable place in your home? What makes that your favorite place? Ask the Lord what makes Him comfortable in your heart. What makes Him feel at home in you? What gives Him freedom to be Himself in you?

Sing To the Lord:

- Holy Spirit, You Are Welcome Here
- Fill Me Up
- Spirit of the Living God
- Trust and Obey



Day 33: Unity With One Another

I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. . . . we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love (Ephesians 4:1-3; 15b-16 ESV).

Here we have unity with God through Christ, the head, controlling the rest of His Body. Our unity with each other is directly tied to Christ, our head. We are joined and held together by the proper working of each of us as critical, unifying members. When each of us, with humility and gentleness, patiently bear with one another in love, when we are eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace, mysteriously, the whole Body grows in such a way as to actually build itself up in love! This is absolutely the powerful and beautiful plan of God for our unity with one another.

Reflect: When you look at this image, do you see a rope—or its strands? What would each strand lack on its own? How do these strands work together? How do they shape one another? What does this suggest to you about your relationship with others in the Body of Christ?

Recall a time in your life when you were built up by someone else fulfilling their



God-given design to enhance your unique contribution in the Body. Can you recall a time when you did the same for someone else? Has there been a time in your life when this was more your "normal" mode of functioning in the Body? Have a discussion with Christ, your head, about your proper working in His Body for the sake of others.

Suggested Worship:

- o Chain Breaker
- o You Say
- o God With Us
- o Loving God, Loving Each Other
- o In the House

Day 34: Words and Worship to Oneness

Be **filled** with the Spirit, **speaking** to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, **singing** and making melody with your hearts to the Lord; always **giving thanks** for all things in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to our God and Father (Ephesians.5:18-21 NASB, emphasis added).

From the very beginning, words have shaped our world. "In the beginning was the Word." The Word spoke everything into existence. Words hold the power of life. Words hold the power of death. We speak blessing or cursing with everything we say. There are no neutral words. We co-create with God, the Word, when we speak or sing His words of hope in worship, when we fill our minds, our atmosphere, our relationships with the Words of eternal praise. We can destroy oneness or we can build oneness with our words. We can be filled with the Spirit, or we can quench the Spirit with our words. Let's decide today to be filled, just as Paul exhorts us in Ephesians 5:18-20, by speaking to ourselves, singing, and giving thanks. Together, lets speak the worship language of God's Kingdom!

Reflect: Think back on the words that you've used today, whether you spoke them to yourself or to someone else. Did you speak life or death? Did you pray a passage of Scripture and afterwards speak words of doubt and unbelief, or did you speak powerful words of belief? Did your words in conversation express agreement with what you heard around you, or with what our Kingdom narrative declares? As we



extend words in encouragement or worship, we humbly move forward on our knees.

Let's bless one another and God with our words before the throne this morning. Let's worship the **living** Word together!

Sing:

- o I Raise a Halleluiah
- o Your Word
- o One Voice

Day 35: A Tower Built by God

For in the same way that one body has so many different parts, each with different functions; we, too—the many—are different parts that form one body in the Anointed One. Each one of us is joined with one another, and we become together what we could not be alone (Romans 12:4,5 VOICE).

As it is, we see that God has carefully placed each part of the body right where he wanted it (1 Corinthians 12:18 MSG).

"We become together what we could not be alone."

God has placed every one of us, in our location, with the people around us, just as He chose. As our human bodies need each cell, organ, muscle, and tendon to function with full health, so we need and rejoice in each other and revel in the strength we have together!

Reflect: Imagine that the tower above represents the Body of Christ. Each of us has our own distinct cookie-cutter cutout (the windows) that fits us perfectly, and within which we are most satisfied and at peace. Have you ever desired someone else's cookie-cutter cutout? Wanted a different position in the Body, perhaps higher up? Maybe you long for different gifts or more (or less) visibility?



Now imagine settling into your particular custom-made cutout within the tower. It actually feels good to be in our life, at this place, in this time, because the Lord has placed each of us where we are most blessed and are most a blessing to others. As you worship via the videos below, consider how strong the Body becomes as we each simply stand in our cookie-cutter cutout and be who He's made us to be.

Songs:

- With One Voice
- Psalm 133
- God Is For Us
- Lift You High
- We Praise You

Seeking Oneness with God and With One Another (Week 6)

Day 36: Fasting Together

Today we enter the final week of our prayer journey. We trust that seeking oneness together with God and oneness with each other is honoring to Him and will result in God revealing Himself to us.

Fasting is nonverbal communication with the Lord. Fasting as a community of God's people is powerful and unifying. It is not twisting the Father's arm to get what we want, but together

letting Him shape us into what He wants. It is a practical way of saying, "We really are serious about wanting the Holy Spirit's leadership."

Luke pulls back the curtain on one of many Bible examples in which people sought the Lord together and fasted. "While they were ministering to the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, 'Set apart for Me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.' Then, when they had fasted and prayed and laid their hands on them, they sent them away" (Acts 13:2,3 NASB1995).

Isn't it a beautiful and intriguing expression that they were "ministering to the Lord?" Ministering to the Lord can mean expressing spiritual devotion to the Lord. One way they were doing this together was by fasting. In that context, the Holy Spirit communicated with them to select Barnabas and Saul for what God had already selected Barnabas and Saul to do. Pretty amazing. Just ponder for a minute all that has come down to us through that little group being together fasting, ministering to the Lord, listening, and responding.

Reflect: What does it mean to you to minister to the Lord? How do you express your heart and soul of devotion to Him? As you are going through these days of prayer, you are literally joining hundreds of other Navigators, some of whom are fasting. Take a moment to close your eyes and imagine the expression on our Father's face as wes are joining together, longing to be in union with Him and with one another. What do you sense His face looks like?.



Worship:

- I'm Desperate for You
- Know/Be Still
- Build Your Kingdom Here
- A Mighty Fortress
- Lord, I Need You
- Revelation Song
- Open the Eyes of My Heart
- Fill Me Up

Day 37: Agreeing in the Spirit

Paul and Barnabas had great dissension and debate with them . . . For it seemed good to the Holy Spirit and to us (Acts 15:2,28 NASB1995).

What happened between verses 2 and 28 was a miracle. Verse 7 mentions that there was "much debate." Picture passionate Middle Eastern men tearing their clothes and tossing dust in the air. It would have to be a gift from God Himself that they would agree. But it was a gift that He was eager to give. Imagine how the apostles felt when they were able to say together in harmony, "It seemed good to the Holy Spirit and to us." That was a gift of the Spirit.

That was an answer to the kind of prayer Paul asked for in Romans 15:5,6: "Now may the God who gives perseverance and encouragement [which you are definitely going to need] grant you [as a gift from above] to be of the same mind with one another according to Christ Jesus" (v. 5 NASB1995).

Why according to Christ Jesus? Because agreeing with one another is not enough and not our best goal. We need to agree with Jesus. Why? "So that with one accord you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ" (v. 6 NASB1995).

Reflect: Close your eyes and imagine your favorite acapella group singing together in beautiful harmony. Listen to the harmony of this rendition of Amazing Grace. What feelings arise in you as you enjoy the melody of voices that are so different, yet singing in harmony? What feelings



do you imagine rising in Father's heart as His sons and daughters, in all our rich variety, work through our differences to receive the gift of harmony that He longs to give to us?

Worship:

- Love Each Other
- Unity in the Spirit
- Rattle
- Humble Thyself
- I Commit My Love to You

Day 38: A Spirit-Led Decision

"You shall invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what you shall do; and you shall anoint for Me the one whom I designate to you." So Samuel did what the Lord said, and came to Bethlehem. And the elders of the city came trembling to meet him and said, "Do you come in peace?" He said, "In peace; I have come to sacrifice to the Lord. Consecrate yourselves and come with me to the sacrifice." He also consecrated Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice.

When they entered, he looked at Eliab and thought, "Surely the Lord's anointed is before Him." But the Lord said to Samuel, "Do not look at his appearance or at the height of his stature, because I have rejected him; for God sees not as man sees, for man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart." Then Jesse called Abinadab and made him pass before Samuel. And he said, "The Lord has not chosen this one either." Next Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, "The Lord has not chosen this one either." Thus Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel. But Samuel said to Jesse, "The Lord has not chosen these." And Samuel said to Jesse, "Are these all the children?" And he said, "There remains yet the youngest, and behold, he is tending the sheep." Then Samuel said to Jesse, "Send and bring him; for we will not sit down until he comes here."

So he sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy, with beautiful eyes and a handsome appearance. And the Lord said, "Arise, anoint him; for this is he." Then Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the midst of his brothers; and the Spirit of the Lord came mightily upon David from that day forward. And Samuel arose and went to Ramah (1 Samuel 16:3-13 NASB1995).

God chooses leaders. Sometimes people do the choosing. We certainly prefer God's choice over ours, don't we? But choosing can often be a challenge. Even the prophet Samuel assumed Eliab was the one. But concerning David, the boy who was overlooked by everyone, the Lord said, "Arise, anoint him; for this is he." God had chosen! Acts 13:22 expresses God's view of His choice: "I have found David son of Jesse, a man after my own heart; he will do everything I want him to do" (NIV).

Reflect: Try to put yourself in Jesse's sandals. He made seven of his sons pass before Samuel for his selection (see v. 10). Why do you suppose Jesse did not include David in the potential selection? In verse 5, Samuel consecrated Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice. This was a big deal.



Chances are everyone was cleaned up and in their best clothes. God's prophet had come to the house of Jesse! It appears that David was left out of the consecration and preparation for the sacrifice. How would you feel if you were David? How would you feel if you were one of the other older brothers? Have you ever been passed over? If so, how did it eventually turn out?

Worship:

- House of Prayer
- The Lion and the Lamb
- When I Call on Jesus
- Awesome God
- Wait on You

Day 39: In Step with The Father

So Jesus explained himself at length. "I'm telling you this straight. The Son can't independently do a thing, only what he sees the Father doing. What the Father does, the Son does. The Father loves the Son and includes him in everything he is doing. But you haven't seen the half of it yet . . . " (John 5:19 MSG, emphasis added).

So Jesus said, "When you have lifted up the Son of Man, then you will know that I am he and that I do nothing on my own but speak just what the Father has taught me (John 8:28 NIV, emphasis added).

I speak the things which I have seen with My Father (John 8:38 NASB1995, emphasis added).

Philippians 2:7 explains that Jesus emptied Himself when He came to earth. He set aside the exercise of His rights and privileges as God and made Himself completely dependent on the Father and the Spirit. John noticed and documented for us the intimate partnership between Jesus and His Heavenly Father that flowed from His complete dependence on Him.

So the Son was in step with the Father and the Spirit in everything He said and did. He was demonstrating how He wants us to live today, in step with the Father who loves to show us what to do and what to say!

Reflect: Recall a time when you truly felt "in sync" with the Father, when you sensed His leading and pleasure as you partnered with Him. What were the characteristics of that time? How did you feel? What was the outcome? Now imagine living the way Jesus did: only doing what you sense the Lord leading you, showing you, to



do. Would anything have to change to make room for this kind of lifestyle? Do you sense an invitation from the Lord as you look at the image above? Talk to Him about it.

Worship:

- Good, Good Father
- Father, Son, Spirit
- The Father's Song
- O Come to the Altar
- How Deep the Father's Love for Us
- Father Me

Day 40: In Step with the Spirit

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law. Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit. Let us not become conceited, provoking and envying each other (Galatians 5:22-26 NIV).

Isn't it intriguing that "the fruit of the Spirit" is singular? Holy Spirit doesn't produce various fruits. He produces fruit. And that brings out another subtle observation. The fruit is His. It's not mine, even though He and I (together with Father and Jesus) have this mysterious, interwoven, interdependent relationship. Jesus is the living Vine. I am a living branch, and the Holy Spirit produces tantalizing, living fruit in my life—in me as a living branch in the living Vine.

Reflect: The phrase "keep in step with the Spirit," can also be translated "follow the Spirit." The image here could be our watching to see what the Spirit is doing and imitating Him, reminiscent of Jesus only doing what He saw Father doing (see John 5:19). When kids follow their parents on the beach, they often try to



put their little feet in the footprints of mom or dad. Psalm 23:3 says, "He guides me in the paths [literally, tracks] of righteousness for His name's sake" (NASB1995). These are the Shepherd's "footprints" of righteousness. How might it look today to step into these footprints of righteousness or to bear the ninefold fruit of the Spirit? Close your eyes and ask the Spirit to direct your imagination to a picture of yourself doing just that.

Worship:

- <u>Simple</u>
- Jesus Loves Me
- Spirit Lead Me
- Oceans

Day 41: Entering the Fellowship

That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked at and our hands have touched—this we proclaim concerning the Word of life. The life appeared; we have seen it and testify to it, and we proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and has appeared to us. We proclaim to you what we have seen and heard, so that you also may have fellowship with us. And our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son, Jesus Christ (1 John 1:1-3 NIV, emphasis added).

There is a bonding that can happen on a journey together, like Frodo and friends experienced in *The Fellowship of The Ring*. Something extraordinary can happen along the way, as the 12 disciples experienced on their journey with Jesus. By the time John wrote 1 John, he had heard and seen and touched something he desperately wanted everyone to hear and see and touch with their own hands. He had heard Jesus' heartbeat as he leaned back against His chest. He had been dazzled by the transfiguration. On the Island of Patmos, he had heard a voice behind him. He whirled around and fell at the feet of the One whose eyes are like flames of fire. He fellowshipped with Jesus before and after He was glorified, and He earnestly invites us into that fellowship. Peter called this an invitation to "*partake* of the divine nature" (see 2 Peter 1:2-4).

Reflect: There are vineyards that have been cultivated for centuries, and the wine they yield comes from gnarly branches that produce the most succulent fruit. With a flourish, the waiter brings you a glass of this fine wine. You sniff it. You swirl it. Then you partake of it. Consider your shared fellowship with Father, Son, and Holy Spirit



to be like this treasured wine. Let that imagined experience linger as you **reflect** on John's invitation to fellowship with God. What emotions and feelings are stirred in you? How do you respond to your personal invitation to enter The Fellowship?

Worship:

- Sweet, Sweet Spirit
- Here in Your Presence
- Your Presence
- Lost in Your Love

Day 42: Continuing Our Journey

John 17:20-26 and Ephesians 3:14-20 are foundational passages as we look back.

As we come to the end of our Prayer Journey, let's complete our final ascent and enjoy the glorious view. But as we do, let's remember the mileposts of our journey.

- We began with two weeks of seeking God and His presence. We entered His gates with thanksgiving and enjoyed glimpses of His glory and tasted appetizers of His presence.
- Then we explored two weeks of seeking repentance and revival. We bowed low. We lamented. We tore down strongholds. We rejoiced in our cleansing and renewal.
- Finally, we've given two weeks to approaching the holy of holies, seeking oneness with God and oneness with one another.

The end of this 42-day journey is, by God's grace, the beginning of a longer journey that will get better and better as we walk in step with Father, Son and Holy Spirit, partaking of the Divine Nature and enjoying Divine Fellowship. This is a beautiful fulfillment of what we mean when we say that we are "to know Christ, make Him known, and help others to do the same." But for today, let's pause to receive and pour out His blessing in worship.

Reflect: Sit down on this mountaintop, take a deep drink, and remember. Remember the highlights of your journey. What do you intend to take with you as you descend and return to your daily routines? Now look out on the horizon, enjoying the sunrise of His glory. Worship as you watch the



video below, "Forever," in its entirety. Consider the privilege and position we have as partakers in this amazing relationship with Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Then allow these different versions of the doxology to become a crescendo of worship for you.

Worship:

- Forever
- <u>Doxology</u> (Anthem Lights, Selah)
- Praise God (Doxology)
- New Doxology (Thomas Miller, Gateway Worship)
- Doxology/Hallelujah (Tasha Cobbs Leonard, David and Nicole Binion)
- Endless Alleluia
- All Hail King Jesus
- House of the Lord
- Heal Our Land