

Q: When does 40 Days Start?

Next weekend, Sept. 30/Oct. 1. The daily devotion readings start that Sunday, with small groups meeting beginning the next week.

Q: What are the components of 40 Days of Community?

1. Devotional book: "Better Together" with 40 daily readings
2. Key chain of weekly memory verses
3. Small group curriculum featuring a weekly 20 minute DVD devotional
4. ShareFest opportunities for small groups to take on a community project
5. Weekly services with special guests and special music

Prayer Updates

HOSPITALIZED

Buck Harris – respiratory distress
Dennis Earley – cancer complications
Dick Manning – bilateral knee replacement
Janice Seals – ankle replacement
Judy Powell – cancer complications
Mary Botu – cancer surgery
Phillip J. Walker – testing
Robert Walters – testing

Recent hospitalizations /surgeries: Jan Pavlovich, Jeaneen Clayton, Michelle Stewart, Stephanie Brunetti

HOSPICE CARE

Jane Evers, Dorothy Thrash

HOME WITH THE LORD

Heartfelt love and prayer are extended to Jessica WhiteCloud in the loss of her mother, Penny, who truly loved the Lord. Penny's special joy was singing in the TLC choir, but it was said at Penny's memorial that her greatest accomplishment was Jessica.

We want to provide pastoral support...

Please call 465-3395 when someone is hospitalized, scheduled for surgery, becomes a shut-in, or in special need. Prayer support is available through our pastors and numerous prayer groups – call 689-9400. Please pick up a Prayer Update at the Information Desk or Welcome Center.

40 days of community

"Preparing for an Encounter with God"

Message by René Schlaepfer, September 23 & 24, 2006

How to get the most out of the 40 Days of Community

1. Look _____ ...and remember God's _____

"[God says] 'You yourselves have seen what I did to Egypt, and how I carried you on eagles' wings and brought you to myself.'" Exodus 19:3,4

2. Look _____ ... and celebrate God's _____

"Now if you obey me fully and keep my covenant, then out of all nations you will be my treasured possession. Although the whole earth is mine, you will be for me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation." Exodus 19:5,6 (see 1 Peter 2:5,9)

3. Look _____ ... and commit to the _____

"The people all responded together, 'We will do everything the LORD has said.' So Moses brought their answer back to the LORD." Exodus 19:8

During these 40 Days together, we ask you to commit to:

1. Attend every weekend — 7 weeks in all
2. Read the daily devotions every day (Devotion books in lobby)
3. Join a small group Bible Study. (Visit the lobby tables to find a host home in your area today, or sign up on-line at www.tlc.org)
4. Memorize the memory verse every week

One useful way to connect to our TLC community: **e-mail!**
Please visit www.tlc.org and click on "Get on the TLC e-mail list".

4. Look _____ ...and prepare myself _____

"And the LORD said to Moses, "Go to the people and consecrate them today and tomorrow. Have them wash their clothes and be ready by the third day, because on that day the LORD will come down on Mount Sinai in the sight of all the people." Exodus 19:10,11

• **Set aside _____, take _____, pray _____**

5. Look _____ ...and anticipate a God _____

"Then Moses led the people out of the camp to meet with God, and they stood at the foot of the mountain." Exodus 19:17

"When the people saw the thunder and lightning and heard the trumpet and saw the mountain in smoke, they trembled with fear. They stayed at a distance. . . ." Exodus 20:18 (See Deut. 4:10)

7-Day Prayer Guide

For the 40 Days of Community, we encourage you to use the daily devotions in the "Better Together" book, available in the church lobby. The devotions start next Sunday, Oct. 1. Use this prayer guide to help focus your prayers during the week preceding the start of the 40 Days of Community.

DAY 1 (Sunday, September 24)

God, I pray...

- that during our 40 Days of Community we will keep our eyes on you and what only you can do. We know that without your power, we will labor in vain.
- that we will dedicate ourselves to prayer in order to get ourselves spiritually ready for what You want to do.

Encourage us to saturate these important 40 days in prayer and to become excited about the difference prayer can make.

DAY 2 (Monday, September 25)

God, I pray...

- for René as he leads us. I ask you to fill him with Your Spirit, wisdom, and strength. I also pray for Your protection upon him and his family.
- for our 40 days team to experience Your grace and favor as they provide direction for this community emphasis in our church. I pray that they will complete their work for your glory, honoring you in all they say and do.

DAY 3 (Tuesday, September 26)

God, I pray...

- that people will be motivated to join a 40 Days of Community small group, and that they will experience deeper relationships and changed lives, and that the leaders of those groups will be equipped for this vital ministry.
- that each person in our church family will read the devotions daily for 40 days and memorize a Bible verse each week.
- for the seven weekend services and the impact they will have on your people. And, for the strength and joy of all those who will serve during the services for seven weeks.

DAY 4 (Wednesday, September 27)

God, I pray...

- that we will hunger for spiritual transformation in our families, small groups, and church, as well as for lasting kingdom fruit in our community.
- that all participants will help those in our church who have specific needs (a visit, meal, ride, babysitting, prayer, helping hand around the house, encouragement, etc.) I pray that I, personally, will be more aware of people's needs and more available to help them.
- that our Ministry Fair will inspire church ministry opportunities, sending more workers into service and giving more people a chance to make a difference by using their talents, skills, and gifts.

DAY 5 (Thursday, September 28)

God, I pray...

- for our spiritual growth, that you will deepen our faith and use us to encourage others in their faith walk.
- that you will motivate us to act on what we learn during these 40 days in regard to participating in an outreach project. May we reach out to our community and beyond with purposeful acts of kindness done in your name.

DAY 6 (Friday, September 29)

God, I pray...

- that you will use this prayerful time to help our church reach out to our community more effectively with the Good News, so that many people will commit their lives to your Son, Jesus Christ.
- that our Small Groups, especially mine, will join powerfully together to do a local outreach project

DAY 7 (Saturday, September 30)

God, I pray...

- that every person in our church will live in heartfelt community with other church members and neighbors. That we will cultivate a deeper spirit of harmony, love, respect, and appreciation for each other.
- for our Celebration Sunday, that it will be a memorable celebration of all that you have accomplished in us and through us during the 40 Days of Community emphasis.

"Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to His power that is at work within us, to Him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever!" Ephesians 3:20-21 (NIV)

40 Days FAQ

Q: What is 40 Days of Community?

In the Bible and Judeo-Christian tradition, 40 days is a length of time often used for spiritual preparation. Plus modern researchers have demonstrated that new habits become ingrained after about a month. Well, these next 40 days will be a time to develop good spiritual habits — as a team, we will study the Bible together, meet together, memorize verses together, worship together, and serve together; all habits you probably want to develop anyway! Together, our entire church family (yes, even our children) will refocus on Jesus' power to change us.

Q: How do I get into a small group?

2 Options:

1. Go to the "Connections" tables in the lobby this weekend or next. They're arranged geographically so you can find a group near your home or work location!
2. Go to www.tlc.org and click on the "small groups" button. You can sign up online!

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"Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved." Acts 2:46-47