

Prayer: Commitment to Global Solidarity

(30 minutes)

1 of 1

FACE THE FAST

Materials Needed

- copy of *A Commitment to Global Solidarity* handout for each reader
- bible
- music player
- music

Suggestions:

Walk Together Children (ValLimar & Frank Jansen, *Anointing*, spiritandsong.com)

Benediction (Curtis Stephen, *Sacred Revolution*, spiritandsong.com)

Go Make A Difference (Steve Agrisano, *Spirit & Song 2: By Request*, spiritandsong.com)

Procedure

Consider using this prayer in the middle of your Food Fast so participants can take a moment to reflect and pray on their fasting experience so far.

Meditation

Invite participants into the prayer space. Allow them to spread out, close their eyes, and do whatever is most comfortable for them so that they may fully experience God's presence.

When the group is still, ask participants to spend some time in silence, meditating on their fasting experience. Read these questions periodically throughout the meditation for guidance.

- Are you seeing changes in yourself and your perspectives since the beginning of this Food Fast?
- What have you learned about global poverty and hunger?
- How is your fasting making a difference in the lives our sisters and brothers around the world?
- What are you planning to do to continue working to remove the causes of poverty and injustice?
- What commitment are you making to global solidarity?

If any participant would like to share with the large group, provide the time to do so. Close the meditation with music.

Prayer

Invite 6 participants to be readers. Provide readers with a copy of the prayer ahead of time and highlight the part you would like each of them to read.

Close the prayer with one of the suggested songs.

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Leader We remember that we are now and always in the presence of God. In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Reader 1 Matthew 25: 31-46

When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit upon his glorious throne, and all the nations will be assembled before him. And he will separate them one from another, as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats.

He will place the sheep on his right and the goats on his left.

Then the king will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father. Inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.

For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, a stranger and you welcomed me, naked and you clothed me, ill and you cared for me, in prison and you visited me.'

Then the righteous will answer him and say, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink?

When did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you?

When did we see you ill or in prison, and visit you?'

And the king will say to them in reply, 'Amen, I say to you, whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me.'

Then he will say to those on his left, 'Depart from me, you accursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels.

For I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me no drink, a stranger and you gave me no welcome, naked and you gave me no clothing, ill and in prison, and you did not care for me.'

Then they will answer and say, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or ill or in prison, and not minister to your needs?'

He will answer them, 'Amen, I say to you, what you did not do for one of these least ones, you did not do for me.'

And these will go off to eternal punishment, but the righteous to eternal life."

Reader 2 Compassionate Lord, we ask You to walk with us as we continue our journey of solidarity with our brothers and sisters in need. Burn in us a sense of responsibility to feed the hungry, give drink to the thirsty and welcome the stranger. *(pause)* Please respond: Compassionate Lord, walk with us.

All Compassionate Lord, walk with us.

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Reader 3 Luke 10:25-37

There was a scholar of the law who stood up to test him and said, “Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?”

Jesus said to him, “What is written in the law? How do you read it?”

He said in reply, “You shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, with all your being, with all your strength, and with all your mind, and your neighbor as yourself.”

He replied to him, “You have answered correctly; do this and you will live.”

But because he wished to justify himself, he said to Jesus, “And who is my neighbor?”

Jesus replied, “A man fell victim to robbers as he went down from Jerusalem to Jericho. They stripped and beat him and went off leaving him half-dead.

A priest happened to be going down that road, but when he saw him, he passed by on the opposite side.

Likewise a Levite came to the place, and when he saw him, he passed by on the opposite side.

But a Samaritan traveler who came upon him was moved with compassion at the sight.

He approached the victim, poured oil and wine over his wounds and bandaged them. Then he lifted him up on his own animal, took him to an inn and cared for him.

The next day he took out two silver coins and gave them to the innkeeper with the instruction, “Take care of him. If you spend more than what I have given you, I shall repay you on my way back.”

Which of these three, in your opinion, was neighbor to the robbers’ victim?”

He answered, “The one who treated him with mercy.” Jesus said to him, “Go and do likewise.”

Reader 4 Loving God, we thank You for calling us to serve our brother and sister in need like the Good Samaritan did for the stranger on the road to Jericho. Continue to call us throughout our lives to serve our neighbors around the corner and around the world. (*pause*) Please respond: Loving God, call us.

All Loving God, call us.

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Reader 5 1 Corinthians 12:12-27

As a body is one though it has many parts, and all the parts of the body, though many, are one body, so also Christ.

For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body, whether Jews or Greeks, slaves or free persons, and we were all given to drink of one Spirit.

Now the body is not a single part, but many.

If a foot should say, "Because I am not a hand I do not belong to the body," it does not for this reason belong any less to the body.

Or if an ear should say, "Because I am not an eye I do not belong to the body," it does not for this reason belong any less to the body.

If the whole body were an eye, where would the hearing be? If the whole body were hearing, where would the sense of smell be?

But as it is, God placed the parts, each one of them, in the body as he intended.

If they were all one part, where would the body be?

But as it is, there are many parts, yet one body.

The eye cannot say to the hand, "I do not need you," nor again the head to the feet, "I do not need you."

Indeed, the parts of the body that seem to be weaker are all the more necessary, and those parts of the body that we consider less honorable we surround with greater honor, and our less presentable parts are treated with greater propriety, whereas our more presentable parts do not need this. But God has so constructed the body as to give greater honor to a part that is without it, so that there may be no division in the body, but that the parts may have the same concern for one another.

If (one) part suffers, all the parts suffer with it; if one part is honored, all the parts share its joy.

Now you are Christ's body, and individually parts of it.

Reader 6 Good and Caring Father, we are many parts in Christ's body. Thank You for bringing us together. By working together, we will contribute to a better world. Continue to guide our work as a community here in our city, our state, our country and our world. (*pause*) Please respond: Good and Caring Father, guide us.

All Good and Caring Father, guide us.

Leader As we continue our Food Fast, we know our work to serve the poor and hungry around the corner and around the world is only beginning. We are committing ourselves to living a life in solidarity with the poor around the world.