

If death was to be truly defeated, it was only by dying himself that Jesus believed he could defeat it. If he was to reach the hearts of (humanity), it was only by suffering his own heart to be broken on their behalf that he believed he could reach them. To heal the sick, restore sight to the blind ... to wear himself out ... it had not worked because it was not enough. "He set his face to go to Jerusalem," the Gospel says, and it was a journey from which he seems to have known that he would both never return and return always even unto the end of time and beyond. – Frederick Buechner



Easter Sunday.

Christ Lives.

Join with believers around the world in celebrating the living Lord of creation.

Read Acts 10: 34-43;
John 20:1-18.



40 Easter Eve.

Go to your place of solitude. Ponder this special day, a day set down between the cross and the empty tomb.

In the silence, remember the events of this week in the life of our Lord.

38 Maundy Thursday.

Read John 13: 1-17, 31b-35.

Let the story soak into your bones. Attend worship this evening.



39 Good Friday.

The crucified Christ teaches us the redemptive value of vulnerability. How can you become more vulnerable? How does Jesus continue to suffer with the victims of injustice today? Can you help bear that cross of suffering?

37 Wednesday.

This evening, after the house is quiet, read Isaiah 53.

Prepare for the days that will follow.

36 Tuesday.

Read Psalm 100. Let it go with you as you make your way through the activities of today. What is it saying to you? How can you respond? Try singing the doxology out loud at the close of the day.

35 Monday.

Share with a child the significance of this week and the day we call Easter.

Before resurrection there must first be death. What do we need to "die to" before we experience Easter?



Palm Sunday. Resolution. Today marks the beginning of Holy Week. What do the events of this day mean for you? Read Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29; Luke 19:28-40.

34 Saturday.

Prepare to join others in Bible Study and worship tomorrow. Read the Scriptures found in your Sunday School lesson. Pray for your teacher.

33 Friday.

Read the Gospel lesson again. Put yourself in the room. Smell the perfume. Notice the reaction of others. Feel the passion of Mary. Begin reflecting on the impending death of Jesus.

32 Thursday.

Forgiveness often requires our being sacrificial with our pride, our emotions, our time. Is there someone that needs your forgiveness? Today would be a good day to be extravagant with forgiveness.

31 Wednesday.

Be extravagant this week with your time. Give a good friend your full attention. Share an hour or two with someone in need. Invest in children at Lincoln or Stone Middle.

30 Tuesday.

Consider the word "sacrifice" and the word "extravagance". Are they in conflict? Do they complement each other? What can you do that demonstrates both?

29 Monday.

What could Jesus have possibly meant when he seemed to set the poor aside in deference to his own needs? Ponder this in your quiet place today.

Fifth Sunday in Lent. Extravagance. Read Isaiah 43:16-21; John 12:1-8. This week look for ways that you can be extravagant for Christ's sake.

23 Monday.

How are last week's theme of "repentance" and this week's theme of "humility" integral parts of the Luke passage? Reflect on this when you spend some moments in your quiet place.

24 Tuesday.

Humility may require viewing the world and others in a different way, even our actions may be altered. Seek ways to demonstrate humility that is sincere, not "showy".

25 Wednesday.

Look for opportunities to give to a stranger this week. Be sensitive to the physical needs of those you encounter along your path. A humble spirit seeks the good in others and offers good to others.

26 Thursday.

Visit the Luke passage again. Who do you identify with in the story. Read the story again, inserting yourself in the place of the one you identify with the most.

27 Friday.



Reconsider the work you did on your spiritual inventory. Have you put into practice any of the changes that you may have discovered that needed to be made?

28 Saturday.

Today, spend an hour in silence or walk the labyrinth at church. Bring to God all your beliefs and attitudes about living sacrificially.

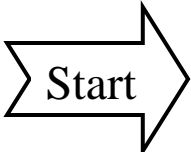
Listen.

2010 Lenten Guide

<p>Fourth Sunday in Lent. Humility. Read Joshua 5:9-12; Luke 15:1-3, 11B-32. Allow the story of the prodigal to soak into the deep places. Read it every day this week seeking the Spirit's guidance and insight.</p>					
<p>22 Saturday.</p> <p>The Lenten journey is half over. What have you learned so far? Does the word "sacrifice" mean more to you now? Reflect over your inventory. What sacrifices need to be made?</p>	<p>21 Friday.</p> <p>Read the Ten Commandments. Search for the deeper meaning of each commandment. Do they prompt change?</p>	<p>20 Thursday.</p> <p>Spend time today finishing your spiritual inventory. Are there any surprises? Challenges? Begin thinking of ways you might need to "turn around".</p>	<p>19 Wednesday.</p> <p>Have coffee with a Sunday School member or some friends. Spend the time discussing how sacrifice and repentance are related. Tonight, join your church family for prayer and study.</p>	<p>18 Tuesday.</p> <p>Repentance means to "turn around." Change is difficult, especially when we are comfortable. As you begin your inventory, are areas of comfort that need a change beginning to emerge?</p>	<p>17 Monday.</p> <p>Today, begin a spiritual inventory. Get a pen and paper and begin writing down the things you should have done, but didn't and the things you did, but shouldn't have. Reflect on the last seven days.</p>
			<p>Third Sunday in Lent. Repentance. Join with your Weatherly church family in Bible Study at 9:00 am. Read Isaiah 55:1-9; Luke 13:1-9.</p>		
<p>11 Monday.</p> <p>Pray for those you know that are brokenhearted. Begin considering now what you can do this week to offer them hope and healing.</p>	<p>12 Tuesday.</p> <p>The Great Commission calls us to local and global ministry. Volunteer at Lincoln Elementary or Stone Middle. The lives you impact locally may one day change the world.</p>	<p>13 Wednesday.</p> <p>Think about how you spend your time. Write it down. Is there a block of time that could be better spent sacrificially serving others?</p>	<p>14 Thursday.</p> <p>How can you become less possessive of your time and energy? Play catch with a child. Teach a child to ride a bike, sing a song, or crochet a potholder. Visit someone who is homebound or in the nursing home.</p>	<p>15 Friday.</p> <p>How is God calling you to help heal the broken? It may require a sacrifice. Are you willing? Plan to work at Lincoln Mill tomorrow and invite others to go with you.</p>	<p>16 Saturday.</p> <p>After spending the morning volunteering at Lincoln Mill, begin thinking about your Bible Study hour at church tomorrow. Are you prepared to join in the discussion?</p>
<p>Second Sunday in Lent. Brokenheartedness. Read Genesis 15:1-18; Luke 13:31-35. What is it that breaks your heart? What breaks God's heart? How can we be hopeful and how can we offer hope to others?</p>		 			
<p>10 Saturday.</p> <p>Jesus was tempted with the world's power. Abuse of power is a temptation we all face. Pray how you might empower others to live more faithfully. How can you give power away?</p>	<p>9 Friday.</p> <p>With the weekend come opportunities to spend extended time with family. Consider how that might grow you in your devotion to God. Pray for your family.</p>	<p>8 Thursday.</p> <p>Jesus said to worship God and serve only Him. Spend time today in worship. Go to your quiet place. Read. Pray. Sing. Ask God how you can better serve Him.</p>	<p>7 Wednesday.</p> <p>Go to the church library or on-line and find a good book that will help you grow in your devotion to Christ. Consider spending more time in prayer this Lenten season.</p>	<p>6 Tuesday.</p> <p>Jesus says we do not live on bread alone. What does He mean? What sustains you in the hard and difficult days of living faithfully?</p> <p>Pray for God's guidance.</p>	<p>5 Monday.</p> <p>Jesus often went to a quiet place to pray. Go to the place you selected yesterday. Consider your devotion to God. What temptations do you face that would endanger your devotion to God?</p>

The Sacrifice Acceptable to God

This Lenten Guide is an aid as you journey through the 40 days of Lent leading up to Easter Sunday. Use the readings and suggestions each day to guide your thoughts, devotionals and actions.



<p>First Sunday in Lent. Devotion. Today, join your Sunday School class or others in praying for your church and the world. Set aside a quiet place for daily prayer during Lent. Read Luke 4: 1 - 13.</p>			
<p>1. Ash Wednesday. Tonight in worship ashes will be offered to remind us of our mortality. We begin a journey of 40 days, examining how we can better follow God's will for our lives and how we can join our brothers and sisters on the journey.</p>	<p>2. Thursday.</p> <p>Consider this Lenten theme: <i>The Sacrifice Acceptable to God.</i> What does that mean to you? Consider how you can grow in your understanding of what sacrifice means.</p>	<p>3. Friday.</p> <p>The Lenten season can become centered on the self. Consider building on relationships with others this year. Offer spur of the moment hospitality tonight and throughout Lent to friends.</p>	<p>4. Saturday.</p> <p>Today reflect on the seven weekly themes of Lent. How can you make each week significant on your Lenten journey? How can you grow closer to God and others during these days?</p>