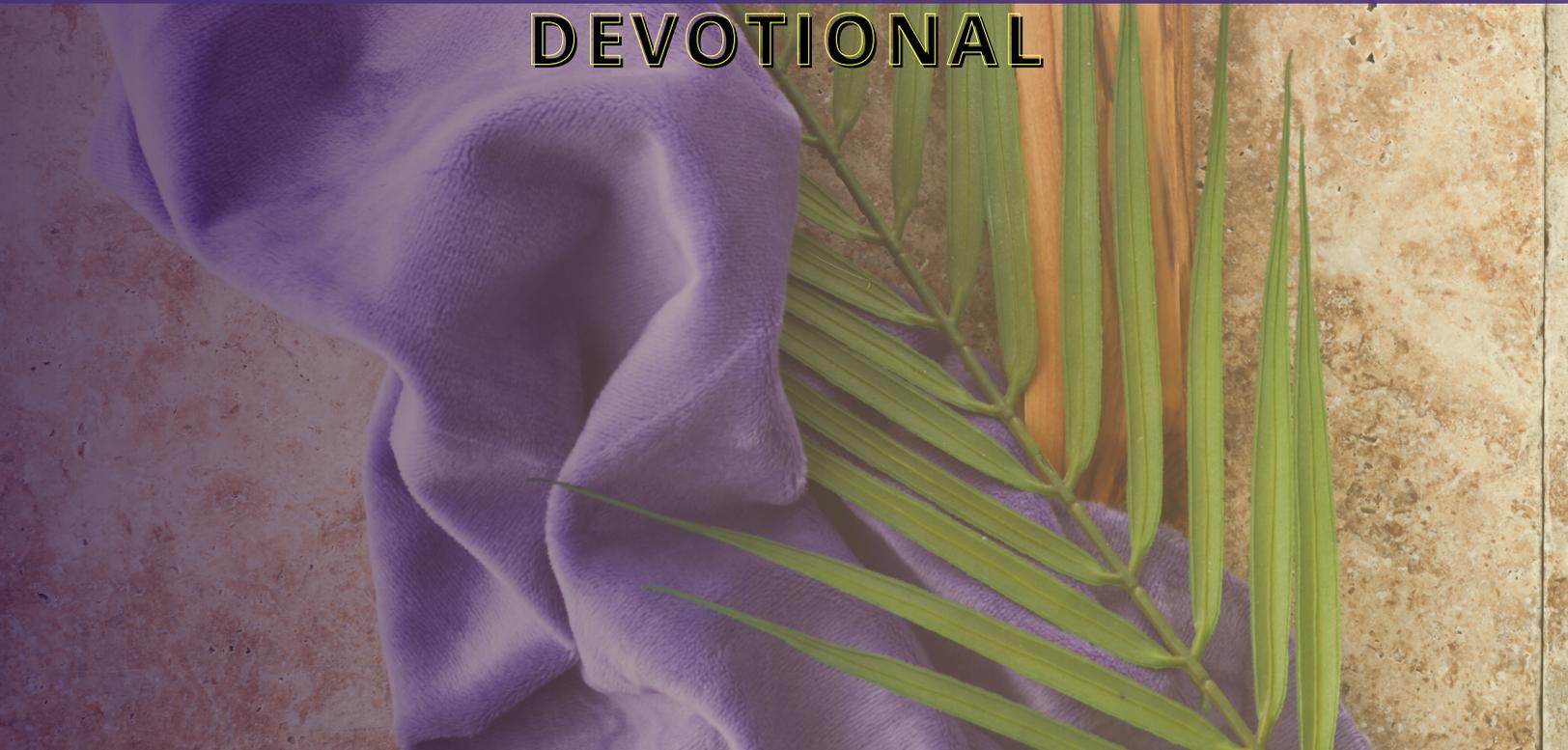


ASHES TO LIGHT



LENTEN DEVOTIONAL



REDHILLCHURCH.ORG

Welcome to the Season of Lent!

Dear Friends in Christ,

Our mission and vision at Red Hill Lutheran Church and School is, “*Making Christ Centered, Emotionally Healthy Disciples of Jesus, One life at a time.*” We make disciples because that’s what Jesus told us to do!

“And Jesus came and said to them, ‘All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. [19] Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, [20] and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.’” (Matthew 28:18-20)

A disciple is a student, an “apprentice” of Jesus. Our definition of a disciple at Red Hill is: “*A person, who day by day surrenders to the divine call through Jesus and through the Spirit, is learning to live his or her life as Jesus would live it, for the purpose of loving God and others.*” Christian discipleship is about continual spiritual and emotional growth and conversion in our lives. The goal of this church is to be a community of *real people* who follow a *real God* who transforms and equips us to serve Him and others through our *real lives* in the *real world*!

The way we grow in faith as disciples of Jesus is through particular, spiritual disciplines that the Holy Spirit uses to deepen our faith and love for God and for others. At Red Hill, we believe that Biblically and historically, there are five, foundational spiritual disciplines that the Holy Spirit continues to use for the purpose of transforming people, individually and corporately, to follow Jesus. These spiritual disciplines are:

- **Worship** (Word and Sacrament)
- **Bible Study** (Reading and Applying God’s Word)
- **Biblical Community** (Connecting with others in biblically healthy ways)
- **Daily Prayer** (Solitude and Silence)
- **Servanthood** (Serving at and beyond the church)

On “Ash Wednesday,” February 18th, we will begin the sacred season of Lent. The word Lent comes from the Middle English word, “*Lente*,” meaning “spring time.” Historically, Lent has been understood to be a holy “springtime for the soul.” Beginning in the early years of the church, Lent was an intensive, forty-day period of instruction in preparation for baptism and incorporation into the church. The Baptismal candidate, or *catechumen*, was to prayerfully consider what it meant to be baptized and live as a disciple of Christ, as well as a commitment to *growing deeper* in the Christian faith.

To help you grow deeper in the Christian faith during this Lenten season, I encourage you to utilize this daily devotional as a way to gain a deeper understanding and practice of the

five, foundational spiritual disciplines: *Worship, Bible Study, Biblical Community, Prayer, and Servanthood.*

It is my hope and prayer for you this Lenten season, that the Holy Spirit uses these disciplines to make you a more faithful *disciple of Jesus*, and that. ...

“...according to the riches of his glory he may grant you to be strengthened with power through his Spirit in your Inner being,¹⁷ so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith—that you, being rooted and grounded in love,¹⁸ may have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth,¹⁹ and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.” (Ephesians 3.16b-19)

May God bless and guide your Lenten journey!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Pastor Seth". The signature is stylized and cursive, with the word "Pastor" written in a smaller font above the name "Seth".

Pastor Seth

Day One: February 18th, 2026

“Ash Wednesday”

Memory Verse

Joel 2:13

Rend your heart and not your garments. Return to the Lord your God, for he is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and abounding in love...

Ash Wednesday is the beginning of Lent. The word Lent originally meant “spring” and is to be understood as a time to reflect on Baptism and its basis in the death and resurrection of Jesus. Ash Wednesday comes from the ancient practice of placing ashes on the forehead as a sign of humility before God as well as a symbol of mourning and sorrow. Am I sorry and sad that I often do not put God first in my life? What changes can I make in my life during these next 40 days that can lead me TOWARD God rather than AWAY from Him? The Lenten season is about “returning” to God. What does God want from you? God wants you to know and BELIEVE that He loves you with an everlasting love and that He has a plan and purpose for your life. Also, Lent is not just a season we reflect upon and apply only to ourselves. Our acts of self-denial and sacrifice are directed not only to Christ, but also to our neighbor. Christ himself told us wherever two or three are gathered in His name, He is in our midst.

Going Deeper: Jeremiah 29:11; Ephesians 1:4; Isaiah 44:2

Going Forward: What am I willing to change in my life in order to grow closer to Jesus?

Prayer: *Out of the dust from which I was created may I experience your redeeming love, O God. As I begin Lent today, let me seek your purification. Make me a vessel of your love. Amen.*

Day Two: February 19th, 2026

Memory Verse

Luke 14:27 (The Message)

Anyone who won't shoulder his own cross and follow behind me can't be my disciple.

In the movie, “City Slickers”, there is an exchange between the characters played by Billy Crystal and Jack Palance regarding the “meaning of life.” In the movie, Jack Palance holds up one finger and says to Billy Crystal, “The meaning of life is this one thing.” Billy responds, “The meaning of life is your finger?” “No”, says Jack Palance, “the meaning of life is this one thing.” “What’s the one thing” asks Crystal? “That’s what you have to figure out,” replies Jack Palance. The Bible tells us that the “one thing” that brings true meaning in life is Jesus. Jesus asks you to trust Him with everything that you are and everything that you have. Everyday we have to ask ourselves, is Jesus going to be the center of our lives, or is something else?

I know what you’re thinking, “Great. Just how do I keep Jesus at the center of my life?” I am glad you asked. This is the spiritual life! You and I are challenged, every day, to surrender all to Jesus. We are to consistently ask the question, “What would Jesus want

me to do in this situation and/or what would Jesus have me say to this person?" Let's be clear; the goal of the Christian life and being a disciple is not "trying harder" but "training *better*." What does "training better" mean? It means that we seek to make space for Jesus in our lives so that we can learn to live like Him. We will be looking at specific "training tips" in the weeks to come. Jesus came to this world with the invitation and announcement that it is now possible to live in the presence of, and under the reign of, God. It is the kind of life where people can look at us and say, "I didn't know life could look like that!" God and His way is the "one thing" that truly brings lasting meaning in life!

Going Deeper: Philippians 2:12; Philippians 4:4-9; John 8:31-32

Going Forward: What is the "one thing" that I am willing to live for?

Prayer: *Be our light in the darkness, O Lord, and in your mercy, defend us from all perils and dangers of this day and night; for the love of your only Son, our Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.*

Day Three: February 20th, 2026

Memory Verse

Psalm 23:1

The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not be in want.

'He that followeth me, walketh not in darkness,' saith the Lord. These are the words of Christ, by which we are taught to imitate His life and manners, if we would be truly enlightened, and be delivered from all blindness of heart. Let therefore our chief endeavor be to meditate upon the life of Jesus Christ. Whosoever then would fully and feelingly understand the words of Christ, must endeavor to conform his life wholly to the life of Christ...Endeavor therefore to withdraw thy heart from the love of visible things, and turn to the invisible...He is truly great who hath great love...Do what lieth in thy power, and God will assist thy good will. (Thomas A' Kempis: *The Imitation of Christ*.)

Going Deeper: Revelation 7:17; Exodus 15:3.

Going Forward: The purpose of my life is to live like Jesus lived and to love as He loved. God will give me the ability to do this as I turn to Him and let Him work in my life.

Prayer: *O God, who art truth, make me one with thee in everlasting love. Amen.*

Day Four: February 21st, 2026

Memory Verse

Matthew 11:28

Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.

Remember the old “Uncle Sam” poster with Uncle Sam pointing and saying, “Uncle Sam wants you!” Guess what? God wants you! Read that again three times and each time accentuate one of the words: GOD wants me. God WANTS me. God wants ME! Do you believe that? At times in life it’s hard to believe that anyone wants us. Yet this is the message of Jesus: “I want you.” You are not beyond Jesus’ love, healing, or power. The beginning of any spiritual transformation or discipleship is ACCEPTING this truth. God desires you for His family today. This is the reality of grace. Martin Luther said it this way:

Now we have received from God nothing but love and favor, for Christ has pledged and given us his righteousness and everything else he has; he has poured out upon us all his treasures, which no man can measure and no angel can understand or fathom, for God is a glowing furnace of love, reaching even from the earth to the heavens.

God loves you and wants to change you. It’s because of God’s love for you that he wants to see you be renewed, changed, and healed. Christian author and writer, Max Lucado reminds us of this when he writes, “God accepts us as we are. But He refuses to leave us that way.” Now that is something to celebrate!

Going Deeper: John 3:16; Romans 5:8.

Going Forward: God wants me for His family.

Prayer: *God, thank you that you want me. You want to change me and set me free. I turn to you and ask for your love, joy, and presence to begin to change my heart and mind so that I can live for you. Thanks for this day! Amen.*

Day Five: Sunday, February 22nd, 2026

Weekly Spiritual Discipline: **Worship.**

Memory Verse

Deuteronomy 10:12

...what does the Lord your God ask of you but to fear the Lord your God, to walk in all His ways, to love Him, to serve the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul...

Jonathan Edwards was a Congregational Pastor and a key figure in the “Great Awakening” of the eighteenth-century. In his writings, *Religious Affections*, Edwards writes:

The kind of religion that God requires, and will accept, does not consist in weak, dull, and lifeless ‘wouldings’-those weak inclinations that lack convictions-that raise us but little above indifference. God, in His word, greatly insists that we be

in good earnest, fervent in spirit, and our hearts be engaged vigorously in our religion...This fervent, vigorous engagement of the heart is the fruit of a real circumcision of the heart that alone has the promise of life...

The life of a Christian is more than just “wouldings.” What God wants is our hearts. The Biblical understanding of the “heart” is the *center of the self*. God desires a life lived with abandonment; a full throttle openness to God and God’s surprising work in this world and your life.

Going Deeper: Psalm 9:1; Psalm 64:10; Psalm 73:26.

Going Forward: If I changed the definition of my faith from “wouldings” to “wild abandonment,” what would my daily life look like?

Prayer: *Lord, help me to love, trust and serve you with all of my heart! Amen.*

Day Six: February 23rd, 2026

Weekly Spiritual Discipline: **Worship.**

Memory Verse

Deuteronomy 10:12

...what does the Lord your God ask of you but to fear the Lord your God, to walk in all His ways, to love Him, to serve the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul...

Why did God create you? To love you! You were created for God’s pleasure. When God formed you in your mother’s womb, God smiled and couldn’t wait for you to grow and love Him back. We begin this week with three Biblical affirmations of why you are here on this earth.

1. You were created because God wants to love you. God wants to have a personal relationship with you! See Ephesians 1:4.
2. God has a plan for your life. God has created you with certain spiritual gifts, talents, and abilities. Part of living is discovering and learning what God has put you on this earth to do. One thing is certain, it always involves others. See 1 Corinthians 12:7-11.
3. You were made to last forever. This life is not our only level of existence. We will either live eternally with God or eternally separated from God. Rick Warren, in his book *The Purpose Driven Life*, says, “Life on earth is just the dress rehearsal before the real production. You will spend far more time on the other side of death-in eternity-than you will here...This life is preparation for the next.” See Ecclesiastes 3:11. When you remember these three truths, life takes on a whole new focus.

Going Deeper: Ephesians 1:4; 1 Corinthians 12:7-11; Revelation 4:11.

Going Forward: God put me here on this earth because He wants to love me!

Prayer: *My God, I pray that I may so know you and love you that I may rejoice in you. And if I may not do so fully in this life, let thy name go steadily on to the day when I come to that fullness...Let me receive that which you promised through your truth, that my joy may be full. Amen.*

Day Seven: February 24th, 2026
Weekly Spiritual Discipline: **Worship.**

Memory Verse
Deuteronomy 10:12

...what does the Lord your God ask of you but to fear the Lord your God, to walk in all His ways, to love Him, to serve the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul...

Yesterday we looked at why God created you. God created you to love you. Here is the other side of that truth: You were created to love God in return. Our loving response to God first loving us is called Worship. You were made to Worship. Worship is the natural response of a life that knows it is loved. When you Worship, you are remembering that it was God who made you and it is from God that you receive life, hope, strength, and salvation. God gives, you receive. Your response is praise. Praise flows from the lips of those who know that all we have comes from a loving Father and He is in control. This is what Max Lucado describes:

Praise is the highest occupation of any being. What happens when we praise the Father? We reestablish the proper chain of command; we recognize that the King is on the throne and that He has saved His people.

God gives! God has saved us! God had told us that He would never leave us! God promises that His love will last forever! What work does God want you to do to receive these promises? Nothing! Accept them and just love Him back.

Going Deeper: Psalm 9:1; 1 Peter 1:3; Psalm 100:2-3.

Going Forward: I was created to love God and to Worship Him.

Prayer: *Lord of all, I worship and praise you for all that you are. Amen.*

Day Eight: February 25th, 2026
Weekly Spiritual Discipline: **Worship.**

Memory Verse
Deuteronomy 10:12

...what does the Lord your God ask of you but to fear the Lord your God, to walk in all His ways, to love Him, to serve the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul...

Gratitude...Living a life of Worship begins with a spirit of gratitude before God. We will not praise God and Worship if we believe that God “owes” us something. Notice the word gratitude has the same root as our word “grace.” I am thankful to someone when

they have given me something I do not deserve or did not expect. Worship is surrender to the reality that our lives are a gift from God. God desires that our Worship be motivated by love, gratitude, and joy, not guilt or duty. Thankful people are JOYFUL people. Do you know people who are joyful? I guarantee they are also thankful people. As you reflect on the kindness of God, the goodness of God, and the faithfulness of God, what thoughts and feelings arise?

Going Deeper: Psalm 138:1; Psalm 52:9.

Going Forward: What one action can I do today that will demonstrate my gratitude to God?

Prayer: Father, hear my praise. I thank you for the food I have, the bed I sleep in, the love I receive and the family that surrounds me. It is so easy to take everything for granted. Help me never to forget that you want my gratitude and that when I am thankful I will find joy. Amen.

Day Nine: February 26th, 2026
Weekly Spiritual Discipline: **Worship.**

Memory Verse

Deuteronomy 10:12

...what does the Lord your God ask of you but to fear the Lord your God, to walk in all His ways, to love Him, to serve the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul...

Worshiping God is not just what you do on Sunday morning. Worship involves your whole life. When we gratefully live our lives for God's glory, we Worship. When you play with your kids, that's an act of Worship. When you love your spouse, that's an act of Worship. When you take food to the poor, that's an act of Worship. You get the idea. God wants you to do everything for His glory. What does that mean? It means doing whatever you do like you are doing it for Jesus. I may dislike my job. But I can decide to go to work and do my job as an act of Worship to God. I can do my job to the glory of God. When we consider Worship from this perspective, we can dedicate our "seven-day-a-week lives" to the glory of God.

Going Deeper: Philippians 1:9, 11; Colossians 3:23.

Going Forward: My whole life can be an offering of praise to God.

Prayer: I offer this day to you Father. May all I do honor you and bring you joy. Amen.

Day Ten: February 27th, 2026
Weekly Spiritual Discipline: **Worship.**

Memory Verse
Deuteronomy 10:12

...what does the Lord your God ask of you but to fear the Lord your God, to walk in all His ways, to love Him, to serve the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul...

God is the object of our praise. Does that sound too simple? It is, yet it is also something that we need to be reminded of. My life and your life are about God, not about us. God put us here. God has a plan and a will for us and for this world. We can choose to live for God or live for ourselves. When we Worship, either corporately or when we dedicate our daily lives and tasks to God, we are saying, in the words of a popular contemporary Worship song, “God you are the reason I live. You are the reason I breathe!” Evelyn Underhill, a Theologian and writer expresses it this way:

Worship, then, is an avenue which leads the creature out from his inveterate self-occupation to a knowledge of God, and ultimately to that union with God which is the beatitude of the soul; though we are never to enter on it for this, or any other reason which is tainted by self-regard... Thus worship purifies, enlightens, and at last transforms, every life submitted to its influence... God’s invitation to it and man’s response, however limited, crude, or mistaken this response may be, are the appointed means whereby we move towards our true destiny...

Our “true destiny” is found in God. After all, He is the one who gave us life.
Going Deeper: Matthew 4:10; Revelation 14:7.

Going Forward: What obstacles sometimes hold me back from making God the object of my Worship?

Prayer: *You are the reason I live, and move, and have my being Jesus. You are the source of life and are truly worthy to be praised. Amen.*

Day Eleven: February 28th, 2026
Weekly Spiritual Discipline: **Worship.**

Memory Verse
Deuteronomy 10:12

...what does the Lord your God ask of you but to fear the Lord your God, to walk in all His ways, to love Him, to serve the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul...

On Sunday morning, “church day,” we gather together as God’s people in order to honor God for who God is, to thank Him for what He has done, and will do, in our lives this week, and to receive from Him true, spiritual food to live. Like many churches, we worship in very different ways. Tomorrow morning there will be Classical, Liturgical Worship, as well as Contemporary Praise. Some hymns, some “praise songs,” some

liturgy, some anthems, offerings, organ, guitar...all meant to receive from God and to offer to God. Worship is not primarily about style. It's about the heart. If our "style" of Worship is offered in spirit and truth, then it is pleasing to God. Let's be reminded of two important truths about Worship:

1. The focus of Worship is God—His Word and Sacraments. When we gather for Corporate Worship tomorrow, our thoughts need to be, "How can I please God today?" and "What does God have for me today?"
2. Worship is Sunday and it can be every day. We have already talked about this. However, again, Corporate Worship is the time that we set aside to honor God and demonstrate to God that He deserves our getting out of bed, getting dressed, and joining with other brothers and sisters in Christ to glorify God's name and receive His good gifts. We can also continue to glorify God as we leave Red Hill and head to breakfast or back home. Worship is the lifestyle of a disciple of Jesus!

Going Deeper: Hosea 6:6; Psalm 150.

Going Forward: Is there any attitude I need to change about Worship so that I can give myself to God?

Prayer: Tomorrow Father I will Worship you with your people. Prepare my heart now for Worship tomorrow. May I please you in my singing, with the words I speak, with a smile and greeting to someone, listening to the choir and band, and in my inner-most heart. May my whole life be an offering of praise to you. Amen.

Day Twelve: Sunday, March 1st, 2026

Weekly Spiritual Discipline: **Bible Study (Reading and Applying God's Word).**

Memory Verse

2 Tim. 3:16 (The Message)

Every part of Scripture is God-breathed and useful one way or another—showing us truth, exposing our rebellion, correcting our mistakes, training us to live God's way.

This week we focus on reading and applying God's word. The Bible is known by many names, "Holy Scripture," "The Word of God," and of course, "The Good Book." The Bible is meant to be read, but more so, it is meant to be *lived*. There are many people who know a lot *about* the Bible, fewer seem to *obey* the Bible. This week, we encourage you to set a goal to read the Bible, pray, and meditate on God's Word. You can decide how much time. However, a good suggested time is 30 minutes a day that can be set aside to read a passage of scripture, think, reflect, and meditate on that passage, and then to ask the Holy Spirit to help you apply any truths that have been revealed to you. Do you feel that you can't do thirty minutes? Start with five minutes and build up. It is important that you begin, and let the power of Scripture transform your life!

Going Deeper: Psalm 1:2; Luke 11:27-28.

Going Forward: Commit to a specific period of time during the day to be alone, read the Bible, and reflect upon the words you read. Consider how you can you apply those words during the day.

Prayer: *Open your Word to me living God. May I be more than a hearer; empower me to apply what you have revealed to me in my life. Amen.*

Day Thirteen: March 2nd, 2026

Weekly Spiritual Discipline: **Bible Study (Reading and Applying God's Word).**

Memory Verse

2 Tim. 3:16 (The Message)

Every part of Scripture is God-breathed and useful one way or another—showing us truth, exposing our rebellion, correcting our mistakes, training us to live God's way.

Do you identify with these words of Francois Fenolin?

Woe to those weak and timid souls who are divided between God and their world! They want and they do not want. They are torn by desire and remorse at the same time...They have a horror of evil and a shame of good. They have the pains of virtue without tasting its sweet consolations. O how wretched they are.

We all struggle with the problem of “double mindedness.” A double minded life is characterized by ambivalence. We are just not sure where we stand. It is exemplified in Augustine’s famous request of God: “Lord, give me chastity, but not yet.” When we live a life of double mindedness we desire intimacy with God, yet spend little time cultivating that intimacy. We desire to be giving people, but we do not share our resources. We want to be servants, but we want others to RECOGNIZE our sacrifices and our “servant-heart.” The daily reading and applying of God’s Word transforms our minds and our hearts. The Bible helps us to learn how to live like Jesus lived. The purpose of Scripture, writes John Ortberg, “is not to help us get a 100 score on the heavenly entrance exam. It is to help us become equipped for good works.” Another way of saying this is, reading and applying God’s Word is God’s way of changing us from being “double-minded” to “single-minded;” living the way Jesus would live if Jesus were me. Again, this is the goal of discipleship.

Going Deeper: Romans 12:2; Matthew 4:3-4.

Going Forward: God’s Word helps me to become like Jesus.

Prayer: *Ask God to help you apply a scriptural truth that you have read today.*

Day Fourteen: March 3rd, 2026

Weekly Spiritual Discipline: **Bible Study (Reading and Applying God's Word).**

Memory Verse

2 Tim. 3:16 (The Message)

Every part of Scripture is God-breathed and useful one way or another—showing us truth, exposing our rebellion, correcting our mistakes, training us to live God's way.

We need to read the Bible “meditatively” as well as to study the Bible academically. Your goals should be to study God’s word with “the head;” doing research with study tools such as a concordance, Biblical encyclopedia, or Biblical dictionary. Additionally, we can take time to simply “reflect” on a passage of scripture letting a passage or verse speak to a particular situation in your life. Of course, this is not an either/or situation. We can study the Bible in-depth and have our lives transformed, AND meditatively read the Bible with head and heart, allowing Scripture’s truths to change our hearts and minds. Remember, in both instances the goal is transformation—not just information.

Going Deeper: Ezra 7:10; Psalm 77:12.

Going Forward: I need to study diligently, and reflect faithfully, on God’s Word.

Prayer: *Change me Father, through the in-depth study of your Word and through persona meditation on your Word. May you use both to make me like your Son my Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.*

Day Fifteen: March 4th, 2026

Weekly Spiritual Discipline: **Bible Study (Reading and Applying God's Word).**

Memory Verse

2 Tim. 3:16 (The Message)

Every part of Scripture is God-breathed and useful one way or another—showing us truth, exposing our rebellion, correcting our mistakes, training us to live God's way.

Today, we look at the suggestions of Dr. John Ortberg, author of *The Life You've Always Wanted*. He outlines a five-step process of reading the Bible:

1. Ask God to Meet you in Scripture. Ask God to speak to you and EXPECT He will. As you read, certain ideas may strike you. You may feel a “prompt” to take some action such as a change in attitude.
2. Read the Bible in a Repentant Spirit. Read the Bible with a willingness to surrender everything. Resolve that you will be obedient to Scripture.
3. Meditate on a Fairly Brief Passage or Narrative. Immerse yourself in a short passage, maybe a few verses. Read it slowly, let the words sink deep into your soul. If you are reading a story, use your imagination and place yourself in the story. The goal is not to get through Scripture, but to get the Scriptures through you.
4. Take One Thought or Verse with You Through the Day. Choose one verse and think about it throughout your day. Ortberg uses the example of Psalm 46:10,

“Be still, and know that I am God!” For a day, let your mind continually return to those words.

5. Allow This Thought to Become Part of Your Memory. Memorize small passages of Scripture. It is amazing that as we memorize Scripture, God will bring them to our attention when we face situations in which we need comfort, discipline, or direction.

Going Deeper: Psalm 46:10; Psalm 27:1.

Going Forward: Read the Scriptures using the five-step process above.

Prayer: *Holy Spirit, shape me through your Word. May I discern your direction, your comfort, and your presence through what you reveal to me through the Scriptures. Amen.*

Day Sixteen: March 5th, 2026

Weekly Spiritual Discipline: **Bible Study (Reading and Applying God’s Word).**

Memory Verse

2 Tim. 3:16 (The Message)

Every part of Scripture is God-breathed and useful one way or another—showing us truth, exposing our rebellion, correcting our mistakes, training us to live God’s way.

Today, we look at the words of E. Stanley Jones regarding the habit of daily Bible reading. It is interesting how he uses the word, “habit.” We all have habits. Perhaps our spiritual disciplines can be considered “spiritual habits?” Commenting on Jesus’ “habitual rhythm” of reading Scripture, Jones writes:

The best man that ever lived on our planet illustrated [a] receptivity and response rhythm. No one was so utterly dependent on God and no one was more personally disciplined in his habits. He did three things by habit: (1) “He stood up to read as was his custom”—he read the Word of God by habit. (2) “He went out into the mountain to pray as was his custom”—he prayed by habit. (3) “He taught them again as was his custom”—he passed on to others by habit what he had and what he had found. These simple habits were the foundation habits of his life. They are just as up-to-date as tomorrow morning. No converted person can live without those habits at work vitally in his life.

Going Deeper: Colossians 2:6-7.

Going Forward: I can develop a “habit” of reading and applying God’s Word in my life.

Prayer: *Jesus, I have many habits. I ask you today to help me develop the habit of spending time with you, reading your Word, and obeying that Word in my life. I need you. I want to be like you and glorify my Father through my life. Amen.*

Day Seventeen: March 6th, 2026

Weekly Spiritual Discipline: **Bible Study (Reading and Applying God's Word).**

Memory Verse

2 Tim. 3:16 (The Message)

Every part of Scripture is God-breathed and useful one way or another—showing us truth, exposing our rebellion, correcting our mistakes, training us to live God's way.

You may at times feel that it is difficult to keep your attention focused when praying, reading the Scriptures, or praying the Scriptures. This is natural, especially if you have just started. Like any “habit,” developing a quiet time of prayer, Bible reading, and meditation will require sticking with it and developing your spiritual mind and heart. Madame Guyon was a French devotional writer. In her work, *Experiencing the Depths of Jesus Christ*, Madame Guyon writes:

As you begin this new venture you will, of course, discover that it is difficult to bring your mind under control. Why is this? Because through many years of habit your mind has acquired the ability to wander all over the world, just as it pleases, so what I speak of here is something that is to serve as a discipline to your mind. Be assured that as your soul becomes more accustomed to withdrawing to inward things, this process will become easier. There are two reasons that you will find it easier each time to bring your mind under the subjection of the Lord. One is that the mind, after much practice, will form a new habit of turning deep within. The second is that you have a gracious Lord!

Going Deeper: Isaiah 40:28-31; John 14:23-24.

Going Forward: I will grow in my ability to pray, mediate, and apply God's Word in my life.

Prayer: *Keep me focused on you Father. For only in you can I find peace. Amen.*

Day Eighteen: March 7th, 2026

Weekly Spiritual Discipline: **Bible Study (Reading and Applying God's Word).**

Memory Verse

2 Tim. 3:16 (The Message)

Every part of Scripture is God-breathed and useful one way or another—showing us truth, exposing our rebellion, correcting our mistakes, training us to live God's way.

What does Martin Luther say about the Bible? Remember the “Small Catechism?” In the *Small Catechism*, Luther sums up what we have been focusing on this week:

The Bible is the Word of God...The Bible is the Word of God because these men wrote it by inspiration of God...”By inspiration of God” means that God the Holy Ghost moved the holy men to write, and put into their minds, the very thoughts which they expressed and the very words which they wrote...God gave us the Bible to make us “wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus,” and to train us in holy living...We should diligently and reverently read and study the

Bible, listen attentively when it is read and explained, believe it, and live according to it.

Going Deeper: John 5:39; Luke 11:28; Psalm 119:105.

Going Forward: God uses His Word to help me become like His Son.

Prayer: *Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path. Lord, bring me closer to you through the words of the Bible that I may be faithful to you and love my neighbor. Amen.*

Day Nineteen: Sunday, March 8th, 2026
Weekly Spiritual Discipline: **Biblical Community.**
Memory Verse
Matthew 18:20

For where two or three come together in my name, there am I with them.

We need each other. Jesus came that all people might know that they have been forgiven and accepted by God and now we can come home! Jesus brings together in His death, ALL the world. The Christian faith was made to be lived in community. Spiritual growth is nurtured through spiritual friendships that provide support, mutual accountability, prayer, acceptance, Biblical insights, and commitment to one another. Our goal here at Red Hill is that everyone in this church has a “place” where they are known, loved, prayed for, encouraged, and challenged. If you are not involved in a small group, regular Bible class, ministry team, or are not connected with other believers, commit now to joining one of our groups and/or studies and get connected into the Body of Christ.

Going Deeper: Ephesians 1:5; John 13:34-35

Going Forward: I belong in God’s family.

Prayer: *Jesus, you had twelve people you called your community. If you needed it, I need it. Please lead me to others that I may love them and be loved in return. Amen.*

Day Twenty: March 9th, 2026
Weekly Spiritual Discipline: **Biblical Community.**
Memory Verse
Matthew 18:20

For where two or three come together in my name, there am I with them.

You need your church! Why do you need your church? Because that is where God wants you to grow in His Word, serve His people, praise His name, and reach out to His world. The local church is the place that God has chosen to accomplish all of these objectives. When we are Baptized, we become members of God’s church, which is the “body of Christ.” In this “Body,” we have a part to play. We are not in the church to just

receive; we are there to give. Rick Warren lists six reasons why you need to belong and be committed to a local church:

1. A church family identifies you as a genuine believer.
2. A church family moves you out of self-centered isolation.
3. A church family helps you to develop spiritual muscle.
4. The Body of Christ needs you.
5. You will share in Christ's mission in the world.
6. A church family will help keep you from backsliding.

I think you can see why the church is important and where you BELONG.

Going Deeper: Romans 12:5; Matthew 16:18.

Going Forward: I am a part of the Body of Christ.

Prayer: *God, thank you for the privilege of being a member of the family, a part of your body, the church. Amen.*

Day Twenty-One: March 10th, 2026
Weekly Spiritual Discipline: **Biblical Community.**

Memory Verse

Matthew 18:20

For where two or three come together in my name, there am I with them.

Biblical Community is often practiced through small groups. In small groups, disciples connect with other believers in order to share their lives and receive God's blessings from others. What are small groups all about at Red Hill? What makes a small group a "Biblical Community?"

A small group consists of three to 12 people, where Jesus is the center, and where people are known, loved, cared for, and served. In return, they know, love, care for and serve others in Jesus' name.

In the early days of the church, groups like these met in homes and in the temple. These groups had possessions in common, ate together, served each other, and studied together. Sometimes a large church can lose sight of the importance of the individual.

At Red Hill, some of our small groups are for Bible study, some are for service, and some are for common interests. And, all of our groups are designed to be Biblical Communities. We encourage you (again) to get involved in one of these communities.

Going Deeper: Acts 2:42-47; Psalm 133:1.

Going Forward: I need others to share my Christian life.

Prayer: *God, thanks for putting other people in my life. Give me the courage to share my life with others. Amen.*

Day Twenty-Two: March 11th, 2026

Weekly Spiritual Discipline: **Biblical Community.**

Memory Verse

Matthew 18:20

For where two or three come together in my name, there am I with them.

Love. That is what it is all about! We were created to love God, others, and ourselves. Love means giving one's self to another. When we truly love another, we "empty" ourselves and receive the other as they are. When we love like this, we experience unity. Unity is the goal of Christian love. Jesus prayed that those who love Him (His disciples) would love like Him. In Jesus' love for the Father, Jesus emptied himself and accepted us as we are. We (humanity) can now come into the relationship with the Father that Jesus had—this is unity. Our goal as disciples is to make ourselves "one" with those God brings into our lives—in our church, in our small group, and with our friends, we join in the life of the Trinity—a life of mutual, indwelling love. Of course, the result is mutual love; the characteristic of Christians, and an example of the love that Jesus prayed His people would receive and give.

Going Deeper: John 17:20-26.

Going Forward: When I empty myself and accept others as they are, I love like Jesus.

Prayer: *Jesus, you are love. You love me so that I can love others. I cannot love like this without the power of your Holy Spirit. Love through me today. Amen.*

Day Twenty-Three: March 12th, 2026

Weekly Spiritual Discipline: **Biblical Community.**

Memory Verse

Matthew 18:20

For where two or three come together in my name, there am I with them.

There is no such thing as a private life—"a world within the world"—for man or woman who is brought into fellowship with Jesus Christ's sufferings. God breaks up the private life of His saints, and makes it a thoroughfare for the world on the one hand, and for Himself on the other...The first thing God does with us is to get us based on rugged reality until we do not care what becomes of us individually as long as He gets His way for the purpose of redemption. (Oswald Chambers, *My Utmost For His Highest*)

When we enter into a relationship with Jesus, we also enter into a relationship with His children, our fellow brothers and sisters in Christ.

Going Deeper: 1 John 4:7-12.

Going Forward: Loving God means loving others.

Prayer: *Come Holy Spirit and remind me that to love the Father is to love His children. Amen.*

Day Twenty-Four: March 13th, 2026

Weekly Spiritual Discipline: **Christian Community.**

Memory Verse

Matthew 18:20

For where two or three come together in my name, there am I with them.

Again, we hear from Oswald Chambers:

Rehabilitation means the putting back of the whole human race into the relationship God designed it to be in, and this is what Jesus Christ did in Redemption...The rehabilitation of the human race on Jesus Christ's plan means the realization of Jesus Christ in corporate life as well as individual life...We are not here to develop a spiritual life of our own, or to enjoy spiritual retirement; we are here so that the Body of Christ may be built up. Am I building up the Body of Christ, or am I looking for my own personal development only? (*My Utmost For His Highest*)

Going Deeper: Ephesians 4.

Going Forward: Am I building up the Body of Christ by using the gifts that God has given me?

Prayer: *Jesus, empower me to use the gifts, abilities, and talents that you have given me to build your body, the Church. Amen.*

Day Twenty-Five: March 14th, 2026

Weekly Spiritual Discipline: **Biblical Community.**

Memory Verse

Matthew 18:20

For where two or three come together in my name, there am I with them.

Dietrich Bonhoeffer was a Lutheran Pastor and theologian during World War II. After his martyrdom at the hands of the Gestapo in 1945, Bonhoeffer continued to influence the world through his writings and his personal faith in God during a very difficult time that was reflected through those writings. In his book, *Life Together*, Bonhoeffer offers some insights into Christian community:

Christian community is like the Christian's sanctification. It is a gift of God, which we cannot claim. Only God knows the real state of our fellowship, our sanctification. What may appear weak and trifling to us may be great and

glorious to God. Just as the Christian should not be constantly feeling his spiritual pulse, so, too, the Christian community has not been given to us by God for us to be constantly taking its temperature. The more thankfully we daily receive what is given to us, the more surely and steadily will fellowship increase and grow from day to day as God pleases. Christian brotherhood is not an ideal which we must realize; it is rather a reality created by God in Christ in which we may participate.

Going Deeper: 1 John 1:6-7; Hebrews 10:24-25.

Going Forward: Christian community is God's gift to me.

Prayer: *Thank you for your community, Father. Where two or three are gathered, you are there! You have given us one another. Help me to honor the gift of another in my life. Amen.*

Day Twenty-Six: Sunday, March 15th, 2026

Weekly Spiritual Discipline: **Daily Prayer (Solitude and Silence)**

Memory Verse

Philippians 4:6

Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.

Prayer is talking with God. However, prayer also involves God talking with us. This week, we will be exploring different prayer "styles" and prayer practices. One way of praying daily is to be alone and quiet before God, eliminating as much as possible, the noise and distractions of life (Solitude and Silence). Do you find it difficult to pray? Many of us do. Our minds wander, we feel that our words are not adequate, and/or we believe that we are too "bad" for God to listen. It isn't long before we give up because we feel we can't pray "right." Look at the verse above. St. Paul says "do not be anxious, just come into God's presence with thanksgiving." Today, just reflect for a moment on the incredible fact that God wants to talk with you! God wants to be your confidant, your support, and your guide.

Going Deeper: Psalm 116:1-2; Colossians 4:2; 1 Peter 3:12.

Going Forward: Prayer is God calling me, through His Spirit, to talk with Him.

Prayer: *Father, I come into your presence with joy. Thank you for wanting to listen to me and for helping me to know you better. Help me to learn to listen to you. Deepen my prayer-life that I may deepen my trust in you and serve you more. Amen.*

Day Twenty-Seven: March 16th, 2026
Weekly Spiritual Discipline: **Daily Prayer (Solitude and Silence)**

Memory Verse
Philippians 4:6

Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.

Simone Weil was a French social activist who is also considered to be a twentieth-century mystic. Her best-known work is entitled, *Waiting for God*. Today and tomorrow, we will consider two petitions from the Lord's Prayer taken from her meditation on this most powerful prayer. We focus on these two petitions because prayer is not just asking for what we want. Prayer is aligning our lives with God's truth and desiring what God wants in this world and in our lives. Regarding "Thy kingdom come...", Weil writes:

This concerns something yet to be achieved, something not yet here. The Kingdom of God means the complete filling of the entire soul of intelligent creatures with the Holy Spirit. The Spirit bloweth where he listeth? We can only invite him...we must just invite him purely and simply, so that our thought of him is an invitation, a longing cry. It is as when one is in extreme thirst, ill with thirst; then one no longer thinks of the act of drinking in relation to oneself, or even of the act of drinking in a general way. One merely thinks of water, actual water itself, but the image of water is like a cry from our whole being.

Going Deeper: Luke 11:1-9.

Going Forward: God's Kingdom is where what God wants done, is done.

Prayer: *Pray the Lord's Prayer from Luke 11:1-9.*

Day Twenty-Eight: March 17th, 2026
Weekly Spiritual Discipline: **Daily Prayer (Solitude and Silence)**

Memory Verse
Philippians 4:6

Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.

Again, we hear from Simone Weil. She comments on the petition from the Lord's Prayer, "Thy will be done":

We are only absolutely, infallibly certain of the will of God concerning the past. Everything that has happened, whatever it may be, is in accordance with the will of the almighty Father. This is implied by the notion of almighty power. The future also, whatever it may contain, once it has come about, will have come about in conformity with the will of God...In this clause, therefore, after an upsurging of our desire toward the possible, we are once again asking for that which is...We have to desire that everything that has happened should have

happened, and nothing else. We have to do so, not because what has happened is good in our eyes, but because God has permitted it, and because the obedience of the course of events to God is in itself an absolute good.

Going Deeper: Jeremiah 29:11; Luke 12:22-31.

Going Forward: Prayer is trusting that God knows all, and in that truth, I can rest.

Prayer: *God, may your will be done in _____ today. I have worried about it long enough! Thank you for working in my life. Amen.*

Day Twenty-Nine: March 18th, 2026

Weekly Spiritual Discipline: **Daily Prayer (Solitude and Silence)**

Memory Verse

Philippians 4:6

Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.

Do not have as your motive the desire to be known as a praying man. Get an inner chamber in which to pray where no one knows you are praying, shut the door and talk to God in secret. Have no other motive than to know your Father in Heaven. It is impossible to conduct your life as a disciple without definite times of secret prayer...God does not hear us because we are in earnest, but only on the ground of Redemption...Prayer is not simply getting things from God...prayer is getting into perfect communion with God. If the Son of God is formed in us by regeneration, He will press forward in front of our common sense and change our attitudes to the things about which we pray. (Oswald Chambers. *My Utmost for His Highest*)

Going Deeper: Matthew 6:5-13.

Going Forward: God uses my prayers to change my heart.

Prayer: *You know the secrets of my heart Father. As I pray, bring me closer to you, your heart, and your love. Amen.*

Day Thirty: March 19th, 2026

Weekly Spiritual Discipline: **Daily Prayer (Solitude and Silence)**

Memory Verse

Philippians 4:6

Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.

One method of prayer that has been used throughout church history is to pray the Psalms. Eugene Peterson writes that, "Most Christians, for most of the Christian centuries, have learned to pray by praying the Psalms." (*The Message: Psalms*) Praying the Psalms means to simply read one of the Psalms as a prayer. Psalm 100 is a Psalm of praise. It is

an excellent way to pray, Worshipping God for God's faithfulness. Pray this prayer today, focusing on the reasons why God is to be praised.

Going Deeper: Ephesians 5:19; Colossians 3:16.

Going Forward: Starting today, and through the rest of this week, pray one Psalm (or more if you desire). A specific Psalm will be suggested as the closing prayers for the remainder of this week.

Prayer: *Pray Psalm 100.*

Day Thirty-One: March 20th, 2026

Weekly Spiritual Discipline: **Daily Prayer (Solitude and Silence)**

Memory Verse

Philippians 4:6

Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.

Pray without ceasing! Isn't that what the Bible says? Yes, it does. Does that mean that we are to do nothing else but pray? No. I am a man. I have a hard time doing more than one thing at a time! However, there are ways that we can become attuned to the presence of God all around us and pray continually. I know people who have trained themselves to say a prayer of thanksgiving when their watch "beeps." Walt Kallestead, a Lutheran Pastor, believes:

All our senses can serve as prayer triggers. When we hear a siren, we can pray for those in need. When we feel hunger pangs, we can pray for the world's starving. And when we are in pain, we can ask God to help everyone who may be suffering...Birthdays, holidays, promotions, and other pleasant events can be used to trigger prayers of thanks and appreciation.

Prayer can be as natural as smiling at a friend. I think God would like to hear from us more often!

Going Deeper: Ephesians 6:18.

Going Forward: I can pray at anytime, for anything, anywhere.

Prayer: *God, keep me aware of the joys, celebrations, and needs around me. Keep me aware that you are with me every minute of every day. Amen.*

Day Thirty-Two: March 21st, 2026

Weekly Spiritual Discipline: **Daily Prayer (Solitude and Silence)**

Memory Verse

Philippians 4:6

Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.

The “Prayer of Examen” is a sixteenth century form of prayer that enables you to “process” or “recollect” your day before God. The Prayer of Examen asks us to focus our recollection on a narrow time span: the previous twenty-four hours. The Prayer of Examen, writes Dr. Richard Peace from Fuller Seminary, “is a way of assessing one’s life before God on a regular basis... We tend to glide through a day almost by rote unless something stops us and makes us notice. The Prayer of Examen is one way to prevent days from going by unexamined and un-lived.” There is a three-step process to the “Prayer of Examen.” The first step is gratitude, next is awareness of God’s presence, and then confession. Here is an illustration of how the three-step process works:

A beginner praying the Examen may find it helpful to take one gift of the Spirit, for example, joy. He sees where he noticed joy in his day, and gives thanks; the places he entered into the joy of another or allowed another to enter his joy... Conversely, he becomes aware of the times and places when he prevented God from acting for him in his gift of joy, when he would not enter into the joy of another, or when he was a killjoy. The person sees this now and expresses his sorrow.

Going Deeper: Psalm 26:2; 2 Corinthians 13:5.

Going Forward: A Prayer of Examen helps me notice what God is doing in my life.

Prayer: *Pray a Prayer of Examen.*

Day Thirty-Three: Sunday, March 22nd, 2026

Weekly Spiritual Discipline: **Servanthood.**

Memory Verse

John 13:35

By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.

We were created to be servants. Jesus was a servant. He came into this world as a servant of the Father and achieved for us what we could not achieve for ourselves—righteousness before God. Christians serve. We serve because Jesus served. If there is one defining characteristic of a Christian it is love expressed in giving of ourselves to others in gratitude for God’s blessings. In our *Lutheran Book of Worship*, the prayer that is often recited by the congregation after the offering is:

Merciful Father, we offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us—ourselves, our time, and our possessions, signs of your gracious love.

Receive them for the sake of him who offered himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Notice, we serve with joy because God has given us everything! A non-thankful Christian is characterized by an entitlement mentality. A discipleship-oriented Christian is characterized by generosity rooted in the generosity of God.

Going Deeper: 1 Peter 4:10; 2 Corinthians 9:11.

Going Forward: Pray the above prayer from *The Lutheran Book of Worship*, praying it as an offering of your life to God today.

Prayer: *Pray the above prayer.*

Day Thirty-Four: March 23rd, 2026
Weekly Spiritual Discipline: **Servanthood.**

Memory Verse

John 13:35

By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.

Martin Luther, in his treatise “The Freedom of a Christian,” characterized Christian servanthood with this paradoxical statement: “A Christian is a perfectly free lord of all, subject to none. A Christian is a perfectly dutiful servant of all, subject to all.” Luther comments:

These two theses seem to contradict each other. If, however, they should be found to fit together they would serve our purpose beautifully. Both are Paul’s own statements, who says in 1 Cor 9 [19], “For though I am free from all men, I have made myself a slave to all,” and in Rom. 13 [8], “Owe no one anything, except to love one another.” Love by its very nature is ready to serve and be subject to him who is loved.

Going Deeper: 1 Corinthians 9:19; Romans 13:8.

Going Forward: I am free to serve.

Prayer: *God, let me use my freedom in Christ to serve others and be used by you to lead others to the freedom and joy found in you. Amen.*

Day Thirty-Five: March 24th, 2026
Weekly Spiritual Discipline: **Servanthood.**

Memory Verse

John 13:35

By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.

Be on your guard, therefore, and let nothing disturb your peace. Do good under all circumstances, but with no care for any profit, or any blessedness, or any damnation, or any salvation, or any martyrdom; but all you do or omit should be

for the honor of Love.... Let people take you for a fool; there is much truth in that. Be docile and prompt toward all who have need of you, and satisfy everyone as far as you can manage it without debasing yourself...And even if you do the best you can in all things, your human nature must often fall short; so entrust yourself to God's goodness, for his goodness is greater than your failures.
(Hadewijch of Antwerp)

Going Deeper: Romans 12:12-13; 1 Corinthians 10:31.

Going Forward: Servanthood is my grateful gift to God.

Prayer: *God, may I never forget that when I serve I am demonstrating my love for you as well as for others. May all I do glorify you today. Amen.*

Day Thirty-Six: March 25th, 2026
Weekly Spiritual Discipline: **Servanthood.**

Memory Verse

John 13:35

By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.

For no worldly thing, nor for the love of any man, is any evil to be done; but yet for the welfare of one that standeth in need, a good work is sometimes to be intermitted without any scruple, or even to be changed for a better...Without charity the outward work profiteth nothing; but whatsoever is done of charity, be it ever so little and contemptible in the sight of the world, it becomes wholly fruitful...He that hath true and perfect charity seeketh himself in nothing; but only desireth in all things that the glory of God should be exalted. (Thomas A Kempis, *The Imitation of Christ*)

Going Deeper: Mark 10:35-45.

Going Forward: Being a servant brings inner-peace, joy, and exalts our Lord.

Prayer: *My Savior, I do not always want to serve. Yet you call me to give of myself and love my neighbor. Help me to see opportunities to serve and serve joyfully. Amen.*

Day Thirty-Seven: March 26th, 2026
Weekly Spiritual Discipline: **Servanthood.**

Memory Verse

John 13:35

By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.

One of the ways we serve others is by using our Spiritual Gifts. Spiritual Gifts are unique talents or abilities, given to every Christian by the Holy Spirit, for the purpose of glorifying God and the building up of the Body of Christ. When you use your spiritual gifts, God uses you to accomplish His purposes. How do you know what spiritual gifts

you have? Look up the list of various spiritual gifts in Scripture. What seems to reflect you? What are your passions? What makes you feel “alive?” What are the needs around you? What skills, abilities, and aptitudes, do you notice and others affirm in you? These are some of the ways you can discover your gifts. Sometimes, you just jump in to meet a need and you discover that you have, or perhaps don’t have, a particular spiritual gift! God will show you!

Going Deeper: Romans 12:4-8; 1 Corinthians 12.4-11.

Going Forward: Do you know your spiritual gifts and are you using them?

Prayer: *Holy Spirit, You have given me gifts and abilities that You want me to use for others for Your glory. Lead me to use my spiritual gifts so that Your body may be built up to the glory of Your Holy name. Amen.*

Day Thirty-Eight: March 27th, 2026
Weekly Spiritual Discipline: **Servanthood.**

Memory Verse

John 13:35

By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.

For the next two days, we are going to look at some specific ways we can serve God in our lives.

Giving Away My Time. Giving away my time is the practice of using my time to fulfill God’s purposes. It is said that in America, time is our most precious resource. We can’t accumulate it and we can’t get it back. Where you spend your time and money is a telltale sign of what’s important to you.

Giving Away My Money. We give our money away to fulfill God’s purposes. Giving away our money is hard. It requires an understanding and belief in Biblical stewardship. Stewardship is the belief that everything is a gift from God and belongs to Him, we are just the stewards, or managers, of the things God has given. At Red Hill, we teach Biblical tithing, literally meaning “a tenth,” and that our giving is to be regular, sacrificial, and proportional. Giving is a means of serving others through the ministry of your church.

Going Deeper: Colossians 3:17; 2 Corinthians 8:7.

Going Forward: What keeps me from giving away my life and/or money?

Prayer: *Father, you gave everything you are—your love and mercy. You did not hold back. May I live with an open heart and open mind, giving and serving from what you have entrusted to me. Amen.*

Day Thirty-Nine: March 28th, 2026
Weekly Spiritual Discipline: **Servanthood.**

Memory Verse

John 13:35

By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.

Giving Away My Faith. This is the practice of sharing your faith with others. Jesus commanded His disciples to go and make disciples of all nations. We are to share our faith with others in word and deed. Believe it or not, you share the Gospel with other people every day of your life, whether you're aware of it or not.

Giving Away My Life. This is the practice of using your life to fulfill God's purposes and to be the person God has created you to be. Jesus said His disciples would have to lose everything to gain everything. Giving away our lives is about taking up our cross and following Jesus all the way to our literal death—and eventual resurrection! It is totally releasing yourself to God and His will. This last practice is all about control. Who/what has control over your life?

In reality, God has control over each of our lives, and whether we acknowledge that fact or not, it's still true. Our own control is an illusion. But God will not force His will on you; He's allowing you the opportunity to surrender. When you do, surrender, you will discover that only now can you live in peace and communion with God and with others.

Going Deeper: Ephesians 6:19-20; Romans 12:1-2.

Going Forward: Who is in control of my life?

Prayer: *God, take control of my life and change me every day. Give me the courage to change and follow you wherever you may lead. Amen.*

Day Forty: Sunday, March 29th, 2026 (Palm Sunday)

Memory Verse

Matthew 20:28

...the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.

Today is Palm Sunday. Palm Sunday is the beginning of Holy Week. During Holy Week, Jesus resolutely walked toward the cross for one reason: You! Jesus came and was obedient to the Father and the Father's desire that you come home to Him. God does not want you to wander through life aimlessly, from crisis to crisis and doubt that you are loved and valued by God. The death and resurrection of Jesus reveals the heart of God; a Father's heart that longs for His children to be forgiven, healed, fulfilled, and filled with hope. For the past 40 days we have been looking at what a life looks like when it is lived for the glory of God in response to the love of God, and how the Holy Spirit equips the church, you, to love God, others, and self through...

Worship
Bible Study
Biblical Community
Daily Prayer (Solitude and Silence)
Servanthood

If you commit to these core disciplines in your life, you will be a person of faith, hope, and love. You will stand with others in this church as a witness to what God can do with ordinary, broken, and hopeful people like you—and me! You will deepen your *love for* and *faith in*, Jesus Christ. You will be transformed daily, to be the person God has created you to be. One day, God will complete what He has begun; one day, God will make all things new...

...the angel showed me the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb ² through the middle of the street of the city; also, on either side of the river, the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit, yielding its fruit each month. The leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations. ³ No longer will there be anything accursed, but the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and his servants will worship him. ⁴ They will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. ⁵ And night will be no more. They will need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light, and they will reign forever and ever... ²⁰ He who testifies to these things says, "Surely I am coming soon." Amen. Come, Lord Jesus! (Revelation 22:1-5, 20).

Holy Week and Easter Worship

Maundy (Holy) Thursday, April 2nd: 12:00 noon and 7:00 p.m.

Good Friday, April 3rd: 12:00 noon and 7:00 p.m.

Easter Sunday, April 5th: 8:00 a.m. (Classical) 10:15 a.m. (Contemporary)

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ASHES TO LIGHT

HOLY WEEK 2026

PALM SUNDAY WORSHIP

Sunday, March 29th One Service at 10:15 AM.

MAUNDY THURSDAY WORSHIP

Thursday, April 2nd 12:00 PM and 7:00 PM Services.

GOOD FRIDAY WORSHIP

Friday, April 3rd 12:00 PM and 7:00 PM Services.

EASTER SUNDAY WORSHIP

Sunday, April 5th 8:00 AM and 10:15 AM Services.

