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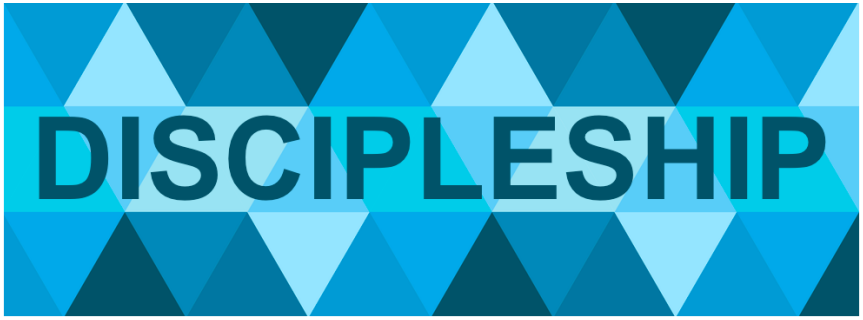
40 days of Prayer



Discipleship is

entering into community
to believe in Jesus,
be with Jesus,
become like Jesus,
and do what Jesus did.

Winnipeg Evangelical Free Church

February 26 – April 11, 2020

Used with permission from Rev. Curt Erb – Immanuel Baptist Church, Toronto, ON

Hmmm…

Discipleship is one of those words that we've all heard. But do we know what it really means?

We're sure Jesus is involved, and the disciples too, but what does that have to do with us… now?

On our 40 day journey, the first in this new decade, we will be discovering what discipleship is and how we can be disciples of Jesus in 2020.

We will pray, listen to God through scripture, interact, and worship our way to a rediscovery of discipleship in the here and now.

We'll learn that discipleship happens best in community and can be broken down into the very practical actions of believing in Jesus, being with Jesus, becoming like Jesus, and doing what Jesus did.

Discipleship is not a spectator sport! Become a part of a 40 days of prayer group and discover discipleship with others.

It could change the way you live, and it could matter forever to someone else.

Thank you for joining me on the journey!

Pastor Curt Erb

Scripture passages quoted from the New Living Translation

Christ is risen!

Thank God that the power that raised Jesus from the dead is alive in you. (Eph 1:19, 20)

Write out your Easter praise to God.

_____

_____

_____

Scan back through your responses during this 40 days of prayer and note what new desires and insights have come alive in you in a new way.

_____

_____

_____

Thank you for praying in community.

If you need help connecting with a Life Group or if we can help you in any way please call the office at 204-253-8464.

40 days of Prayer Feb 26

Help!

Ask God to speak to you as you read today's scripture.

Psalm 130:1, 2
[1] From the depths of despair, O Lord, I call for your help.
[2] Hear my cry, O Lord. Pay attention to my prayer.

Have you ever felt like you are in the depths of despair? Here's the wonderful news: wherever you are, whatever you are feeling, God is near and wants you to call on Him.

What are you calling to God for, today?

_____

_____

_____

Pray for the faith to believe that God hears you and will answer.

Read the passage again with this question in mind:

The writer of this psalm was honest with what he was feeling. What do you want to say to God as you begin this 40 day journey of prayer?

_____

_____

_____

Thank God that He understands and will travel with you.

40 days of Prayer Feb 27

Forgiveness

Ask God to speak to you as you read today's scripture.

Psalm 130:3, 4
3 Lord, if you kept a record of our sins,
who, O Lord, could ever survive?
4 But you offer forgiveness,
that we might learn to fear you.

Write out words of praise, thanking God for his forgiveness freely offered to you.

_____

_____

_____

Now read those words as a prayer of praise.

Read the passage again with this question in mind:

The New International Version translates the last line this way: "so that we can, with reverence, serve you." How does increased reverence or worship change the way you serve God?

_____

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Pray for increased awareness to serve out of worship.

40 days of Prayer Apr 11 Challenge to live in community

Spoiler alert…

Tomorrow is Easter and we'll celebrate that Jesus rose from the dead!

To begin preparing for this wonderful day of joy, please read the Easter story, asking God to speak to you as you read.

Matthew 28:1-9

Early on Sunday morning, as the new day was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went out to visit the tomb.

2 Suddenly there was a great earthquake! For an angel of the Lord came
down from heaven, rolled aside the stone, and sat on it. 3 His face shone
like lightning, and his clothing was as white as snow. 4 The guards shook
with fear when they saw him, and they fell into a dead faint.

5 Then the angel spoke to the women. "Don't be afraid!" he said. "I know
you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. 6 He isn't here! He is risen
from the dead, just as he said would happen. Come, see where his body
was lying. 7 And now, go quickly and tell his disciples that he has risen
from the dead, and he is going ahead of you to Galilee. You will see him
there. Remember what I have told you."

8 The women ran quickly from the tomb. They were very frightened but
also filled with great joy, and they rushed to give the disciples the angel's
message. 9 And as they went, Jesus met them and greeted them. And
they ran to him, grasped his feet, and worshiped him.

As you reflect on the experience of Jesus on Good Friday, respond to the following:

What do you believe about Jesus?

_____

_____

How can you choose to be with Jesus today?

_____

_____

In what way do you want to become like Jesus?

_____

_____

Of all the things that Jesus did, what is He asking you to do today?

_____

_____

What commitment are you willing to make to living in community as you grow in your discipleship?

_____

_____

Thank God for Jesus and pray for His wisdom and strength to follow through on what you've just written.

40 days of Prayer Feb 28

Hope

Ask God to speak to you as you read today's scripture.

Psalm 130:5, 6
5 I am counting on the Lord;
yes, I am counting on him.
I have put my hope in his word.
6 I long for the Lord
more than sentries long for the dawn,
yes, more than sentries long for the dawn.

How do you describe hope, and what do you hope for?

_____

_____

Pray for what you hope for, knowing you can count on the Lord to do what is right in your life.

Read the passage again with this in mind:

A person on night watch longs for the sun to rise because they know their long wait is over. Describe the kind of longing you have for the Lord.

_____

_____

_____

Does it match that of the night watchmen longing for the day? Pray that God will increase your longing for him.

40 days of Prayer Feb 29

Love

Ask God to speak to you as you read today's scripture.

Psalm 130: 7, 8
7 O Israel, hope in the Lord;
for with the Lord there is unfailing love.
His redemption overflows.
8 He himself will redeem Israel
from every kind of sin.

Describe your idea of something good overflowing.

_____

_____

_____

Now think of God's unfailing love overflowing for you. Thank Him that His love is even greater than you can possibly imagine.

Read the passage again with this question in mind:

Where in your life do you need redemption? (Redemption means to be restored, forgiven, made whole and clean.)

_____

_____

_____

Thank God that His redemption overflows for you.

40 days of Prayer Apr 10 Challenge to live in community

Good Friday

Ask God to speak to you as you read today's scripture, the story of when Jesus was crucified.

Mark 15
24 Then the soldiers nailed him to the cross. They divided his clothes and threw dice to decide who would get each piece. 25 It was nine o'clock in the morning when they crucified him. 26 A sign announced the charge against him. It read, "The King of the Jews." 27 Two revolutionaries were crucified with him, one on his right and one on his left.

29 The people passing by shouted abuse, shaking their heads in mockery…

31 The leading priests and teachers of religious law also mocked Jesus…

32 Even the men who were crucified with Jesus ridiculed him.

33 At noon, darkness fell across the whole land until three o'clock. 34 Then at three o'clock Jesus called out with a loud voice, *"Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?"* which means "My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?"

37 Then Jesus uttered another loud cry and breathed his last. 38 And the curtain in the sanctuary of the Temple was torn in two, from top to bottom.

39 When the Roman officer who stood facing him saw how he had died, he exclaimed, "This man truly was the Son of God!"

40 days of Prayer Apr 9 Challenge to live in community

Harmony

Ask God to speak to you as you read today's scripture.

Romans 12:16-18
Live in harmony with each other. Don't be too proud to enjoy the company of ordinary people. And don't think you know it all! [17] Never pay back evil with more evil. Do things in such a way that everyone can see you are honorable. [18] Do all that you can to live in peace with everyone.

Many of us have strong opinions which can throw up barriers to community. Who might God be calling you to listen to in a new way?

_____

_____

_____

Pray for this person and your ability to see their perspective and learn from it.

Read the passage again with this question in mind:

Living in community often comes down to living in peace. Easier said than done, but think of a present situation that you can bring peace to by a word or action.

_____

_____

Thank God for peacemakers and pray to become one.

Sunday March 1, 2020

My key take-away from today's sermon: Colossians 1

Review the Weekly Challenge
(Posted weekly on our website at www.wefc.net)

Group Experience

Consider joining a Life Group (Small Group) here at WEFC (call the church office at 204-253-8464 and talk to Pastor Trevor) so that you can renew your understanding of what discipleship is together.

By learning together what it means to live in community, we will be doing just that! This matters because discipleship is entering into community to believe in Jesus, be with Jesus, become like Jesus, and do what Jesus did.

Transformation happens when we sit
in the presence of Jesus in community.

40 days of Prayer Mar 2 Be with Jesus/Authenticity

Come close

Ask God to speak to you as you read today's scripture.

James 4:7, 8
So humble yourselves before God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.[8] Come close to God, and God will come close to you.

Coming close to God is entirely possible as we come with humility, believing He wants to be close to us. Describe what you would like being with Jesus to look like.

_____

_____

_____

Thank Jesus for being present with you right now.

Read the passage again with this question in mind:

Why do you think James connects the two thoughts of being close to God and resisting the devil? Which is easier for you to do?

_____

_____

_____

Pray for the awareness to recognize when you need to resist the devil or the boldness to be fully with Jesus.

40 days of Prayer Apr 8 Challenge to live in community

With those

Romans 12:14, 15
Bless those who persecute you. Don't curse them; pray that God will bless them. [15] Be happy with those who are happy, and weep with those who weep.

Living in community we are affected by the positive and negative experiences of others. How can you increase someone's joy by sharing it? Make this personal to someone you know.

_____

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_____

Thank God for the joy of shared joy which becomes double joy.

Read the passage again with this question in mind:

How can you lessen someone's sorrow by sharing it? Think of how to do this for someone you know is experiencing sorrow today.

_____

_____

_____

Thank God for the ability to share someone's sorrow and lighten their load even a bit.

40 days of Prayer Apr 7 Challenge to live in community

Patient in trouble

Ask God to speak to you as you read today's scripture.

Romans 12:11-13
Never be lazy, but work hard and serve the Lord enthusiastically.
12 Rejoice in our confident hope. Be patient in trouble, and keep on
praying. 13 When God's people are in need, be ready to help them. Always
be eager to practice hospitality.

It's a challenge to live in community because it takes work. When relational challenges happen, how should we meet these challenges?

_____

_____

_____

Pray for the strength to persevere in upholding community by working hard to build it.

Read the passage again with this question in mind:

Which of the commands in these verses which will result in community will you work toward today?

_____

_____

_____

Thank God for the power He will give you to do this.

40 days of Prayer Mar 3 Be with Jesus/Authenticity

Follow me

Ask God to speak to you as you read today's scripture.

Luke 9:23-24
Then he said to the crowd, "If any of you wants to be my follower, you
must give up your own way, take up your cross daily, and follow me. 24 If
you try to hang on to your life, you will lose it. But if you give up your life
for my sake, you will save it.

Being with Jesus means identifying with Him, even embracing suffering that may come as a result of being His follower. How will you choose to be with Jesus today?

_____

_____

_____

Thank God that being with Jesus makes all things possible.

Read the passage again with this question in mind:

How will you have to "give up your own way" in order to be with Jesus today?

_____

_____

_____

Pray for the desire to be with Jesus in every part of your day.

40 days of Prayer Mar 4 Be with Jesus/Authenticity

Remain in me

Ask God to speak to you as you read today's scripture.

John 15
"Yes, I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who remain in me, and I in them, will produce much fruit. For apart from me you can do nothing. [6] Anyone who does not remain in me is thrown away like a useless branch and withers. Such branches are gathered into a pile to be burned. [7] But if you remain in me and my words remain in you, you may ask for anything you want, and it will be granted! [8] When you produce much fruit, you are my true disciples. This brings great glory to my Father.

Why is the vine/branch picture so helpful in understanding what it means to be with Jesus?

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Thank God that you are connected to Jesus in this life-giving way.

Read the passage again with this question in mind:

Jesus identifies someone who bears much fruit as His true disciple. How does bearing fruit happen?

_____

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Thank God that we do not need to create the fruit on our own, but simply remain connected to Jesus so that His fruit grows out of our joint relationships.

40 days of Prayer Apr 6 Challenge to live in community

Really love them

Ask God to speak to you as you read today's scripture.

Romans 12:9, 10
Don't just pretend to love others. Really love them. Hate what is wrong. Hold tightly to what is good. [10] Love each other with genuine affection, and take delight in honoring each other.

Living in community requires a strong foundation. How would you describe it from these verses?

_____

_____

_____

Thank God that we can be a part of a community based on love and honouring each other.

Read the passage again with this question in mind:

In a culture that is so focused on personal gain and fame, what is one way you can delight in honouring someone else today?

_____

_____

_____

Pray for that person and enjoy God's approval as you honour them.

Sunday April 5, 2020

My key take-away from today's sermon: Palm Sunday

Review the Weekly Challenge
(Posted weekly on our website at www.wefc.net)

Group Experience

If you are in a Life Group, engage together in the following activities with your group: (This can be shared with your spouse or a trusted friend as well)

Share insights from your 40 days of prayer reflections
Express prayer concerns – work, family, personal concerns, WEFC, our city and country, the world… and pray together

By learning together what it means to live in community we will be doing just that! This matters because discipleship is entering into community to believe in Jesus, be with Jesus, become like Jesus, and do what Jesus did.

Transformation happens when we sit
in the presence of Jesus in community.

Prayer Concerns

40 days of Prayer Mar 5 Be with Jesus/Authenticity

To know Christ

Ask God to speak to you as you read today's scripture.

Philippians 3:8, 9
Yes, everything else is worthless when compared with the infinite value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have discarded everything else, counting it all as garbage, so that I could gain Christ [9] and become one with him. I no longer count on my own righteousness through obeying the law; rather, I become righteous through faith in Christ.
For God's way of making us right with himself depends on faith.

How does knowing Jesus have infinite value for you?

_____

_____

Thank Jesus that He wants to be with you, to be known by you.

Read the passage again with this question in mind:

What things in your life are like garbage and need to be thrown away because they are preventing you from being one with Jesus?

_____

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Pray that the joy of being with Jesus will motivate you to throw away the things that separate you from Him.

40 days of Prayer Mar 6 Be with Jesus/Authenticity

Speak the truth in love

Ask God to speak to you as you read today's scripture.

Ephesians 4:14-16
Then we will no longer be immature like children. We won't be tossed and blown about by every wind of new teaching. We will not be influenced when people try to trick us with lies so clever they sound like the truth. [15] Instead, we will speak the truth in love, growing in every way more and more like Christ, who is the head of his body, the church. [16] He makes the whole body fit together perfectly. As each part does its own special work, it helps the other parts grow, so that the whole body is healthy and growing and full of love.

How does being with Jesus bring maturity to our lives?

_____

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Pray for spiritual health and growth in love for others.

Read the passage again with this question in mind:

Part of maturity is "speaking the truth in love." Why is this authenticity so important to living in community?

_____

_____

Thank God that we can listen to and benefit from the truth even when it is difficult to hear.

40 days of Prayer Apr 4 Do what Jesus did/Prayer support

Make disciples

Ask God to speak to you as you read today's scripture.

Matthew 28:16-20
Jesus came and told his disciples, "I have been given all authority in heaven and on earth. [19] Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. [20] Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

We have become disciples of Jesus and He ask us to make disciples of others. What one step can you take in this direction today?

_____

_____

Pray for the initiative to follow through on this commitment.

Read the passage again with this question in mind:

Jesus promised to be with us as we make disciples. How can come along-side other in the disciple-making process?

_____

_____

_____

Pray that God would lead you to a group of Jesus followers, and commit to working with them to do what Jesus did.

40 days of Prayer Apr 3 Do what Jesus did/Prayer support

Throw a net

Ask God to speak to you as you read today's scripture.

Matthew 4:18-28
One day as Jesus was walking along the shore of the Sea of Galilee,
he saw two brothers—Simon, also called Peter, and Andrew—throwing
a net into the water, for they fished for a living. [19] Jesus called out to
them, "Come, follow me, and I will show you how to fish for
people!" [20] And they left their nets at once and followed him.

Doing what Jesus did has to do with fishing… for people! How can you follow Jesus in drawing others to God?

_____

_____

_____

Think of someone you care about who does not know Jesus yet. Pray for them and pray that God would give you opportunity to live or speak God's love for them this week.

Read the passage again with this question in mind:

How can you follow Jesus more closely in your own life so that you will be more effective in sharing God's love with others?

_____

_____

_____

Thank God that your life in Jesus can be shared.

40 days of Prayer Mar 7 Be with Jesus/Authenticity

Better than

Ask God to speak to you as you read today's scripture.

Proverbs 27:5-6
An open rebuke
is better than hidden love!
[6] Wounds from a sincere friend
are better than many kisses from an enemy.

Why is hearing what is difficult but helpful better than affirmation that you will never be aware of?

_____

_____

_____

Ask God for those in your life who will be open and honest with you.

Read the passage again with this question in mind:

Describe a situation where flattery is harmful but hearing the hard truth from a friend is what we need.

_____

_____

_____

Thank God or pray for people in your life who care enough about you to tell you the truth in a way that will help you grow.

Sunday March 8, 2020

My key take-away from today's sermon: Colossians 2

Review the Weekly Challenge
(Posted weekly on our website at www.wefc.net)

Group Experience

If you are in a Life Group, engage together in the following activities with your group: (This can be shared with your spouse or a trusted friend as well)

Share insights from your 40 days of prayer reflections
Express prayer concerns – work, family, personal concerns, WEFC, our city and country, the world… and pray together

By learning together what it means to live in community we will be doing just that! This matters because discipleship is entering into community to believe in Jesus, be with Jesus, become like Jesus, and do what Jesus did.

Transformation happens when we sit
in the presence of Jesus in community.

Prayer Concerns

40 days of Prayer Apr 2 Do what Jesus did/Prayer support

Pray

Ask God to speak to you as you read today's scripture.

Ephesians 6:18-20
Pray in the Spirit at all times and on every occasion. Stay alert and be persistent in your prayers for all believers everywhere. [19] And pray for me, too. Ask God to give me the right words so I can boldly explain God's mysterious plan that the Good News is for Jews and Gentiles alike. [20] I am in chains now, still preaching this message as God's ambassador. So pray that I will keep on speaking boldly for him, as I should.

How can we do what Jesus did? We know Jesus was a man of prayer. What instructions does Paul give us in this scripture on how to pray?

_____

_____

_____

Thank God for clarity on how we should pray.

Read the passage again with this question in mind:

Paul not only gave instructions on how to pray but asked for prayer support for himself. What do you need prayer support for today?

_____

_____

Reach out to someone and ask for this support, offering the same.

40 days of Prayer Apr 1 Do what Jesus did/Prayer support

Jesus gave

Ask God to speak to you as you read today's scripture.

1 John 3:16-16
We know what real love is because Jesus gave up his life for us. So we also ought to give up our lives for our brothers and sisters. [17] If someone has enough money to live well and sees a brother or sister in need but shows no compassion—how can God's love be in that person? [18] Dear children, let's not merely say that we love each other; let us show the truth by our actions.

Jesus asks us to do what he did by caring for the needs of others. Think of someone in need and write out a plan for meeting that need, as least in part.

_____

_____

_____

Pray for this person as you follow through on your plan.

Read the passage again with this question in mind:

Jesus was a man of action. What can you do to build upon the skill of moving from what you say to what you do?

_____

_____

Thank God for the ability to change and grow.

40 days of Prayer Mar 9 Believe in Jesus/Trust

Trust also in me

Ask God to speak to you as you read today's scripture.

John 14:1-6
"Don't let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God, and trust also in me. [2] There is more than enough room in my Father's home. If this were not so, would I have told you that I am going to prepare a place for you? [3] When everything is ready, I will come and get you, so that you will always be with me where I am. [4] And you know the way to where I am going." [5] "No, we don't know, Lord," Thomas said. "We have no idea where you are going, so how can we know the way?" [6] Jesus told him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one can come to the Father except through me.

Jesus asks us directly to trust in God and also in Him. What do you trust Jesus for? What do you find it hard to trust Him for?

_____

_____

_____

Thank God for Jesus, and that He is completely trustworthy.

Read the passage again with this question in mind:

How does believing in Jesus affect your life?

_____

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Pray for the faith to trust Jesus with every aspect of your life.

40 days of Prayer Mar 10 Believe in Jesus/Trust

A solemn pact

Ask God to speak to you as you read today's scripture.

1 Samuel 18:1-4
After David had finished talking with Saul, he met Jonathan, the king's son. There was an immediate bond between them, for Jonathan loved David. 2 From that day on Saul kept David with him and wouldn't let him return home. 3 And Jonathan made a solemn pact with David, because he loved him as he loved himself. 4 Jonathan sealed the pact by taking off his robe and giving it to David, together with his tunic, sword, bow, and belt.

Jonathan and David entered into a relationship of trust. Why is trust crucial to growth in a relationship?

_____

_____

_____

Thank God for trustworthy relationships in your life.

Read the passage again with this question in mind:

Jonathan, the king's son extended friendship to a shepherd. Who is God asking you to trust in community?

_____

_____

Pray for the courage to believe in Jesus and be trustworthy to people.

40 days of Prayer Mar 31 Do what Jesus did/Prayer support

Do what I command

Ask God to speak to you as you read today's scripture.

John 15:9-14
"I have loved you even as the Father has loved me. Remain in my love. 10 When you obey my commandments, you remain in my love, just as I obey my Father's commandments and remain in his love. 11 I have told you these things so that you will be filled with my joy. Yes, your joy will overflow! 12 This is my commandment: Love each other in the same way I have loved you. 13 There is no greater love than to lay down one's life for one's friends. 14 You are my friends if you do what I command.

How do we do what Jesus did? We lay down our lives for our friends. Describe one practical way you can do this today.

_____

_____

Thank God that you can do what Jesus did in this way.

Read the passage again with this question in mind:

Jesus loved us as the Father loved Him. He loved God by fulfilling God's mission for him and asks us to love Him by obeying His commands. Choose and write out one of the commands of Jesus.

_____

_____

Pray for the strength to obey His command today.

40 days of Prayer Mar 30 Become like Jesus/Conversations

Speak about

Ask God to speak to you as you read today's scripture.

Colossians 4:2-6
Devote yourselves to prayer with an alert mind and a thankful
heart. [3] Pray for us, too, that God will give us many opportunities to speak
about his mysterious plan concerning Christ. That is why I am here in
chains. [4] Pray that I will proclaim this message as clearly as I should.[5] Live
wisely among those who are not believers, and make the most of every
opportunity. [6] Let your conversation be gracious and attractive so that
you will have the right response for everyone.

What actions from this scripture can we take to become like Jesus?

_____

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_____

Thank God for outlining ways we can become like His Son.

Read the passage again with this question in mind:

What part can conversations play in helping us become like Jesus?

_____

_____

_____

Ask God to open up conversations that will help you become more like Jesus.

40 days of Prayer Mar 10 Believe in Jesus/Trust

A solemn pact

Ask God to speak to you as you read today's scripture.

1 Samuel 18:1-4
After David had finished talking with Saul, he met Jonathan, the king's
son. There was an immediate bond between them, for Jonathan loved
David. [2] From that day on Saul kept David with him and wouldn't let him
return home. [3] And Jonathan made a solemn pact with David, because he
loved him as he loved himself. [4] Jonathan sealed the pact by taking off his
robe and giving it to David, together with his tunic, sword, bow, and belt.

Jonathan and David entered into a relationship of trust. Why is trust crucial to growth in a relationship?

_____

_____

_____

Thank God for trustworthy relationships in your life.

Read the passage again with this question in mind:

Jonathan, the king's son extended friendship to a shepherd. Who is God asking you to trust in community?

_____

_____

Pray for the courage to believe in Jesus and be trustworthy to people.

40 days of Prayer Mar 12 Believe in Jesus/Trust

Don't be afraid

Ask God to speak to you as you read today's scripture.

2 Samuel 9:1, 5-7
One day David asked, "Is anyone in Saul's family still alive—anyone to whom I can show kindness for Jonathan's sake?" [5] So David sent for him… [6] His name was Mephibosheth; he was Jonathan's son and Saul's grandson. When he came to David, he bowed low to the ground in deep respect. David said, "Greetings, Mephibosheth." Mephibosheth replied, "I am your servant." [7] "Don't be afraid!" David said. "I intend to show kindness to you because of my promise to your father, Jonathan. I will give you all the property that once belonged to your grandfather Saul, and you will eat here with me at the king's table!"

David kept his promise and cared for Jonathan's family. How can you turn fear into safety for someone today?

_____

_____

Pray for God's empowerment to do this.

Read the passage again with this question in mind:

Why is an environment of safety and trust so necessary for community to develop?

_____

_____

Thank God that because He is completely trustworthy, we can trust others through His power.

Sunday March 29, 2020

My key take-away from today's sermon: Colossians 4

Review the Weekly Challenge
(Posted weekly on our website at www.wefc.net)

Group Experience

If you are in a Life Group, engage together in the following activities with your group: (This can be shared with your spouse or a trusted friend as well)

Share insights from your 40 days of prayer reflections
Express prayer concerns – work, family, personal concerns, WEFC, our city and country, the world… and pray together

By learning together what it means to live in community we will be doing just that! This matters because discipleship is entering into community to believe in Jesus, be with Jesus, become like Jesus, and do what Jesus did.

Transformation happens when we sit
in the presence of Jesus in community.

Prayer Concerns

40 days of Prayer Mar 28 Become like Jesus/Conversations

Helpful

Ask God to speak to you as you read today's scripture.

Ephesians 4:29-32
29 Don't use foul or abusive language. Let everything you say be good
and helpful, so that your words will be an encouragement to those who
hear them. 30 And do not bring sorrow to God's Holy Spirit by the way you
live… 31 Get rid of all bitterness, rage, anger, harsh words, and slander,
as well as all types of evil behavior. 32 Instead, be kind to each other,
tenderhearted, forgiving one another, just as God through Christ has
forgiven you.

Why are the words we say so important to the process of becoming like Jesus?

_____

_____

_____

Ask Jesus to help you hear His voice and use the words He would use.

Read the passage again with this question in mind:

How can you initiate a conversation today that will help you become more like Jesus?

_____

_____

Pray for the boldness to make this happen.

40 days of Prayer Mar 13 Believe in Jesus/Trust

As iron sharpens iron

Ask God to speak to you as you read today's scripture.

Proverbs 27:17
As iron sharpens iron,
so a friend sharpens a friend.

Developing trust in community isn't always a painless process! What "sharpening" or growth is required in your life?

_____

_____

_____

Pray that God would prompt people in your community to help you grow. Pray for gratitude and the humility to accept this gift.

Read the passage again with this question in mind:

Is God asking you to help someone in your community recognize a need for growth? How could you approach this in a way that would be well received?

_____

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Pray for sensitivity, the right timing and the courage to care for someone enough to help them. Believe that Jesus will guide you.

40 days of Prayer Mar 14 Believe in Jesus/Trust

Go

Ask God to speak to you as you read today's scripture.

Acts 9:11-13, 15, 17
11 The Lord said, "Go… ask for a man from Tarsus named Saul. He is
praying to me right now. 12 I have shown him a vision of a man named
Ananias coming in and laying hands on him so he can see again." 13 "But
Lord," exclaimed Ananias, "I've heard many people talk about the terrible
things this man has done to the believers in Jerusalem! 15 But the Lord
said, "Go…" 17 So Ananias went and found Saul. He laid his hands on him
and said, "Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on the road,
has sent me so that you might regain your sight and be filled with the
Holy Spirit."

Believing Jesus when He speaks to us and taking the risk to trust others can cause great fear. Why did Ananias obey?

_____

_____

Pray for the faith to trust God rather than fear what may happen.

Read the passage again with this question in mind:

What fear is God asking you to give to Him so that you can enter into community and trust?

_____

_____

Thank God that He will always protect you and help you give grace to others.

40 days of Prayer Mar 27 Become like Jesus/Conversations

Renew

Ask God to speak to you as you read today's scripture.

Ephesians 4:21-24
21 Since you have heard about Jesus and have learned the truth that
comes from him, 22 throw off your old sinful nature and your former way
of life, which is corrupted by lust and deception. 23 Instead, let the Spirit
renew your thoughts and attitudes. 24 Put on your new nature, created to
be like God—truly righteous and holy.

As believers in Jesus, we have a new nature, created to be like God. Describe what that new nature looks like (and doesn't look like!)

_____

_____

_____

Thank God for your new nature.

Read the passage again with this question in mind:

How can you let the Spirit renew your thoughts and attitudes to be like Jesus today?

_____

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Pray for the awareness to know when you are leaning toward the patterns of your old nature and ask the Holy Spirt to renew your mind.

40 days of Prayer Mar 26 Do what Jesus did/Prayer support

As I have loved you

Ask God to speak to you as you read today's scripture.

John 13:34, 35
So now I am giving you a new commandment: Love each other. Just as I have loved you, you should love each other. [35] Your love for one another will prove to the world that you are my disciples."

How do we do what Jesus did? He says: "Just as I have loved you, you should love one another." Describe how you will do this with one person who will show up in your day.

_____

_____

_____

Pray for the love of Jesus to live in you, for them.

Read the passage again with this question in mind:

How does our love for each other prove that we are disciples of Jesus?

_____

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Thank God that we can identify with Jesus by loving as he loves.

Sunday March 15, 2020

My key take-away from today's sermon: Colossians 3

Review the Weekly Challenge
(Posted weekly on our website at www.wefc.net)

Group Experience

If you are in a Life Group, engage together in the following activities with your group: (This can be shared with your spouse or a trusted friend as well)

Share insights from your 40 days of prayer reflections
Express prayer concerns – work, family, personal concerns, WEFC, our city and country, the world… and pray together

By learning together what it means to live in community we will be doing just that! This matters because discipleship is entering into community to believe in Jesus, be with Jesus, become like Jesus, and do what Jesus did.

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Prayer Concerns

40 days of Prayer Mar 16 Enter into community/Belonging

He lives in all of us

Ask God to speak to you as you read today's scripture.

Colossians 3:11
11 In this new life, it doesn't matter if you are a Jew or a Gentile, circumcised or uncircumcised, barbaric, uncivilized, slave, or free. Christ is all that matters, and he lives in all of us.

What is the basis for relating to each other in this new life?

_____

_____

_____

Thank God for Jesus and that in Him, unity is added to our diversity.

Read the passage again with this question in mind:

What are some barriers (real or imagined) to entering into community?

_____

_____

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_____

Pray that for each of us, Christ will truly be all that matters. Pray that Jesus, who is alive in us, will draw us together in true community.

40 days of Prayer Mar 25 Become like Jesus/Conversations

To become like

Ask God to speak to you as you read today's scripture.

Romans 8:29, 30
For God knew his people in advance, and he chose them to become like his Son, so that his Son would be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters.30 And having chosen them, he called them to come to him. And having called them, he gave them right standing with himself. And having given them right standing, he gave them his glory.

God knew you and chose you to become like Jesus before you were born. How does that make you feel?

_____

_____

Thank God that He believes in you, knows you can be like Jesus, and will give you the power to do so.

Read the passage again with this question in mind:

Why is "right standing" with God our Father so important as we live out our purpose to become like Jesus?

_____

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_____

Receive God's forgiveness and thank God that you are His child.

40 days of Prayer Mar 24 Become like Jesus/Conversations

Imitate

Ask God to speak to you as you read today's scripture.

Ephesians 5:1-2
Imitate God, therefore, in everything you do, because you are his dear children.[2] Live a life filled with love, following the example of Christ. He loved us and offered himself as a sacrifice for us, a pleasing aroma to God.

Becoming like Jesus is not a new idea. Why are we commanded to imitate God in everything we do?

_____

_____

_____

Thank the Holy Spirit for the power He give us to become like Jesus.

Read the passage again with this question in mind:

Look at your day spread out in front of you. How can you follow the example of Christ today?

_____

_____

_____

Pray for strength to be like Jesus.

40 days of Prayer Mar 17 Enter into community/Belonging

Chosen

Ask God to speak to you as you read today's scripture.

Colossians 3:12
[12] Since God chose you to be the holy people he loves, you must clothe yourselves with tenderhearted mercy, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience.

How would your interactions change (yes, even the difficult ones) if you clothed yourself or showed up with the qualities listed in this verse?

_____

_____

_____

Pray for the desire and the empowerment to be God's chosen people in your relationships by living in the way described in this scripture.

Read the passage again with this question in mind:

Which of these qualities do you feel God calling you to give attention to today in your interactions with others, and how will you express it?

_____

_____

Pray for the strength to be clothed like Jesus in the way you live today.

40 days of Prayer Mar 18 Enter into community/Belonging

Make allowance

Ask God to speak to you as you read today's scripture.

Colossians 3:13
13 Make allowance for each other's faults, and forgive anyone who offends you. Remember, the Lord forgave you, so you must forgive others.

Why is forgiving others so necessary to living well in families and in community?

_____

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_____

Thank God for the forgiveness you have received and pray for the will to extend it to others.

Read the passage again with this question in mind:

Is God asking you to make allowance (be accepting) for someone in your life? How will you do this?

_____

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_____

Pray for the freedom to let go of "what should be" and offer grace.

40 days of Prayer Mar 23 Become like Jesus/Conversations

Amazed

Ask God to speak to you as you read today's scripture.

Acts 4:13
The members of the council were amazed when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, for they could see that they were ordinary men with no special training in the Scriptures. They also recognized them as men who had been with Jesus.

What amazed the members of the council about Peter and John?

_____

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_____

Thank God that like Peter and John, when we spend time with Jesus, we become like Jesus.

Read the passage again with this question in mind:

In what way can you become more like Jesus today?

_____

_____

_____

Pray for God's direction as have opportunity to be like Jesus.

Sunday March 22, 2020

My key take-away from today's sermon:

Review the Weekly Challenge
(Posted weekly on our website at www.wefc.net)

Group Experience

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Share insights from your 40 days of prayer reflections
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in the presence of Jesus in community.

Prayer Concerns

40 days of Prayer Mar 19 Enter into community/Belonging

Above all

Ask God to speak to you as you read today's scripture.

Colossians 3:14
Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds us all together in perfect harmony.

Why does scripture set love apart… "above all?" What is it about love that brings unity?

_____

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_____

Pray for this kind of love for the people in your life.

Read the passage again with this question in mind:

Think about a situation that is lacking unity. What is God calling you to do? Be specific!

_____

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Pray for opportunity to bring about this kind of unity in a relationship and know God will be pleased as you do.

40 days of Prayer Mar 20 Enter into community/Belonging

Live in peace

Ask God to speak to you as you read today's scripture.

Colossians 3:15
15 And let the peace that comes from Christ rule in your hearts. For as members of one body you are called to live in peace. And always be thankful.

Peace sounds so… peaceful, but in this scripture, it is spoken of as ruling which is very proactive. Why are we directed to let peace rule in our hearts?

_____

_____

_____

Thank God for the power of peace!

Read the passage again with this question in mind:

What can you do to increase the reign of peace in the groups you are a part of? Write out at least one action item.

_____

_____

_____

Pray that as Christ lives in us, peace will reign in our families and the groups we belong to.

40 days of Prayer Mar 21 Enter into community/Belonging

Whatever you do

Ask God to speak to you as you read today's scripture.

Colossians 3:16, 17
16 Let the message about Christ, in all its richness, fill your lives. Teach and counsel each other with all the wisdom he gives. Sing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs to God with thankful hearts. 17 And whatever you do or say, do it as a representative of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through him to God the Father.

This scripture instructs us to teach and counsel each other with God's wisdom. What wisdom that comes from God do you believe He wants you to communicate to the group you are in?

_____

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_____

Pray for the sensitivity and right timing to communicate this wisdom.

Read the passage again with this question in mind:

How can your actions, directed by Jesus, enhance the sense of belonging and community in the group you are a part of?

_____

_____

Thank God for the privilege of belonging to a community of faith.