

40 *days of*
PRAYER



ReNew
ReBuild
RePen[†]

A 40-Day
SPIRITUAL
JOURNEY

Ash Wednesday
to
Palm Sunday 2021

BIBLE STUDY DEVOTIONAL MATERIAL – LENT 2021

Week 1	17th Feb – Ash Wednesday Sun 21 Feb – The Baptism and Testing of Jesus – Rev. Dr. P. Serwalo
Week 2	Sun 28 Feb – What Church is all About – Rev. Dr. P. Serwalo
Week 3	Sun 7 March – Jesus Clears the Temple Courts – Rod Ehmke
Week 4	Sun 14 March – God so Loved the World – Rev. Dr. P. Serwalo
Week 5	Sun 21 March – Jesus predicts His Death – Rev. Dr. P. Serwalo
Week 6	Sun 28 March – (Holy Week) The Death of Jesus – Rev. Bill Thompson/YMG

DAILY DEVOTIONALS:

Monday 22/2/2021: Readings: Psalm 77, Job 4:1-21, Ephesians 2:1-10

Memory Verse: Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good. His love endures forever.”

Prayer: Dear God, I am once again reminded that our relationship is forever and that you love me always. I praise you God and I am so glad that you keep on trying to bring me back when I stray.

Tuesday 23/2/21: Readings: Psalm 77, Job 5:8-27; 1 Peter 3:8-10

Memory Verse: I press on towards the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenwards in Christ Jesus. Phil3:14

Prayer: Dear Jesus, it is not easy to stand strong against temptation. In face it is often overwhelming. I cannot do this without You. Please help me to press on towards the goal. Amen.

Wednesday 24/2/2021: Readings: Psalm 77, Proverbs 30:1-9; Matthew 4:1-11

Memory Verse: Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding: in all your ways submit to Him, and He will make your paths straight. Proverbs 3:5-6

Prayer: Dear Lord, my controlling nature often overrides my heart. Please help me to accept that I do not have all the answers and that I need to wait on you. Amen.

Thursday 25/2/2021: Readings: Psalm 22:23-31, Genesis 15:1-6, Romans 3:21-31.

Memory Verse: By this everyone will know that you are my disciples if you love one another. John13:35

Prayer: Jesus, you are my example. Help me to love others as you love me! Amen.

Friday 26/2/2021: Readings: Psalm 22:23-31, Genesis 16:1-6, Romans 4:1-12

Memory Verse: For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life. John 3:16

Prayer: Thank you, my God, that I know that I will spend eternity with you. Amen.

Saturday 27/2/2021: Readings: Psalm 22:23-31, Genesis 16:7-15, Mark 8:27-30

Memory Verse: Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus. 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

Prayer: Lord God, help me today to continually praise you in all I say, do and think about. Amen.

For Reflection:

Is there a way in our spiritual experiences wherein we can have a deeper relationship with God without the desert? Imagine a Christian journey and ministry without hardships, trials, temptations, and tests; how will that journey be: boring and dull and not helpful? It is inherent in human nature that our strong characters, strength, and ability to live beyond the odds and challenges is refined in dark and difficult times. We take after Jesus that the desert is an indisputable aspect of the journey, the journey to a deepened faith with God, the journey to self-discovery, the journey to becoming a faithful disciple of Christ. Admittedly we are afraid of the desert because it exposes our inability to deal with and face the worst in us, the issues we do not want to confront and deal with, the scars and wounds of the past that are not resolved. Perhaps our avoidance of the desert and ways to run away from it because it takes us out of our comfort zones appears to be the best way out. But we are missing out on the opportunity for growth into Christ-like characters.

Follow the allegorical structure of Mark 1:9-13; verses 9-11 points out the affirmation of Jesus' Ministry and calling to serve the vision of God's Kingdom. This affirmation is crucial for his ministry to solidify his character and identity for public witness and proclamation of the gospel. The following verses 12-13 are more about God who allows characters and identities to be tested. It is worth mentioning that there is no possible faithfulness to God's service without characters being tested; Jesus is the classical example of that. Mark's understand of the desert (herem) means a deserted and lonely place. If we need to follow Christ, we firstly follow Him in the desert. Embrace the desert that you are experiencing at the moment.

Small Group Questions:

1. Thinking about Jesus and His temptation. What does being baptized as a Christian mean for you in relation to Jesus' Baptism? What does being baptized by the Spirit mean for you as a disciple of Christ?
2. The voice came from heaven saying, "This is my Son in whom I am well pleased." How can our lives be pleasing to God? What does being the son and daughter of God mean for you?
3. When you are faced with temptations, how do you deal with them?
4. Identify prevalent temptations that people are faced with in our time and reflect on how people's ability can be strengthened so that they are able to deal with them.