

Friday

Please read Proverbs 22:9, Matthew 14:14–21 & 25:35. Don't you find it amazing that the all-powerful God of the universe chooses to use each one of us to represent Him — to literally re-present Him to the world?!

How does God “partner” with ordinary people in these verses?

How have you seen God use you to provide for others in the past? How have you seen God use others to provide for you?

Spend some additional time in prayer today and talk to God about what it means to be part of His reflection here on earth. Ask God to open your eyes to opportunities to re-present Him to people you encounter on a daily basis. Pray that your heart will grow more and more to be an accurate reflection of His heart.

Saturday

Please read Ephesians 5:1–2. This is a tremendous challenge — imitate God! In what area of your life would you like to more imitate God in the week ahead?

As you spend time in prayer today ask God to continue to shape your heart and your mind to be more like His. Ask God to guide you through the Second Harvest Food Drive Challenge. Pray for the miracle of an extra \$100 that you can give to those in need. Pray for our church as we enter this 50 days of studying who God is. Pray that we'll all grow closer to God and each other!



TWIN LAKES
CHURCH
www.tlc.org

PREPARE TO MEET YOUR MAKER

WEEK 2

The Forgotten Way To Meet God

SEPTEMBER 10 & 11, 2011 • RENÉ SCHLAEPFER

In one month “**God Is**” begins, a 50-day discovery of the attributes of God through daily readings, small groups, service projects, and worship services. During September we’re preparing ourselves to meet our Maker!

1. Problem:

Day after day they seek me out; they seem **eager to know my ways**. They **ask me** for just decisions and seem **eager for God to come near** them. “Why have **we fasted**,” they say, “and you have not seen it? Why have we humbled ourselves, and you have not noticed?” *Isaiah 58:2–3*

2. Prescription:

Is not this the kind of fasting I have chosen: to **loose the chains of injustice** and **untie the cords of the yoke**, to set the oppressed free and **break every yoke**? Is it not to **share your food with the hungry** and to provide the poor wanderer with **shelter** — when you see the naked, to **clothe** them, and not to turn away from your own flesh and blood? *Isaiah 58:6–7*

If you do away with the yoke of oppression, with the **pointing finger** and **malicious talk**, and if you **spend yourselves in behalf of the hungry** and satisfy the needs of the oppressed... *Isaiah 58:10a*

3. Promise:

You will be like a well-watered garden, like a spring whose waters never fail. *Isaiah 58:11b*

Benefits of bold acts of compassion:

- _____

Then you will call, and the LORD will answer; you will cry for help, and he will say: “**Here am I.**” *Isaiah 58:9*

- _____

He will... **strengthen** your frame. *Isaiah 58:11b*

- _____

Then **you will find your joy** in the LORD, and I will cause you to ride in triumph on the heights of the land. *Isaiah 58:14*

Why is compassion such a key to meeting God?

- Compassion is the cure for _____
- Compassion helps me understand _____

Some other verses about feeding the poor

[Jesus said,] “**You** give them something to eat...” *Matthew 14:16*

“I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in.” *Matthew 25:35*

The generous will themselves be blessed, for they share their food with the poor. *Proverbs 22:9*

Ways You Can Help

FOOD DRIVE

\$1.50/day until the weekend before Thanksgiving (\$100) will bring a total of 1,000,000 lbs+ of food for Second Harvest! Plus, this feeds an entire village on the Somalian border for a year!

PROJECT PAJAMAS

Serve The Bay project providing new pajamas for children in crises
www.tlc.org/serve-the-bay-projects

Daily Meditations

Monday

Please read Isaiah 58. What is one thing that you learned about this unique passage in last weekend’s sermon?

How did this passage challenge you?

Take a moment of honest inventory and write down the three words that best describe your attitude towards those less fortunate than you.

As you spend time in prayer today ask God to shape your heart to reflect His when it comes to “breaking every yoke.” Pray about our goal to raise one million pounds of food. Ask God to work a miracle in our church for His glory. Pray that our light “will shine like the noonday sun” in this community.

Tuesday

Please read Isaiah 58:1–4. In what way can you relate to the frustration of the Israelites — searching for God and not sensing that He’s with you or hearing you?

How does it encourage you to know you’re not the first person to struggle with this?

What did you learn about dry spells in this passage and in the sermon that can help grow you in your walk with God?

Thank God today for the honesty of the Bible. Thank Him for the encouragement that comes from reading about those who have struggled through faith before us. Talk to God about the ways you are feeling spiritually dry. Ask Him to use the study this week and this fall to refresh your faith with the truth of who He is.

Wednesday

Please read Isaiah 58:6–8. In what way does thinking about compassion for the poor overwhelm you? In what way does it motivate you?

What is the main obstacle you face when it comes to acts of compassion — are they more physical, emotional or philosophical obstacles?

Why do you think people are surprised by God’s clear prescription for getting closer to Him in these verses? How are you encouraged by God’s prescription for growing closer to Him?

Thank God today that He desires to be close to you. Thank Him for His care and concern for the hungry. Talk to God about your struggles when it comes to compassion. Ask Him to use the Second Harvest Food Drive to teach you new things about compassion and your relationship with Him.

Thursday

Please read Isaiah 58:9–11. It may be hard to wrap our minds around, but these verses say that when we act in ways that reflect God’s compassion we will meet God in new ways. How have you personally seen the connection between compassion and closeness to God?

In what area of your life would you like to be more close to God? Sense His strength? Find His joy? Have more influence?

Today, thank God for the promise of these verses. Talk to Him about the ways you’d like to be more close to Him, sense His strength, find His joy and have influence. Pray that as the God Is series begins and this bold act of compassion in the food drive, you’ll see the truth of this promise. Ask God to remind you of His compassion for you. Pray that your life will be a well-watered garden supplied by God’s love and grace.



If you spend yourselves in behalf of the hungry and satisfy the needs of the oppressed, then your light will rise in the darkness, and your night will become like the noonday.
Isaiah 58:10 NIV