

Servanthood

A 40 Day Challenge



Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet. I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you. I tell you the truth, no servant is greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him.

John 13:14-16

40 Day Assignment Journal

January 26—March 6, 2009

You are
What you
beginning
do during
one of the
the next 40
greatest
days will
adventures
change
of your life!
your life!

Servanthood
Servanthood



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LIVE Like Christ

SERVE LIKE CHRIST

LOVE Like Christ

YOUR *40-Day* CHALLENGE

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YOUR *40-Day* CHALLENGE

Welcome!

Congratulations!

You are joining Christian students from all over Alabama and Florida who are participating in the **40-Day Challenge—SERVANTHOOD**. Our desire is that you live a life that imitates and reflects Jesus on your Middle and High school campuses.



When Does It Start?

- Commissioning Day is
- **Sunday, January 25th**

- **DAY ONE is Monday, January 26th, 2009**

What to STOP Doing: It is important that you **fast** from something for 40 Days that is a sacrifice to you. For example: TV, magazines, make-up, cola, candy, computer, non-Christian media. Be creative and fast something that will increase your prayer life. This will help you live out a life of service because fasting accomplishes three things:

- 1. It shakes the devil. Mark 9:29 (KJV)**
- 2. It stirs your soul. Isaiah 58:6-7a**
- 3. It sacrifices your desires. Matthew 4:2**

YOUR 40-Day CHALLENGE

How We Do It

Every day, you will have a different challenge to accomplish. Each day of the week has a different focus. Sundays...Serve Your Church. Mondays... Serve Your School. Tuesdays...Serve Your Enemy, etc. Be sure to read your challenge ahead of time, as some challenges require you to do some planning.



Serve Your CHURCH

Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it. 1 Corinthians 12:27



Serve Your SCHOOL

Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving. Colossians 3:23-24



Serve Your ENEMY

Jesus said, "Love your enemies! Pray for those who persecute you! In that way, you will be acting like true children of your Father in heaven." Matthew 5:44



Serve Your FRIENDS

This is my commandment that you love one another as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends. John 15:11-12



Serve Your NEIGHBOR

You, my brothers, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the sinful nature; rather, serve one another in love. The entire law is summed up in a single command: "Love your neighbor as yourself." Galatians 5:13-14



Serve Your COMMUNITY

You are the light of the world—like a city on a mountain glowing in the night for all to see. Don't hide your light under a basket! Instead, put it on a stand and let it shine for all to see. In the same way, let your good deeds shine out for all to see, so that everyone will praise your heavenly Father. Matthew 6:14-16



Serve Your FAMILY

Whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him. Colossians 3:17

YOUR *40-Day* CHALLENGE

Why 40 Days?

A goal of The 40-Day Challenge is for ONE DAY to lead to 40 DAYS, and ultimately lead to a LIFESTYLE! The following is the significance of 40 Days:

- 1. JUDGMENT.** 40 Days was a sign in the Bible that God was removing evil. (See Noah and the Flood Story. **Genesis 7:4**)
- 2. PREPARATION.** 40 Days was a sign in the Bible that God was getting people ready for action. (See the story about Jesus being tempted by Satan in the wilderness. **Matthew 4:2**)
- 3. RESTORATION.** 40 Days was a sign in the Bible that God wanted to win people to Himself. (See the story where Jonah preached repentance to Nineveh for 40 Days. **Jonah 3:4**)

40 days! There has been a lot of discussion about the significance of the number 40 throughout the Bible. For Noah, it rained 40 days while he was on the ark. Moses spent 40 days on the mountain with God to receive the Ten Commandments. The Israelites spent 40 years wandering the desert. Goliath challenged the Israelites for 40 days before David stood up to him. Solomon was king for 40 years. And before Jesus began His ministry He spent 40 days wandering the wilderness.

So what is the meaning of 40 in the Bible? What secret does it hold to change our life forever? In the Bible the number 40 means, "A long time." That's right! When you do something for 40 days or for 40 years you have done it for a long time.

It takes 21 days to create a habit.

In 40 Days you can form a lifestyle!

YOUR *40-Day* CHALLENGE

Key Elements for Youth Leaders

1. COMMISSION STUDENTS AND ADULTS

Sunday, January 25, 2009

At the altar in front of your church congregation. Recognize the participants, pray for them and challenge them to stay the course. Ask your pastor to spend a portion of the service dedicated to emphasizing the importance of campus ministry. First Priority can give you a short video and other resources to help you with this. Contact information is on the back cover of the book.

2. TEACH PILLARS FROM JOURNAL "SERVENTHOOD" AT WEEKLY YOUTH MEETINGS.

Have students give testimonies about the challenge on Sunday and Wednesday nights. Create some accountability groups within your youth ministry where students are contacting each other on a daily basis to hold each other accountable.

3. ATTEMPT TO CONNECT AN ADULT MENTOR WITH EACH STUDENT.

Each day has a student challenge. At the bottom of each page is an adult version of the challenge. This will help adults challenge students and allow the students to hold the adults accountable for the daily challenges.

4. FACEBOOK AND MYSPACE

Starting the week before the challenge begins, you and your students will have access to event aspect of Facebook and Myspace. This will allow students and adults the opportunity to comment on the day's challenge and see what others are saying.

YOUR 40-Day CHALLENGE

Commissioning Day Guidelines

**THE 40-DAYS ARE ABOUT TO BEGIN!
...GET READY!**

The following are some ideas for this very important day.

1. If possible, be commissioned by a pastor at your church in front of the congregation. Have a prayer partner stand with you. The pastor should ask you the following questions:
 - A. Will you pray for the unbelieving students at your school?
 - B. Will you carry out The 40 Day Challenge assignments to the best of your ability?
Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart... (Colossians 3:23)
 - C.. What will you fast that is a sacrifice to you?
 - D. Who is praying for you? Every student needs an adult prayer partner for encouragement and accountability. Weekly contact is suggested.
2. After you answer these questions, the pastor can then pray over you. Anointing oil may be used at this time as a symbol of the presence and power of the Holy Spirit abiding in you.
3. If you cannot be commissioned during the morning worship service, then ask your pastor if you can be commissioned during the evening service, a Sunday School class or a Youth Meeting.
4. If a pastor or youth pastor isn't available, then have your parents or other respected adult commission you. Try to make it as public as you can, so you will be accountable!

YOUR 40-Day CHALLENGE

Commissioning Day

Today, you commit in front of everyone.

Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us. So, therefore we fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith. Hebrews 12:1-2

1. A pastor prays for you at your church in front of the congregation.
2. A prayer partner stands with you during the Commissioning Service.

The pastor should ask you the following questions:

- Will you PRAY for the unbelieving students at your school?
- Will you FOLLOW assignments to the best of your ability?
- What will you FAST that is a sacrifice to you?
- Who is PRAYING for you?



Reflections

What happened today? What were your answers to your Pastor's questions?

Adult

Be commissioned alongside your prayer partner.

Sunday Pre Challenge

THE 40-DAYS ARE ABOUT TO BEGIN! **X Marks the Spot** ...GET READY!

Are you ready to take your walk with Christ to the next level? Memorizing Scripture is one of the first steps. When you memorize Scripture, you'll be transformed. Begin a physical habit today that will show that you're changing from the inside out! Draw an "X" on your hand with a marker as a reminder of this habit throughout the day. Keep doing it for 40 Days!

Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God—this is your spiritual act of worship. Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will. Romans 12:1-2

Assignment

What to do during **The 40 Day Challenge**

- Get up 15 minutes earlier every day.
- Call or IM your accountability partner every day.
- Meet at the flagpole to pray every morning
- Change the way you talk
- Before, during or after school, walk through your school claiming it for the Lord. Pause at different points for special prayer.



Reflection

What new habit have you started? Did anyone ask about the "X" on your hand? What did you tell them? _____

Adults

Create a new habit and put an "X" on your hand or near your desk to remind you of this new change.

Sunday Pre Challenge

THE 40-DAYS ARE ABOUT TO BEGIN! ...GET READY!

One of the last moments that Jesus spent with His disciples before he was crucified was the experience of the Passover Feast. The story, found in John 13:1-17, is summed up in verse 1 when the scripture says of Jesus—“He now showed them the full extent of His love.”

Jesus spent His last Passover with His disciples teaching them by washing their feet. What an awesome example of servanthood.

Assignment

Read John 13:1-17

Take time to meditate on this scripture. For the next 40 days, you will be serving Christ and your world. What does that look like? How will you be able to survive for 40 days? How will you change?

Think about all the things you want to accomplish through the 40 day challenge and make notes about it in the area marked reflections. When the challenge is over, take time to turn back to this page and glance at what you have accomplished.



Reflections

DAY ONE *Week One*

Monday, January 26

The Survey Says

Have at least 3-4 people fill-out the spiritual information survey, found on page 54 of this Journal. Ask them if they would help you complete an assignment. It would be fun to do this in a group setting. Before you begin to talk to someone about their life and faith, it's good to know something about them.

You will need to duplicate the surveys on a copier. This survey will give you the information about the some of the people you will be serving over the next 40 Days.



I pray that you may be active in sharing your faith, so that you will have a full understanding of every good thing we have in Christ. Philemon 1:6

Assignment

- Don't be too heavy. Make this a light and fun experience for you and the people who are completing the survey.
- Copy the surveys on cardstock; it's durable!

Reflections

What are the names of your friends who took the survey? What were their reactions?

Did they ask you any questions? _____

Adults

Take the survey on page 54 and ask 3-4 people to take the survey during one of your breaks. Before you start, pray and ask God to show you who to give the survey to. The only question to change is #4 — do you belong to a Bible study?

DAY TWO *Week One*

Tuesday, January 27

Serve Your Enemy

Jesus said, "Love your enemies! Pray for those who persecute you! In that way, you will be acting like true children of your Father in heaven" Matthew 5:44

Do you have enemies? Do you have people in your life that seem to make your life a little more challenging? Maybe they've spread rumors about you at school. Maybe they've said something to you that hurt your feelings. Maybe they do not believe in Jesus as you do, and they like to make fun of you for your faith. With this statement, Jesus is not telling us we might have enemies; He's telling us we will have enemies. And He also tells us how we are to act towards them.

Assignment

Think of a person at school whom you consider to be your enemy. Write that person's initial on a piece of paper, then go outside and find a rock. Tape the paper with the initials on the rock and put it in your pocket. Today, every time you touch the rock, pray for that person. Ask God to bless him or her and to help you to show them the love of Christ. Put a piece of paper with that person's name on it in your Bible, book bag, locker, etc. Every time you see his or her name, pray for them again.



Reflections

What happened today? Did you run into that individual? _____

Adult

Follow the same assignment as the youth. Keep that person's name in your desk drawer, in your planner or near something you see everyday.

DAY THREE *Week One*

Wednesday, January 28

Serve Your Friends

**“This is my commandment that you love one another as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one’s life for his friends.”
John 15:11-12**

Sharing a meal with a friend provides with the opportunity to talk, to laugh and often to share our faith story. Jesus often shared meals with his friends. He shared breakfast with his disciples, dinner with Zaccheus, and many more. Each of these meals was an opportunity for Jesus to have life changing conversations.

Assignment

Today, follow Jesus’ example and share a meal with a friend. Buy lunch or dinner for a friend or bring a special snack to school to share with friends.

Take the opportunity to share your faith story (page 55) and encourage your friends. (If for some reason you cannot have a meal with someone today, make a date.)



Reflections

What happened today? Who did you share your lunch with? How did they respond to your reaching out to them? _____

Adult

Today you get to take the person God has laid on your heart out to lunch. Be ready to share your faith story (Christian conversion testimony).

DAY FOUR *Week One*

Thursday, January 29

Serve Your Neighbor

You, my brothers, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the sinful nature; rather, serve one another in love. The entire law is summed up in a single command: "Love your neighbor as yourself." Galatians 5:13-14

In Joshua 1:3, God promises Joshua, *"I will give you every place where you set your foot."* What if God made this promise to you today? Where would your feet take you? Today you will go on a prayer walk around your neighborhood, down your street, or around the apartment complex. Wherever you live, the people living near you are your neighbors and this prayer walk will be a time to talk with God about opening doors into their lives.

Assignment

Walk and Pray

How do you do a prayer walk? There is nothing difficult about prayer walking. Alone or with others, simply wander and look at what God is doing. Allow your mind to focus on God in prayer, allowing your thoughts into your conversation with God. Try these simple tips during your prayer walk:

- Use all your senses (See, smell, hear, feel, taste)
 - Meditate on Scripture and claim appropriate promises
 - Pray for what you see, such as schools, homes, toys, and businesses, to be used by God
 - Seek to identify areas in need of God's power and redemption
 - Listen for the Spirit's voice and try to see what and how God sees
- Worship, praise, intercede, declare, proclaim, and bless



Ask God to help you focus on a specific neighbor you can minister to in the coming weeks.

Reflections

What happened today? Who did you pray for? Did you see anything that surprised you?

Adult

Take time to prayer walk your neighborhood before or after work. If you wait to walk after work, consider prayer walking with a student.

DAY FIVE *Week One*

Friday, January 30

Serve Your Community

“You are the light of the world—like a city on a mountain glowing in the night for all to see. Don’t hide your light under a basket! Instead, put it on a stand and let it shine for all to see. In the same way, let your good deeds shine out for all to see, so that everyone will praise your heavenly Father.” Matthew 6:14-16

Jesus said that good deeds would cause people to praise God. When you take time to serve your community, you are shining His light in the darkness. Don’t hide your light! Allow God to use You to reveal Himself through your deeds to those in your community.

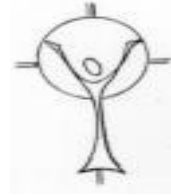
Assignment

Go with another person to a local park today or another public place and pick up trash.

If the park is on a busy street, make sure not to get out in the road.

Don’t forget to take a plastic trash bag with you.

As you see people walking around you, take time to pray for them.



Reflections

What happened today? Did anyone ask you why you were picking up trash? Did you have the opportunity to pray for anyone? _____

Adult

Take your lunch break at a local park. After eating, take time to pick up trash around the area. Don’t forget your trash bag. If you go to a restaurant, pick up the trash in the parking lot when your finished.

DAY SIX *Week One*

Saturday, January 31

Serve Your Family

**“Whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.”
Colossians 3:17**

This verse precedes the verses in Colossians on love in the family. It suggests that if we do all things in the name of the Lord then loving and serving our family must also be done in the name of the Lord. How well do we serve our families? Do we serve them as if serving the Lord? Or even like we may serve others?

Over the next few Saturdays you will serve your family members. Some days you will serve them as a group and other days you will want to serve them in a more individual way. Today you will serve each one in small but personal way.

Assignment

Each person’s bedroom is his or her special place. So today, make up everyone’s bed. Either arrange to make up the beds or try to sneak in and make up all the beds when no one is looking. If your family members beat you to their beds, find another chore in their bedroom to do for them.



Reflections

What happened today? Who did you serve? How did they respond to your reaching out to them? _____

Adult

Make up everyone’s bed today. If it has already been done, find another way to serve your family in their bedroom.

DAY SEVEN *Week Two*

Sunday, February 1

Serve Your Church

**Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it.
1 Corinthians 12:27**

How do you feel when someone smiles at you? It is such a great feeling to know that someone is glad you are around. Imagine what life would be like if you never felt welcome.

Church should be the one place we go when we need to be accepted. That is one of the reasons we call it a sanctuary. A place of refuge and acceptance away from a world that demands more and more from us. Most churches have a special team of people to bring that feeling of acceptance to everyone who enters the sanctuary. Many times those people are called greeters or ushers. Their special job is to not only hand people a bulletin or help them find the restrooms, but they are the people who smile and make people feel welcome. It truly is an important task!

Assignment

Today, volunteer to help with the greeters or ushers in your church. It may mean you have to arrive early. Pass out the bulletins, and help people find a seat. Most importantly share the love and acceptance of Christ with every person that enters the door. Do this for both your Bible study class and the main worship service.



Reflections

What happened today? How did it feel to serve your church?

Adult

Volunteer to be a greeter at your church today. Remember that most visitors make a decision about returning to your church within the first 5 minutes of visiting.

DAY EIGHT *Week Two*

Monday, February 2

Serve Your School

Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving. Colossians 3:23-24

Many people only talk to the principles when they are in trouble. Set a new precedence. Let the principles know how much you appreciate their hard work.

Assignment

Ask one of your principles if there is something today or this week that he/she needs help with and volunteer to help.

Find time before lunch to ask one of the principles if you can bring them their lunch today. If so, make sure you pick up the tray after they have finished and take it back to the cafeteria.

Write a note to let the principles know they are special and that you prayed for them today. (so make sure you pray for them before giving them the note) Make sure to mention how much you appreciate all the hard work and long hours they dedicate to students. Write a note to each of the principles. You can hand deliver the notes or deliver them to the office as you are passing by.



Reflections

What happened today? Which principals did you serve? How did they respond to your reaching out to them? _____

Adult

Write a note of encouragement to your boss or supervisor. Let that person know how you are praying for them. Perhaps you can offer to bring them lunch today.

DAY NINE *Week Two*

Tuesday, February 3

Serve Your Enemy

**Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it.
1 Corinthians 12:27**

For 40 days you have accepted this challenge to serve. It will be filled with many emotions. Some of the challenges will make you feel good about helping others. Some may bring a spirit of humility to your life. Some days you will feel uncomfortable while other days you felt challenged. To really serve someone requires us to place their needs above our own needs. Many times it costs us our money, our time, or our pride. Was the cost great or small in your life?

Assignment

Make a list of people that you have issues with. It may be someone at school, at work, at home, on the sports team, etc. First, take a few moments and do something that will be uncomfortable.....Pray for them and for yourself. Ask the Lord to heal the hurt and issues in your heart in regards to the people on this list. Next ask the Lord to bring salvation to the people on your list and to bring healing to the relationship you have with them. Keep this list in your Bible, and each day as you open your Bible, pray this prayer again. We must ask God to go before us as we think about ways to mend broken relationships.

Reflections

How does it feel to pray for people you have disagreements with? Do you think praying for them will help you with your relationship to God? Explain.

Adult

Follow the same assignment for your enemies.

DAY TEN *Week Two*

Wednesday, February 4

Serve Your Friends

**“Whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.”
Colossians 3:17**

The goal of the Challenge is not just to serve for forty days. Hopefully, you will become more of a servant and more like Christ. The Challenge will cause you to think of how you show love to others and how you serve them. So for today’s challenge you will create a way for the service to keep on going.

Assignment

Create a to-do book for your friends. The to-do book should include things you can do for them like help them with homework, give them a ride home, right a note to tell them how much you appreciate them, but it should also include things like a hug, a backrub, a long walk, or a listening ear. Keep up with this list a strive to do what’s listed over the next 40 Day’s.



Reflections

How does it feel to think about ways how you can give and help your friends? Do you think serving them will help you express your love for them? Explain.

Adult

Follow the same assignment for your friends.

DAY ELEVEN *Week Two*

Thursday, February 5

Serve Your Neighbor

You, my brothers, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the sinful nature; rather, serve one another in love. The entire law is summed up in a single command: "Love your neighbor as yourself." Galatians 5:13-14

When God created the world He looked out over all His wonderful and amazing creation and he entrusted it to man to watch over and care for. The land and animals would provide food and substance for man, and in turn, man was to become the caretaker of the creation. Many times we enjoy the benefits of the world around us and neglect the beauty that surrounds us everyday.

Assignment

Today you will once again venture into the area you define as your neighborhood. This time you will continue your walk as you pray for God to reveal where he is moving. However, this time, you will not go empty handed. Take a trash bag with you along your journey. Pick up the discarded cans and bottles you would normally pass by. Collect the pieces of paper and other trash that has collected along the streets and paths. Remember you are serving those people who are your neighbors. As you clean the neighborhood you are not looking for praise or a pat on the back, but rather this is an opportunity to care



Reflections

What happened today? What did you find that surprised you? Who did you pray for as you were cleaning up? _____

Adult

Take a trash bag with you as you prayer walk through your neighborhood. As you are praying for your neighbors, pick up any trash you see.

DAY TWELVE *Week Two*

Friday, February 6

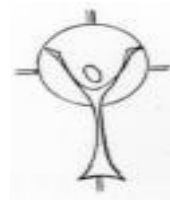
Serve Your Community

"You are the light of the world—like a city on a mountain glowing in the night for all to see. Don't hide your light under a basket! Instead, put it on a stand and let it shine for all to see. In the same way, let your good deeds shine out for all to see, so that everyone will praise your heavenly Father." Matthew 6:14-16

Today you will have the opportunity to give some of your many blessings to your community.

Assignment

Go through your clothes closet today. Find anything you've outgrown or anything you haven't worn in a really long time, and tell your parents you would like to donate some clothes to a local mission. Get your whole family involved in donating clothing. Take your donations to the Waterfront Rescue Mission, Mission of Hope, or a local church that has a clothes closet for needy families.



Reflections

What happened today? Did you have a difficult time giving some of your clothes away?
Who were you able to involve? _____

Adult

Follow the same suggestions as the youth's assignment. You may need to give some of the youth a ride to a local mission. Call first to find out donation procedures.

DAY THIRTEEN *Week Two*

Saturday, February 7

Serve Your Family

**"Whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him."
Colossians 3:17**

So many times we need to be told to do things we actually know need doing. Sometimes we are paid to do chores around the house. Today let your motivation not be money or a parent's voice; let it be love. As you live out your assignment today, do it because you love your family.

Assignment

Decide on a project or a job to do around your house. Make sure you have all the equipment and other things you will need to do the project. Then get up early and do it.

Ideas for projects or jobs:

- Lawn work
- Winter Gardening
- Dust and vacuum the whole house
- Window Washing



Reflections

What happened today? What project did you chose? What were the results?

Adult

Choose one of the projects above, or one that you already know of, to accomplish. If you have a parent in the area, you could go to their house to accomplish the project.

DAY FOURTEEN *Week Three*

Sunday, February 8

Serve Your Church

**Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it.
1 Corinthians 12:27**

Have you ever noticed that some of the best times in life are connected to food? There is that wonderful Thanksgiving dinner your mom made. The special meal you ate on your birthday with all your favorite foods. And who can go to the movies without that big bag of popcorn to munch on? Food is a great part of life and when you share it with someone else it often opens the door for a life changing relationship.

In the early church sharing meals together was a way of strengthening the body of Christ. Look around when you go to church today. Who do you see that is visiting or new to your congregation? They need to become a part of the body of Christ. You can help them plug in and begin to build those relationships.

Assignment

Invite a visitor or new church member to lunch after the service today. This might be at a local restaurant or maybe your house. In fact, invite a few people to lunch. This will help people to get to know each other and begin to share their lives with other people they are worshipping with.

"We loved you so much that we were delighted to share with you not only the gospel of God but our lives as well, because you have become so dear to us." 1 Thessalonians 2:8

Remember you are not just creating a great memory over lunch, you are establishing a friendship that lasts for all eternity!



Reflections

What happened today? Who did you take to lunch? How did they respond to your reaching out to them? _____

Adult

Find a visitor or new member at your church and take them to lunch today. Take a group with you for more fun.

DAY FIFTEEN *Week Three*

Monday, February 9

Serve Your School

Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving. Colossians 3:23-24

Teachers are some wonderful people. Most are hard working and care deeply about students. Take time today to serve your teachers. Seek out several teachers to assist throughout the day.

Assignment

Ask your teacher in **EVERY** class if there is anything he or she needs assistance with, then offer to help.

Teachers usually have many books and bags to take home every night. Ask a teacher if you can help them carry their bags to their car after school.

Pick out a teacher that has lunch the same time as you and offer to bring their lunch and drink to them. Make sure they have napkins and proper eating utensils.

Write a note to let a teacher know he/she is special and that you prayed for him/her today. (so make sure you pray for them before giving them the note) Hand deliver the note sometime throughout the day.

You have an awesome opportunity to serve many teachers today!



Reflections

What happened today? What did you do for each teacher? How did they respond to your reaching out to them? _____

Adult

Find a co-worker to assist today. Write a note of encouragement to a co-worker and let them know that you are praying for them.

DAY SIXTEEN *Week Three*

Tuesday, February 10

Serve Your Enemy

Jesus said, "Love your enemies! Pray for those who persecute you! In that way, you will be acting like true children of your Father in heaven" Matthew 5:44

It's not easy to find something nice about someone you don't get along with. Today, you will need to step outside your comfort zone and look at your enemy in a different light.

Assignment

Remember the person you were praying for last week? Make a list of positive attributes of him or her, such as "good at sports," "funny," or "pretty." Today, find a way to compliment that person and go out of your way to smile and be friendly to them.



Reflections

What happened today? Who did you compliment? How did they respond to your reaching out to them?

Adult

Remember the person you prayed for last week? Make a list of positive attributes of that person. Take time to find a way to compliment them today.

DAY SEVENTEEN *Week Three*

Wednesday, February 11

Serve Your Friends

**“This is my commandment that you love one another as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one’s life for his friends.”
John 15:11-12**

Several times in scripture, we are told to encourage one another, to love others and to show that love through our actions. But what does that really look like? Sometimes to encourage means a pat on the back and the spoken words, “good job” or “I like your work.” Other times it’s a note with a message of hope and peace. And sometimes it’s sitting with a person in a crisis of life and just letting them know you will always be there for them. In scripture, we also see that Jesus and the disciples encouraged others by working along side of them or serving them in some way.

Assignment

Write down the names of two of your classmates you would like to encourage today. Now get out paper and write them notes. As you talk with them today choose the best way to encourage them through your words and through your actions. Make a point to offer to pray with them and for them.



Reflections

How did you decide whom to encourage? What did you do to encourage them? How was this servicing them as Jesus would serve them? _____

Adult

Do the same assignment as the youth. Think about co-workers or friends that need to be encouraged and served.

DAY EIGHTEEN *Week Three*

Thursday, February 12

Serve Your Neighbor

You, my brothers, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the sinful nature; rather, serve one another in love. The entire law is summed up in a single command: "Love your neighbor as yourself." Galatians 5:13-14

It's time to put some action behind the prayers you have been praying over the last few weeks. Today's challenge is for you to pray for a specific neighbor and the needs they have in their life. The book of James says to, *"Pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective."*

Assignment

As the Lord leads you to pray for that special person, it is time to begin a relationship with them. Bake some cookies, muffins, a cake, or just pick up some doughnuts and go visit your neighbor.

Sit down with them and get to know them. Find out about their life and dreams. Sometimes people need a friend who will just sit and listen.



Before you leave, ask them this important question: "is there anything I can pray for you about?" Then take a minute or two before you go to pray for them. This may be difficult for you. You may have never prayed out loud before. But remember, Prayer is simply talking to God. He is not concerned with what words you use, or even how long your prayer is. He simply wants us to talk with him.

Reflections

What happened today? What was the prayer request your neighbor shared with you? Pray for that request and your neighbor throughout the 40 Day Challenge.

Adult

Follow the same assignment as the youth. You may want to prepare some snacks the day before so you will have time to visit after work.

DAY NINETEEN *Week Three*

Friday, February 13

Serve Your Community

“You are the light of the world—like a city on a mountain glowing in the night for all to see. Don’t hide your light under a basket! Instead, put it on a stand and let it shine for all to see. In the same way, let your good deeds shine out for all to see, so that everyone will praise your heavenly Father.” Matthew 6:14-16

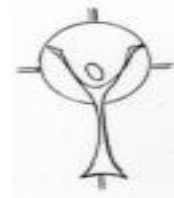
Do you know anyone in your community who has a family member who is serving in the military over seas? Take some time today the think about those who are giving so much for us to live in a free country.

Assignment

Spend some time today praying for your country.

Check out the website for the Presidential Prayer Team (www.presidentialprayerteam.org) and sign up to adopt a troop to pray for this month.

If you have a relative or know of a church member who is serving overseas, find out their address and write a letter and put together a care package to send to them.



Reflections

What happened today? Who did you adopt? Make sure to continue to write this person or family to encourage them _____

Adult

Perhaps you have served in the military. If not, you’re sure to know a family who has someone serving. Adopt a troop at the listed website and write them a letter thanking them for their service.

DAY TWENTY *Week Three*

Saturday, February 14

Serve Your Family

“Whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.” Colossians 3:17

In days gone by, extended families were much closer than they are today. People lived with and close by their grandparents, aunts and uncles. Although some may do this today, most of us are not very close to our extended families. Today, you will have a chance to show love for your extended family.

Assignment

Choose an extended family member (aunt, uncle, cousin or grandparent) to serve.

If that person lives close by call and ask them how you could help them today. Do this service today if possible. If not today, make plans to do it this week. If your extended family lives far away, call them to encourage them today.

After talking with them, write them a note of encouragement and mail it today. (Use snail mail. It will add to the meaning of the note.) Let them know what they mean to you and that you are praying for them.



Reflections

What happened today? Who did you choose to honor in your extended family? What specifically did you do? How did it make you feel? _____

Adult

Have you spent time recently showing your extended family that you care about them? If you can't do anything physically for them today, make sure to call them and then write them a letter.

DAY TWENTY-ONE *Week Four*

Sunday, February 15

Serve Your Church

**Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it.
1 Corinthians 12:27**

Have you ever taken time to notice what the church looks like when you are walking in on Sunday morning? Everything is in place. Everything is clean. Have you taken the time to look at the church 15 minutes after services are over. Pens and pencils in seats, bulletins lying around everywhere. The bathrooms need some attention. Today, you will have the opportunity to help by cleaning up around the church.

Assignment

After your final Sunday morning service is over, walk around picking up the trash left in the pews, chairs, isles etc. Put chairs back in place.

Make sure the bathrooms are in good order. Wipe down the sinks, make sure there's toilet paper and paper towels where they need to be.

Ask a staff member if you can help by vacuuming

Make sure that the parking lot is clear of trash and debris.



Reflections

What happened today? What was the response that you received? Did anyone ask you why you were cleaning up? _____

Adult

Make sure that all the trash and clean up is done in the church before you leave. Look for area's that are commonly overlooked to clean and take care of.

DAY TWENTY *Week Four*

Monday, February 16

Serve Your School

Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving. Colossians 3:23-24

Cafeteria workers are rarely served and often go unappreciated. Although they work extremely hard, their work goes unnoticed. Think about the number of students that are served daily by the cafeteria workers. Make time today to give back to them.

Assignment

Make opportunities to serve your cafeteria workers by picking up trays and trash at lunchtime.

Ask the cafeteria workers if you and a group of students may serve on a "clean-up" detail during lunchtime.

Your job is to pick up trash, dishes and/or trays left on the tables, sweep, mop, etc. Make it fun... and make it a group activity.

Ask the cafeteria workers how you can best serve them that day.

Do not take a tray from someone who is still eating.



Reflections

What happened today? How did the cafeteria workers respond to your serving them?

Adult

If you have a cafeteria at your job, then do the suggestions listed above. If not, find a similar way to serve someone that serves you lunch or dinner.

DAY TWENTY-THREE *Week Four*

Tuesday, February 17

Serve Your Enemy

Jesus said, "Love your enemies! Pray for those who persecute you! In that way, you will be acting like true children of your Father in heaven" Matthew 5:44

Do you remember some of the bad things that people have done to you? Do you have a hard time forgiving people for the hurt they have caused? It is so easy to act like there is nothing wrong when you are hurting on the inside. Today you will have the opportunity to do a little soul searching and focus on forgiveness.

Assignment

Ask God to bring to your mind someone whom you are holding a grudge against. Pray for God to help you let go of unforgiveness towards that person.

Today, write an encouraging note or send them a Christian card with a Bible verse on it.



Reflections

What happened today? Who did you forgive? How did it feel to write a note to someone who may not have even known you were hurt? _____

Adult

Follow the example given above.

DAY TWENTY-FOUR *Week Four*

Wednesday, February 18

Serve Your Friends

**"This is my commandment that you love one another as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends."
John 15:11-12**

In I Corinthians 13, Paul describes the characteristics of love. He describes love as "kind." According to the *Encarta Dictionary*, "kind" is an adjective describing a person who is compassionate, generous, safe (not harsh or unpleasant), caring, and loving.

In recent days RAK's –Random Acts of Kindness have become very popular. People have RAK parties and challenges but the reality is that these Acts of Kindness should be a regular habit of a follower of Christ. Random Acts of Kindness should truly be things we do to show kindness to others out of the blue not because of a contest or an event but because God loves us and we want to show others his love through kindness.

Assignment

Today, show a friend you care by being SUPER KIND. Treat someone like a queen or king; open doors, carry books, run errands for them, if appropriate give them a neck rub; just do whatever you can think of and remember be super nice and creative.



Reflections

Who did you choose to be especially kind to? How did they respond? How do you think you would feel for someone to be that kind to you? _____

Adult

Choose a friend to shower acts of kindness on today.

DAY TWENTY-FIVE *Week Four*

Thursday, February 19

Serve Your Neighbor

You, my brothers, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the sinful nature; rather, serve one another in love. The entire law is summed up in a single command: "Love your neighbor as yourself." Galatians 5:13-14

*A man named Waziri was sent as a missionary to work with the Kagoma people of Africa. Even after a year's work there, no one had responded to the Gospel. The people hated him so much they even killed his daughter with poison. Instead of giving up, Waziri and his wife asked God for wisdom in how to communicate the Gospel to them. When the rainy season began, Waziri noticed that the villagers did not take good care of the paths that led to their houses. The grass grew high and was bothersome to anyone walking down the path. One day Waziri decided to clear the grass from alongside the paths. He started at his neighbor's and then moved from compound to compound, clearing away the grass. His own path was done last. When the people of the village returned, they found the paths had been cleared and began to ask who had done the work. When they discovered that Waziri had served them, many of them came to him in tears and asked for forgiveness for killing his daughter. They said they were even ready to receive court punishment, but Waziri refused to take legal action against them. As a result, many people came to know the Lord in that village, and a church was planted in the following months. - *Stories for Life Illustrations (Orig. Source: The Calling of an Evangelist)**

Assignment

Imagine for a moment that you are Waziri. You are a missionary! Not a missionary in Africa, but a missionary in your neighborhood. Today you need to do some yard work to build some bridges with your neighbors. Cutting the grass, weeding flower beds, or raking a yard are just some of the ways you can serve those that live around you. Why? Just to be nice.



Reflections

What happened today? Who did you help? How did they respond to your help?

Adult

Follow the examples given above to be a missionary in your neighborhood.

DAY TWENTY-SIX *Week Four*

Friday, February 20

Serve Your Community

“You are the light of the world—like a city on a mountain glowing in the night for all to see. Don’t hide your light under a basket! Instead, put it on a stand and let it shine for all to see. In the same way, let your good deeds shine out for all to see, so that everyone will praise your heavenly Father.” Matthew 6:14-16

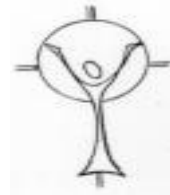
If you take the time to talk to some senior citizens, you will find that it wasn’t very long ago that they were as young, energetic and as vibrant as you. It is a shame that our culture does not honor and respect those who have work so hard for so many years. Do you know of any elderly people in your community? If not, ask a parent, friend or another adult. Someone can tell you where to find these fountains of wisdom.

Assignment

Call or visit an elderly person in your community who lives alone. Offer to help do yard-work, chores or run errands for him or her.

If you have transportation, offer to go to the grocery store for them.

Sit down with the person your helping and ask them if there is anything you can do for them on a regular basis.



Reflections

What happened today? Who did you serve? How did they respond to your reaching out to them? _____

Adult

Do you know an elderly person who needs some help in your community? Perhaps there is someone that has invested time in you over the years that you now have the opportunity to serve.

DAY TWENTY-SEVEN *Week Four*

Saturday, February 21

Serve Your Family

“Whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.” Colossians 3:17

During meals, we not only share food but we also often share stories of our lives, joys and disappointments. Preparing and sharing meals is a great way to show love to a group of people.

Assignment

Host a family meal. Plan, prepare and serve a family meal. If for some reason you cannot serve the meal on this day talk with your family and make a family date.



Reflections

What meal did you cook for your family? Did others pitch in? Did this help you think of and appreciate the others who cook for you on a regular basis?

Adult

You may often host meals, so how about helping someone younger host a meal or cook something for others. Getting busy in the kitchen is great way to talk and have fun together.

DAY TWENTY-EIGHT *Week Five*

Sunday, February 22

Serve Your Church

**Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it.
1 Corinthians 12:27**

You may never see it, but your church staff are some hard working individuals. Unfortunately, many are never thanked, appreciated or served by those who they serve every week. Are you even aware of the people that are employed by your church? Today you will have the opportunity to thank them for all of the unseen work that they do every week.

Assignment

Find out the names over all your church staff. Many churches print the names of their staff on the back of the weekly bulletin.

Write thank you notes to each of the church staff.
(Ministers, secretaries, custodial, etc.) Let them know how much you appreciate all that they do.



If you are not able to hand deliver these notes to the staff today, go ahead and drop them in the mail.

Reflections

What happened today? Who did you give thank you notes to? Did you know everyone on staff? _____

Adult

Take this assignment one step farther. Invite the family of one of the church staff to lunch. Invite them to a restaurant or to your home. Let them know you really appreciate all the hard work they do for the church.

DAY TWENTY-NINE *Week Five*

Monday, February 23

Serve Your School

Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving. Colossians 3:23-24

Does it seem as though you spend all of your time at school? Today you will be able to spend some time praying for your school, cleaning up and making the place you spend all your time a little more presentable.

Assignment

Pick up trash you see in the halls and classrooms. Pick up after others, whether or not they deserve it. Do this all day long.

Pick up trash, such as, coke cans, candy wrappers, paper, etc. in the halls, classrooms, bathrooms and the lunch area.

The reason you are "picking up" is because you care about your school and it's a "Random Act of Kindness." (RAK)



After School, take time to walk around the outside of the school. Pick up any trash or debris that you see. Take time to pray for your campus as you are walking.

Bring a garbage bag from home.

Reflections

What happened today? What was going through your mind as you were picking up trash?

Adult

Take the same assignment and apply it to your place of work.

DAY THIRTY *Week Five*

Tuesday, February 24

Serve Your Enemy

Jesus said, "Love your enemies! Pray for those who persecute you! In that way, you will be acting like true children of your Father in heaven" Matthew 5:44

Think about the people in your school that are not involved in a church. Can you think of anyone? Statistics tell us that 9 out of every 10 teenagers are not involved in church anywhere. How does that make you feel? Do you even care?

Assignment

Look for a person whom you know is not involved in church or a youth group. Go out of your way to be friendly to that person, then invite them to your next youth group meeting.

Pray for that person today to come to know Christ through your witness and the witness of others



Reflections

What happened today? Who did you talk to and invite? How did they respond to your reaching out to them? _____

Adult

Invite a person you know who is not involved in church to a church service. If you are involved in a small group ministry, this may be a great place to invite them to experience church.

DAY THIRTY-ONE *Week Five*

Wednesday, February 25

Serve Your Friends

**“This is my commandment that you love one another as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one’s life for his friends.”
John 15:11-12**

In the New Testament, there are several stories of people bringing their friends to Jesus for help. People brought the crippled, the blind, the emotionally disabled, the demon-possessed, and many others. Some came alone to Jesus and others came in big crowds, but they came bringing the people they loved.

Assignment

Today, take a friend to church or in some other way take a friend to Jesus. Choose one or more of the following ways:

Offer to pray with a friend over a certain issue.

Give a friend a new Christian book or CD you think they need.

Take your friend for a long walk and spend time talking about God and His creation.

Pack a picnic and share a meal.



Reflections

What happened today? How did you take a friend to Jesus? Spend a few minutes right now praying for this friend and others who need to get to Jesus.

Adult

How can you take a friend to Jesus? Find a way to spend some special time with a friend today and be Christ to them.

DAY THIRTY-TWO *Week Five*

Thursday, February 26

Serve Your Neighbor

You, my brothers, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the sinful nature; rather, serve one another in love. The entire law is summed up in a single command: "Love your neighbor as yourself." Galatians 5:13-14

The Karate Kid was a great movie about a teenage boy named Daniel, and an old guy named Mr. Miagi. They became great friends while Daniel learned Karate. Mr. Miagi had some pretty interesting teaching methods. Daniel would spend all day painting a fence and later learn he had been practicing an important karate technique the whole time. At first Daniel was unaware of the hidden lessons he was learning. He just knew that he was painting a fence or washing Mr. Miagi's cars.

During the past couple of weeks you have been carrying out acts of service in all areas of your life. Some of the time it may have just seemed like work, other times the purpose may have been confusing. However, each day is working together to teach you some lessons about being like Christ. The hidden lessons of service will begin to sow through in the life that we lead.

Assignment

Today, take a plan right out of the movie. Mr. Miagi gave Daniel the job of washing the cars. It was a tough job. When he finished he was tired and sore. Go to your neighbor's house today and ask them if you can wash their car for them. They may give you a strange look and ask you "How much?" Just tell them you want to serve them today.

After you have finished, invite them to this Sunday's worship service or a special service your church may have during the next week. Arrange to meet them somewhere easy to find and sit with them during the service.



Reflections

What happened today? Who did you serve? How did they respond to your reaching out to them? _____

Adult

Find a neighbor to serve today following the assignment above. If you don't have time after work to help, arrange to serve them this weekend.

DAY THIRTY-THREE *Week Five*

Friday, February 27

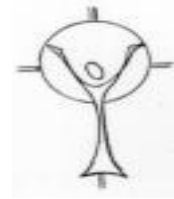
Serve Your Community

“You are the light of the world—like a city on a mountain glowing in the night for all to see. Don’t hide your light under a basket! Instead, put it on a stand and let it shine for all to see. In the same way, let your good deeds shine out for all to see, so that everyone will praise your heavenly Father.” Matthew 6:14-16

Do you have a loved one or know of some one in a retirement or nursing home? Many people, when reaching a time when they are unable to take care of themselves, are put into a nursing home by relatives. For many students, as well as adults, it would require them to step outside their comfort zone to step into a nursing home. Today, you will have the opportunity to spend some time visiting and loving those in a nursing home.

Assignment

Take some friends along and go to a local nursing home. Make some cards ahead of time with bible verses on them to give to the patients. Visit as many people as you can and tell them that God loves them. Take time to simply visit with the patients. That’s the biggest serves you could give.



Reflections

What happened today? Who did you visit? How did they respond to your reaching out to them? Did it require you to step outside your comfort zone? _____

Adult

It is often difficult for adults to spend time in nursing homes, just like youth. Follow the assignment given to the youth. You may want to take some of the youth with you.

DAY THIRTY-FOUR *Week Five*

Saturday, February 28

Serve Your Family

**"Whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him."
Colossians 3:17**

As a young child most of us wrote poems, drew pictures and did many art projects for our families. We wanted to show them and tell them how much we loved them. Creativity is a gift from God and so often as we age, we stop using some of our most creative sides. Today show your family you care through your artistic side. (Even if you think you do not have one, just try it. Do your best and they will appreciate it.)

Assignment

Today, choose one or more projects:

Write a poem and give copies to everyone in the family.

Draw a picture to hang on the refrigerator.

Write and perform a song.

Use the computer to create a visual project for your family.

Use woodworking/clay art to make a sculpture to display.

Do some other project that would show your love for your family.



Reflections

What happened today? Was it hard to think of something to do? How did others respond? How does God show His love for us in this artistic fashion? _____

Adult

Choose a creative project to do for one or all of your family members. Be creative!

DAY THIRTY-FIVE *Week Six*

Sunday, March 1

Serve Your Church

**Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it.
1 Corinthians 12:27**

Have you ever had to spend time in the hospital? Perhaps a close family member or another loved one has. From a patient's perspective, what a great feeling it is to have people visit. To know that someone cares enough about you to take time out of their busy day to visit you. If you do a little investigating, you'll be able to find that members of your church are either in the hospital or have recently come home from the hospital.

Assignment

Find a church member who is in the hospital or recently home from the hospital.

Arrange to visit this person. Be sensitive to their condition.

Spend time simply visiting this person. Take cards and some goodies if appropriate.



Reflections

What happened today? Who did you serve? How did they respond to your reaching out to them? _____

Adult

It is very healing to receive a visit from a friend when you are ill. Make sure the person you visit knows how much they are missed and appreciated.

DAY THIRTY-SIX *Week Six*

Monday, March 2

Serve Your School

Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving. Colossians 3:23-24

The people working in the office get very little credit for a very hard and busy job. Think about it. The office staff are at school before you get there and they are there after you leave. They handle difficulties with students, parents, teachers and the administrators. They constantly serve the needs of other people. Take time today to serve their needs.

Assignment

Stop by the office before the first bell of the day and ask the office staff if there is anything that you can do for them today. Ex: bring/taking things to their car, delivering notes or books to teachers, running errands, empty trash cans, clean bathroom etc

Before lunch, stop by the office and ask one of the staff if you can bring them their lunch from the cafeteria. Once they have finished, make sure you take their tray back to the cafeteria.

Write an office staff person a note of appreciation. The office staff rarely get any notes of "Thanks." Hand deliver the note or drop the note off at the school office with the persons name on it.



Reflections

What happened today? Who did you serve? How did they respond to your reaching out to them? _____

Adult

Take the same assignment and apply it to your work. Perhaps office employees or secretaries.

DAY THIRTY-SEVEN *Week Six*

Tuesday, March 3

Serve Your Enemy

Jesus said, "Love your enemies! Pray for those who persecute you! In that way, you will be acting like true children of your Father in heaven" Matthew 5:44

Has it been difficult to focus on the positive side of your enemies? Has it been a challenge to look at these people from the side of love? Jesus told us to love and pray for our enemies. Today, you will have the opportunity to invest time in some of these people.

Assignment

Make a list of the people you've prayed for and reached out to on these "Serve Your Enemies" Days. Find each one of them today, either at school or by phone, and ask them how their week is going. Tell them you've been thinking and praying for them today and wish them a blessed rest of the week.



Reflections

What happened today? Who did you talk to? How did they respond to your reaching out to them?

Adult

Follow the same assignment as the youth. Remember that personal contact is the most effective way to share your heart.

DAY THIRTY-EIGHT *Week Six*

Wednesday, March 4

Serve Your Friends

**"This is my commandment that you love one another as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends."
John 15:11-12**

Matthew 5:16 says "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in Heaven."
These words from Jesus direct us to not just speak of God's goodness but to show His light through our actions. Show your friends today that you love them and so does your Heavenly Father.

Assignment

Do a chore for a friend. Wash their car; do one of their daily or weekly chores; organize their locker; clean something out for them. Simply, do a chore for them.



Reflections

What did you do today? Who did you serve? How did it make you feel to help out a friend? _____

Adult

Offer to help a friend with their latest project or work.

DAY THIRTY-NINE *Week Six*

Thursday, March 5

Serve Your Neighbor

You, my brothers, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the sinful nature; rather, serve one another in love. The entire law is summed up in a single command: "Love your neighbor as yourself." Galatians 5:13-14

Everyone loves a great story, but do you know the second greatest story ever told? To understand the second greatest story ever told you have to first know the Greatest Story ever told. The life, death, and resurrection of Jesus is the greatest story ever told to mankind. It is a story of grace, hope, and love. Have heard that story? Hopefully you have responded by inviting Christ into your life, and experienced his grace. If you have, then you know the second greatest story ever told. You may refer to it as your salvation experience or your testimony. It is the story of how you came to know God, the change He has made in your life, and where you are on your journey with Him. Maybe you have never shared your story with someone you didn't know very well.

Today is your opportunity. After all, what good is having a great story if you don't share it with anyone? Over the past few weeks you have done some great things for your neighbors. All of these things were good things to do. Today is the most important thing you can do for them.

Assignment

Today you are going to tell them about Jesus. Sure they might ask questions and it is ok to say, "I don't know". Share with them what you do know. Share with them your story.

Here is a simple outline to help you out:

Before I met Jesus ...

I remember when Christ came into my life...

Since then the difference Christ has made in my life has been...

Today, my relationship with God is...

After you have shared with them, invite them to make that life changing decision.



Reflections

What happened today? Who did you tell? How did they respond to your reaching out to them? _____

Adult

Share your story with a neighbor you have been serving these past weeks.

DAY FORTY *Week Six*

Friday, March 6

Serve Your Community

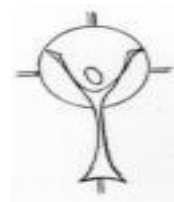
“You are the light of the world—like a city on a mountain glowing in the night for all to see. Don’t hide your light under a basket! Instead, put it on a stand and let it shine for all to see. In the same way, let your good deeds shine out for all to see, so that everyone will praise your heavenly Father.” Matthew 6:14-16

There are groups in our community who are constantly watching out for you and me. They protect us, serve us and help us. These are the men and women of the police department, fire department and the emergency management team. Today you will have the opportunity to serve those who are constantly serving us.

Assignment

Ask your youth pastor, youth workers or another adult about getting a group together to put together a “thank-you basket” for your local police department, fire department, or emergency management team.

Have several people write cards of appreciation for these civic service organizations and deliver the basket yourself to the appropriate city office.



Reflections

What happened today? Who did you serve? How did they respond to you serving them?

Adult

Help line up resources and transportation for the youth to accomplish their assignment.

YOUR 40-Day CHALLENGE

Student Survey

Name: _____

1. Do you attend a Church? _____

2. If yes, which one? _____

3. How often do you attend?

_____ Weekly? _____ Once a month?

_____ Twice a year? _____ Other _____

4. Are you part of a church youth group? _____

5. How close do you feel to God if your relationship to Him was on a scale of 1 to 5: # _____

1 — would be like “God who?”

3 — would be like, “A casual acquaintance.”

5 — would be like, “He’s my best friend!”

6. If you described your life right now with a weather report, it would be...
(circle one)

a. Bright and sunny

e. Overcast and gloomy

b. Partly cloudy

f. Thunderstorm

c. Rainy, but expected to clear

g. A howling blizzard

d. Looks like a nice day

h. A hurricane

7. If you died today, do you know for certain that you would go to heaven?

8. If you did go to heaven and stood before God and He asked, “Why should I let you into My Heaven?” What would you say? _____

9. Do you have any friends who are Christians? _____

How can you tell? _____

10. Who do you believe Jesus was? (circle One)

a. A good moral man

d. A religious teacher

b. Son of God

e. I don’t believe in Jesus

c. A lunatic and fraud

f. Savior for the world

YOUR 40-Day CHALLENGE

Guidelines to Preparing Your Personal Salvation Testimony

I. Before Receiving Christ

- A. Give 1 or 2 specific examples of your lifestyle, attitudes, etc.
- B. You could relate your church involvement and your attitudes, etc., but don't mention denomination.
- C. Don't brag about sin.

II. How You Received Christ (be very specific)

During this part you're sharing the gospel, **so a person will know how to receive Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord**. These are some verses you can use: John 3:16, Ephesians 2:8-9, Romans 3:10, 3:23, 6:23, 5:8, 10:9-10.

The following are some specific areas to cover:

- A. Where or from whom you first heard that you could have a personal relationship with God through Jesus Christ.
- B. What your reaction was to this claim.
- C. How you actually received Christ into your life. (very important to share).
- D. Why you invited Christ into your life.

- Be sure to avoid Christian lingo (sanctified, justified, redeemed, washed in the blood of the Lamb, bought by the blood).
- If you use the words "saved" and/or "born again", be sure to explain.

III. After Receiving Christ

- A. What changes have you noticed since receiving Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord? Attitudes? Parents? Social life? Direction and purpose in life? Give specific examples.
- B. Have the changes been immediate or gradual?
- C. What problems or struggles have you had since becoming a Christian? Do you handle these problems or struggles any differently now?
- D. What are the benefits of having a personal relationship with Christ?

IT SHOULD BE OUR DESIRE TO PRESENT JESUS CHRIST IN SUCH A CLEAR AND COMPELLING WAY, THAT THOSE WHO HEAR WILL WANT TO KNOW HIM.



A 40 Day Challenge



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