40 Days of prayer

PREPARING FOR SPIRITUAL GROWTH

**April 22, 2018**

**MAIN PASSAGES:** Ephesians 4:14 NLT, Matthew 4:4 NLT, Acts 20:32 NLT, John 13:17 GNT, Hebrews 5:14 TLB, 1 Corinthians 9:25 NLT, Romans 1:12 NCV, Hebrews 10:24-25 TEV, Matthew 9:29 NIV, Jeremiah 29:13 MSG, Nehemiah 9:38, 2 Corinthians 13:9 TLB

**BIG IDEA:**

Over the next six weeks we are going on a 40 days of prayer journey. As a church, we are going to dive in and learn about everything God’s Word says about the spiritual discipline of prayer. To get the most out of this six-week campaign, you must prepare yourself for spiritual growth.

**SERMON POINTS:**

How can I grow spiritually during 40 Days of Prayer?

1. I must feed on \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
2. I must develop \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
3. I must grow with \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
4. I must \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

**NOTES:**

**NEXT STEPS:**

1. Last week, GCC took a huge financial hit due to bad weather and low attendance. To continue forward with the great ministry God has called us to do, we are asking for you to consider giving above and beyond this week, so we can get back on track with our finances.
2. Join us on May 6 from 3pm-4pm for our local church conference. Come listen to all he reports from last year and vote on this coming fiscal year’s budget. We will meet in the worship center.
3. Join us on Mother’s Day (May 13) as we celebrate our Moms with free-family portraits in the lobby!

**LIFE GROUP QUESTIONS:**

1. Read Matthew 4:4 and then look up two or three other versions of the same verse and read them as well. Then, put into your own words what Jesus is trying to say in this passage.
2. Paul says in Acts 20:32 that the Word is able to build us up and give us all the blessings that God has for his people. In what ways do you think the Word is able to do this for us? How do you feel Paul wants us to respond to this statement?
3. Open your Bible and read Hebrews 5:14 and 1 Corinthians 9:25 aloud. Discuss in your group what these verses have in common with John 13:17 above. How can you apply this common theme to further your own spiritual growth?
4. We grow when we feed on God’s Word; how are you feeding on God’s Word? It’s important to grow in daily spiritual habits including: hearing, reading, studying, memorizing, meditating, and applying God’s Word. Since these are essential to spiritual growth, which of these habits do you need to focus on?
5. Read Nehemiah 9:38 aloud in your group. Have you made a covenant with God? Talk about this in your group and spend some time this week praying about this and where you want to be in your relationship with God a year from now.