



40 DAYS OF

BUILDING

2026 LENTEN DEVOTIONAL

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Foreword

Lent is a sacred season of preparation—a journey that calls us to slow down, search our hearts, and realign our lives with God. It is not merely about what we give up, but about what God is building within us. Since 2026 is the “year of building” let us embrace this season with a focus on building the best version of ourselves.

40 Days of Building was prayerfully written to guide Mt. Zion Baptist Church through a season of intentional spiritual formation. Over these forty days, we will focus on what it means to be built by God from the inside out—strengthened in trust, matured in faith, shaped for service, and refined through sacrifice.

My prayer is that these daily devotionals help you hear God more clearly, walk with Him more faithfully, and surrender to Him more fully. May this season not only prepare us for Resurrection Sunday, but also position us for resurrection living.

— Dr. Breezy

How To Use This Devotional

- Set aside 10–15 minutes each day
- Begin with prayer
- Read the scripture slowly
- Reflect honestly on the questions
- Close with the prayer focus

This devotional may be used individually, with family, or in small groups.

What's the Plan?

Every building project starts with a design in mind. before you begin determine what you plan to build over the next 40 days. what is/are my spiritual goal(s) over the next 40 days?

Days 1-10: Building Trust In God

Day 1 - February 18

BUILDING BEGINS WITH TRUST

Scripture: Proverbs 3: 5–6

- 5 Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding;
6 in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight.

Building an Understanding

Every construction project begins with a decision: Who do we trust with the blueprint? A homeowner may not understand structural engineering, but they trust the architect enough to follow the plan. Without trust, no building ever gets off the ground.

Scripture Commentary

Solomon reminds us that trust in God is not partial or conditional. “Trust in the Lord with all your heart” means surrendering both what you understand and what you don’t. Leaning on your own understanding limits what God can build.

Application

Lent calls us to release control. If God is going to build something new in your life, He must first be trusted with the foundation.

Reflection Questions

- What areas of my life am I still trying to control?
- What would it look like to fully trust God here?

Prayer Focus

Lord, help me release my need to understand everything and trust You completely.

Day 2 - February 19

TRUSTING GOD WHEN THE PATH ISN'T CLEAR

Scripture: Psalm 37:23–24

23 The Lord makes firm the steps of the one who delights in him;

24 though he may stumble, he will not fall, for the Lord upholds him with his hand.

Building an Understanding

Walking in the dark requires trust. You trust your senses and what you remember about the room you're walking through. You move slowly, cautiously, believing the floor will still be there even when you can't see it. Keep in mind, just because you can't see it that doesn't mean you give up on the walk. In the absence of light, trust is more than enough. It's okay to move slow – but it's not okay to stop moving.

Scripture Commentary

God orders our steps, not our sight. Even when we stumble, the psalmist assures us that we will not fall beyond recovery because God's hand is steady beneath us.

Application

Trust isn't proven when things are clear—it's revealed when they're not. God specializes in guiding people who don't have the full picture.

Reflection Questions

- Where is God asking me to keep walking by faith?
- Am I trusting His hand or demanding visibility?

Prayer Focus

God, steady me when I can't see what's ahead.

Day 3 - February 20

BUILDING TRUST BEYOND THE FEAR

Scripture: Isaiah 41:10

10 So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.

Building an Understanding

Fear often shows up when responsibility feels heavier than ability. But courage grows when we realize we're not carrying the weight alone. Don't ever forget that fear is only a feeling. Feel the fear, then get over it! Once you've overcome the fear, you've dealt with the worst part of the process. Find courage in the fact that you're not alone.

Scripture Commentary

God doesn't just tell us not to fear—He gives us a reason. "I am with you." Presence replaces panic.

Application

Fear is often the loudest voice in moments of transition. Trust means choosing God's promise over fear's prediction.

Reflection Questions

- What fear is trying to shape my decisions?
- How does God's presence change my perspective?

Prayer Focus

Lord, replace my fear with confidence in Your presence.

Day 4 - February 21

BUILDING TRUST WHILE YOU WAIT

Scripture: Lamentations 3:31–33

31 For no one is cast off by the Lord forever.

32 Though he brings grief, he will show compassion, so great is his unfailing love.

33 For he does not willingly bring affliction or grief to anyone.

Building an Understanding

Waiting rooms test patience, especially when answers are delayed. Yet waiting doesn't mean abandonment. Consider a visit to the emergency room. Before you go you're already aware that you'll be waiting for some time. It's part of the process. But the wait doesn't stop you because you need what's on the other side of the wait. Don't lose heart – the doctor will see you when the time is right.

Scripture Commentary

God's delays are not denials. His compassion renews daily, even when circumstances feel unchanged.

Application

Trusting God means believing He's working even when nothing seems to be happening.

Reflection Questions

- What am I waiting on God for right now?
- Am I trusting His timing or resisting it?

Prayer Focus

God, give me peace and faith while I wait.

Day 5 - February 23

TRUSTING GOD WITH THE OUTCOME

Scripture: Romans 8:28

28 And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.

Building an Understanding

We often measure success by outcomes, but God measures faithfulness. Builders don't always see the final structure while laying bricks, but they trust the plan and work the materials that they're given. The plan of any building project is to work the individual materials together to produce something good on the other side of the building process. Trust the plan. Appreciate the materials. Work the process.

Scripture Commentary

God doesn't promise all things will feel good—but He does promise to work all things for good.

Application

Trust God not just with effort, but with results. He sees the bigger picture.

Reflection Questions

- Where am I overly focused on results?
- Can I trust God with how this turns out?

Prayer Focus

Lord, help me trust You with both the process and the outcome.

Day 6 - February 24

TRUSTING GOD WHEN THE RESOURCES FEEL INSUFFICIENT

Scripture: Philippians 4:19

¹⁹ And my God will meet all your needs according to the riches of his glory in Christ Jesus.

Building an Understanding

Construction stalls when supplies run low—unless someone has access to a bigger warehouse. When a building project is underway, the builder has to cultivate a healthy, working relationship with the supplier. The builder relies on the word of the supplier to continue the project. As long as the supply remains endless the possibilities remain limitless.

Scripture Commentary

God's supply is not limited by our lack. His resources exceed our needs. God's capacity is more than enough to satisfy every need that we will ever have throughout our entire lives.

Application

Trust shifts when we stop asking, "Do I have enough?" and start believing, "God is enough."

Reflection Questions

- What shortage is challenging my faith?
- Do I believe God can provide in this area?

Prayer Focus

God, help me trust Your provision over my perception.

Day 7 - February 25

BUILDING TRUST IN TIMES OF CHANGE

Scripture: Hebrews 13:8

⌘ Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.

Building an Understanding

Buildings may be renovated, but the foundation must remain firm. Once the structure has been established very seldom do you find any changes being made. Even if a building is damaged, it can be repaired to a better condition as long as the foundation is intact.

Scripture Commentary

While seasons change, God remains the same. His consistency stabilizes us in uncertain times.

Application

Trust grows when we anchor ourselves to an unchanging God in a changing world.

Reflection Questions

- What change is unsettling me right now?
- How does God's consistency bring me peace?

Prayer Focus

Lord, anchor me in who You are when everything else is shifting.

Day 8 - February 26

BUILDING TRUST IN THE UNKNOWN

Scripture: Jeremiah 29:11

11 For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.

Building an Understanding

You don't need to know the entire route when you trust the driver. A driver serves the function of transporting the client to the destination safely and determine the best route to get there. The driver is in control, not the passenger. It's up to the driver to know the route; it's up to you to enjoy the ride.

Scripture Commentary

God's plans are intentional, hopeful, and future-focused—even when they're not fully revealed.

Application

Trust is believing God knows what He's doing even when you don't.

Reflection Questions

- What unknown is challenging my faith?
- Am I trusting God's plan or fearing the future?

Prayer Focus

God, help me trust You with what I cannot see.

Day 9 - February 27

BUILDING TRUST IN DIFFICULT DECISIONS

Scripture: James 1:5

5 If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you.

Building an Understanding

Wise builders consult experts before making structural decisions. There may be hazards and obstacles beyond the naked eye. Questions must be asked about history, stability, potential changes, plausibility...etc. The reason for consultation is to prevent investing time, resources, and energy into a project that will result in a waste of everything invested.

Scripture Commentary

God offers wisdom generously—not judgmentally. Trust means asking and receiving.

Application

Before making decisions, invite God into the process. Trust begins with 5 prayer.

Reflection Questions

- What decision am I facing right now?
- Have I truly sought God's wisdom?

Prayer Focus

Lord, guide my decisions with Your wisdom.

Day 10 - February 28

TRUSTING GOD TO FINISH WHAT HE STARTED

Scripture: Philippians 1:6

6 being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.

Building an Understanding

No builder abandons a project halfway through—especially one they designed. There may be delays due to inclement conditions, unknown hazards, or unforeseen issues, but the work will get done.

Scripture Commentary

God is committed to completing His work in you. Trust includes believing He won't quit.

Application

Even when progress feels slow, God is still building.

Reflection Questions

- Where do I feel incomplete or discouraged?
- Can I trust God to finish His work in me?

Prayer Focus

God, help me trust You to complete what You've begun.

Days 11-20 - Building Faith In God

Day 11 - March 2

FAITH IS BUILT, NOT FOUND

Scripture: Romans 10:17

¹⁷ Consequently, faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word about Christ.

Building an Understanding

Muscles don't grow by accident. They grow through repetition, resistance, and consistency. What looks strong today was once weak but developed over time. In the same sense, if a muscle goes unused for a period of time, the result is muscle atrophy. Therefore it is wise to keep the muscle in active, consistent use at all times so it'll be ready when it is most needed.

Scripture Commentary

Paul reminds us that faith comes by hearing—and not just once. Faith is built through repeated exposure to the Word of God. The more we hear God's truth, the stronger our faith becomes.

Application

If your faith feels weak, it may not be broken—it may just be underdeveloped. Stay in the Word. Faith grows with consistency.

Reflection Questions

- How often am I intentionally feeding my faith?
- What voices compete with God's Word in my life?

Prayer Focus

Lord, strengthen my faith as I remain rooted in Your Word.

Day 12 - March 3

FAITH GROWS WHEN WE MOVE

Scripture: James 2:17

17 In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead.

Building an Understanding

Blueprints are useless unless someone starts building. The worst thing you can do with a blueprint (or a plan) is nothing at all. It's an insult to the architect. However, the greatest action that can be taken with a blueprint is to work it. It compliments the architect and trusts the purpose of the plan.

Action turns plans into progress.

Scripture Commentary

James challenges the idea of passive faith. Faith that never moves, risks, or acts is incomplete. Real faith shows itself through obedience.

Application

Faith isn't just what you believe—it's what you're willing to act on. Step out, even when certainty hasn't caught up yet.

Reflection Questions

- Where is God asking me to act in faith?
- What step have I been delaying?

Prayer Focus

God, give me the courage to act on what I believe.

Day 13 - March 4

FAITH IS STRENGTHENED IN THE STRETCH

Scripture: Hebrews 11:8

By faith Abraham, when called to go to a place he would later receive as his inheritance, obeyed and went, even though he did not know where he was going.

Building an Understanding

Stretching is uncomfortable, but it prevents injury and increases flexibility. The worst part of the stretch is the discomfort that comes with it. But what's worse than that discomfort is the potential pain from an injury later. Discomfort is part of the process. Growth always involves tension. And the more you stretch the better you feel.

Scripture Commentary

Abraham stepped out without knowing the destination. Faith grew because obedience came before clarity.

Application

Faith matures when God calls you beyond what feels safe or familiar.

Reflection Questions

- Where is God stretching me right now?
- Am I resisting growth because of discomfort?

Prayer Focus

Lord, help me trust You beyond my comfort zone.

Day 14 - March 5

FAITH IS REQUIRES RELEASE

Scripture: Matthew 14:29

²⁹ “Come,” he said.

Then Peter got down out of the boat, walked on the water and came toward Jesus.

Building an Understanding

You can't learn to swim while gripping the side of the pool. The goal is to traverse the depths without assistance. What we first must learn to reconcile in our minds is how our bodies are anatomically made to swim and stay afloat. We are literally built for swimming. At some point, you have to let go. Learn to release so that you can see what you were meant to do from the beginning.

Scripture Commentary

Peter walked on water only after stepping out of the boat. Faith required release before revelation.

Application

Sometimes the very thing you're holding onto is preventing you from experiencing what God has promised.

Reflection Questions

- What “boat” am I afraid to step out of?
- What would faith look like if I let go?

Prayer Focus

God, help me release what's keeping me from deeper faith.

Day 15 - March 6

FAITH IS BUILT IN THE ORDINARY

Scripture: Luke 16:10

¹⁰“Whoever can be trusted with very little can also be trusted with much, and whoever is dishonest with very little will also be dishonest with much.

Building an Understanding

Strong buildings aren't made from dramatic moments alone, but from consistent attention to small details. A typical wall is composed of frame, electrical outlet wiring, insulation, drywall, baseboard, and finish. Needless to say, the little details matter. Trust every part of the building plan. Because if the corners easily crack, eventually the rest of the building will crumble.

Scripture Commentary

Jesus teaches that faithfulness in small things prepares us for greater responsibility. Everyday obedience builds extraordinary faith.

Application

Don't underestimate the power of daily faithfulness. Small steps still lead to big growth.

Reflection Questions

- Where can I be more faithful in small things?
- Am I waiting for big moments to exercise faith?

Prayer Focus

Lord, help me honor You in the ordinary moments of life.

Day 16 - March 7

FAITH SURVIVES THE STORM

Scripture: Mark 4:39–40

39 He got up, rebuked the wind and said to the waves, “Quiet! Be still!” Then the wind died down and it was completely calm.

40 He said to his disciples, “Why are you so afraid? Do you still have no faith?”

Building an Understanding

A well-built house doesn't avoid storms—it withstands them. Every house is built with a standard. That standard is based on its purpose. For example, a roof in Miami prioritizes hurricane wind resistance, heat reflection, and moisture control. In comparison, a roof in Chicago prioritizes withstanding heavy snow, ice dams, and freeze-thaw cycles. They are built for the work they're designed for, not to fail in the presence of challenging conditions.

Scripture Commentary

Jesus questioned the disciples' faith not because the storm existed, but because they forgot who was with them in it.

Application

Storms don't destroy faith—forgetting God's presence does.

Reflection Questions

- What storm am I currently facing?
- Am I focused on the waves or the Savior?

Prayer Focus

God, anchor my faith when life feels unstable.

Day 17 - March 9

FAITH GROWS THROUGH TESTING

Scripture: 1 Peter 1:6–7

⁶ In all this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. ⁷ These have come so that the proven genuineness of your faith—of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire—may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed.

Building an Understanding

Gold is known as one of the world's most precious metals. However, when it is found its true worth is unknown because it hasn't been through the process to reveal its worth. That worth is found on the other side of its fiery process. While fire has the capacity to burn and consume other objects on earth, gold responds differently. Gold is refined by fire, not damaged by it. The fire leverages the malleability of gold so it can be molded and shaped into the correct form. In essence, the process is meant to purify, not punish.

Scripture Commentary

Trials test faith—not to weaken it, but to purify it. Faith that survives testing becomes stronger.

Application

What's testing you today may be strengthening you for tomorrow.

Reflection Questions

- How has my faith been tested recently?
- What might God be developing in me?

Prayer Focus

Lord, use my trials to refine—not destroy—my faith.

Day 18 - March 10

FAITH IS SUSTAINED BY HOPE

Scripture: Hebrews 11:1

Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see.

Building an Understanding

Builders continue working because they believe the finished structure will stand—even when it's not visible yet. Builders get started because of the vision. They order materials, schedule deliveries, solicit different specialists, and undergo inspections because of the vision. The vision is completely intangible – yet, it is infectious and inspiring. The right vision is more than enough to work the unseen until it becomes the seen.

Scripture Commentary

Faith is confidence in what we hope for. Hope fuels endurance when progress feels slow.

Application

When hope fades, faith weakens. Guard your hope.

Reflection Questions

- What hope am I holding onto right now?
- Have I allowed disappointment to shrink my faith?

Prayer Focus

God, renew my hope so my faith remains strong.

Day 19 - March 11

FAITH IS BUILT IN COMMUNITY

Scripture: Ecclesiastes 4:9–10

9 Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their labor:

10 If either of them falls down, one can help the other up. But pity anyone who falls and has no one to help them up.

Building an Understanding

Construction crews work together. No one builds alone. If a project is requires a single person to complete, the scope is likely extremely small. Big projects and plans require big groups working together. Those projects have the capacity to have a bigger impact on constituents and patrons. Meaningful construction requires meaningful connections.

Scripture Commentary

God designed faith to grow in community. We strengthen one another when we walk together.

Application

Isolation weakens faith. Community reinforces it.

Reflection Questions

- Who helps strengthen my faith?
- Am I walking this journey alone unnecessarily?

Prayer Focus

Lord, place me in community that builds my faith.

Day 20 - March 12

FAITH LOOKS FORWARD

Scripture: 2 Corinthians 5:7

7 For we live by faith, not by sight.

Building an Understanding

Builders trust the measurements even when walls block the view. Today's homes, buildings, roads, and edifices were once obstructed or unlevelled plots of land. Land full of trees, rocks, and hills. Builders operate in good faith that as long as they move forward with the unseen plan will be a reality one day in the future.

Scripture Commentary

Faith walks by trust, not sight. What we can't see doesn't negate what God has promised.

Application

Faith looks forward with confidence, even when vision is limited.

Reflection Questions

- Where is God calling me to walk by faith?
- Am I depending more on sight or trust?

Prayer Focus

God, help me walk forward in faith, trusting You every step.

Days 21-30 - Building A Heart To Serve

Day 21 - March 13

BUILT TO SERVE, NOT TO BE SEEN

Scripture: Mark 10:45

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

Building an Understanding

In every building, some of the most important elements are hidden—beams, wiring, plumbing, foundation, etc. You never see them, but without them, nothing works. Despite the aesthetic of a home that may help sell you on a purchase, a home won't last long on looks alone. The true life of a home or building lies with the structure or its integrity. Suffice it to say that the most important element of a structure is found out of light's immediate reach.

Scripture Commentary

Jesus redefines greatness. He didn't come to be admired but to be useful. His life teaches us that service—not status—is the measure of maturity.

Application

Serving isn't about recognition. It's about reflecting Christ. The greatest impact often comes from unseen obedience.

Reflection Questions

- Do I serve for impact or for acknowledgment?
- Am I willing to be useful even when unnoticed?

Prayer Focus

Lord, shape my heart to serve like Jesus—without needing applause.

Day 22 - March 14

SERVICE BEGINS WITH AVAILABILITY

Scripture: Isaiah 6:8

8 Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, “Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?”

Building an Understanding

Opportunities are often missed not because people lack ability, but because they are unavailable. Consider having a taste for a favorite food dish from a particular restaurant you enjoy. Imagine pulling into the parking lot, going to the door, but when you attempt to pull it open...it doesn't move. It's locked. The restaurant is unavailable. Yet, you still have an objective – to eat. And to satisfy the hunger you'll need to move on to another place that is open and available. You can have the best product or gift, but if it isn't available for use, the opportunity will quickly pass.

Scripture Commentary

Isaiah didn't ask for details—he offered himself. God can work with willing hearts faster than gifted hands.

Application

Before God uses your ability, He looks for your availability.

Reflection Questions

- Am I truly available to God's call?
- What excuses limit my service?

Prayer Focus

God, make me willing and available for Your work.

Day 23 - March 16

SERVING WITH THE RIGHT MOTIVE

Scripture: Colossians 3:23

23 Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters,

Building an Understanding

Two people can do the same job—but one works out of obligation while the other works with passion. Think about buying a Mother's Day gift for the perfect mother. A mother that does everything right (praise God if that is your mother). If you were to present her with a gift any old gift because it's Mother's Day...she may not be as thrilled to receive it. However, if you presented her with a great gift BECAUSE she is YOUR mother, that will go over greater. The motive makes all the difference.

Scripture Commentary

Serving the Lord means shifting our audience. When God is the focus, our service gains purpose.

Application

Right actions done with wrong motives still miss the mark. Serve with sincerity.

Reflection Questions

- Why do I serve?
- Who am I really serving when I help others?

Prayer Focus

Lord, purify my motives as I serve.

Day 24 - March 17

A SERVANT'S HEART SEES NEEDS

Scripture: Matthew 9:36

23 Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters,

Building an Understanding

Compassion notices what convenience ignores. Whenever the heart is driving your engagement with others, the ego tends to ride in the backseat. A compassionate heart sees with a broader view – it sees others. Whereas the self-serving ego looks through a more narrow view. It only sees itself.

Scripture Commentary

Jesus was moved because He saw people as they truly were—hurting, scattered, and in need.

Application

A heart to serve begins with the willingness to see people, not just pass them.

Reflection Questions

- Whose needs have I overlooked?
- Do I see people through compassion or convenience?

Prayer Focus

God, open my eyes to the needs around me.

Day 25 - March 18

SERVICE REQUIRES HUMILITY

Scripture: John 13:14–15

¹⁴ Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet. ¹⁵ I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you.

Building an Understanding

The most powerful leader in the room knelt down to wash feet—dirty, tired, ordinary feet. This is the greatest example of humility. Humility arises when self deflates. A humble heart grows when a person chooses to identify with others and adopts the perspective of being equal. While titles, positions, and roles may separate people in terms of how we engage one another, everyone is equal in creation. When the latter perspective is adopted, humility is attainable.

Scripture Commentary

Jesus showed that humility is not weakness—it's strength under control.

Application

Serving requires setting aside ego. Humility creates space for God to work.

Reflection Questions

- Where is pride limiting my service?
- Am I willing to serve in uncomfortable ways?

Prayer Focus

Lord, teach me to serve with humility.

Day 26 - March 19

SERVING EVEN WHEN IT'S INCONVENIENT

Scripture: Luke 10:33–34

³³ But a Samaritan, as he traveled, came where the man was; and when he saw him, he took pity on him. ³⁴ He went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he put the man on his own donkey, brought him to an inn and took care of him.

Building an Understanding

The Good Samaritan didn't plan to stop—but compassion disrupted his schedule. Two other characters passed on the opportunity to help because it would've inconvenienced their plans to travel down the path they were headed. The one who had a reason to pass by (due to cultural conflicts) chose not to use it. The Samaritan of the story is the only person who showed compassion through the inconvenience. He is the only one remembered as “good.” Let your good service be the reason why you're remembered.

Scripture Commentary

Love-based service often interrupts comfort. True service costs time, energy, and effort.

Application

A heart to serve doesn't wait for perfect timing—it responds to real need.

Reflection Questions

- How do I respond when service interrupts my plans?
- Am I willing to be inconvenienced for others?

Prayer Focus

God, help me respond with compassion, not convenience.

Day 27 - March 20

SERVING THROUGH SACRIFICE

Scripture: Romans 12:1

Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship.

Building an Understanding

Some building materials cost more—but they last longer. In virtually every aspect of our lives the adage is true – quality costs. If you considered flooring for a home, Lux Touch Tiles (marble flooring embedded with diamonds and other gems) is way more expensive than vinyl flooring. The difference between the cost of the two is primarily due to what had to be given up to create the product. Therefore, if God is looking to build a Kingdom of people serving, the greatest “material” that can possibly be used is humanity – the greatest quality of creation.

Scripture Commentary

Paul challenges believers to offer themselves fully. Service isn't about leftovers—it's about living sacrifice.

Application

Serving God often requires personal sacrifice, but the return is eternal.

Reflection Questions

- What is my service costing me?
- Am I offering God my best or what's left?

Prayer Focus

Lord, help me serve You with my whole life.

Day 28 - March 21

SERVING STRENGTHENS THE BODY

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 12:12

12 Just as a body, though one, has many parts, but all its many parts form one body, so it is with Christ.

Building an Understanding

A building functions best when every part serves its purpose. A home typically includes a bedroom, kitchen, wash room, and living area at the very least. Every room has a role that it should perform uniquely. With that considered, we would find disorder if other functions were performed outside of the space it was reserved for. Sleeping should happen in the bedroom, not the kitchen. Cleaning your body should be reserved for the bathroom, not the living area. If the roles were to be intermingled...you'd have a mess. The same order you'd expect from an ordinary house is the same order you should expect in God's house.

Scripture Commentary

God designed the church to thrive when everyone contributes. Service isn't optional—it's essential.

Application

When you serve, the entire body benefits. Find your place. Do your part.

Reflection Questions

- How does my service help strengthen the church?
- Am I fully engaged in the body of Christ?

Prayer Focus

God, help me serve faithfully within Your body.

Day 29 - March 23

SERVING REFLECTS GOD'S LOVE

Scripture: Galatians 5:13

¹³ You, my brothers and sisters, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the flesh; rather, serve one another humbly in love.

Building an Understanding

People may forget words—but they remember how they were treated. And we live in an age where everyone has the ability to tell others how they were treated. Recent marketing research suggests that companies are more concerned about public opinion now than any other time in history. Urgency is given to how people are treated because how someone is treated becomes the reality for a potential patron after the word gets out. Christians are in the business of building God's Kingdom. How you treat your neighbor will be remembered by them...and shared with others. Your engagement with others could be the reason why someone will give God's business a try, or never walk through the doors at all.

Scripture Commentary

Serving others is one of the clearest expressions of God's love in action.

Application

Our service becomes a testimony when love motivates our actions.

Reflection Questions

- Do people experience God's love through my service?
- How can I serve with more compassion?

Prayer Focus

Lord, let my service reflect Your love.

Day 30 - March 24

A SERVANT'S HEART BUILDS GOD'S KINGDOM

Scripture: Matthew 25:21

21 "His master replied, 'Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!'

Building an Understanding

Faithful builders are trusted with bigger projects. When a developer has plans to build on a plot of land, they tend to engage into a bidding process where contractors and project managers would try to secure the job. The bidding process heavily relies on two elements, 1) how much they would charge to do the work and 2) how much experience do they have. A lot of credence is given to the latter. While a developer doesn't ignore the price of the project, they are primarily looking to hire someone they know can handle the project. Therefore...the resume matters! Those who have demonstrated faithfulness in other projects will be used to complete others.

Scripture Commentary

God honors faithfulness, not fame. Those who serve well are entrusted with more.

Application

When you serve with joy and consistency, you help build God's Kingdom.

Reflection Questions

- Am I serving faithfully where I am?
- How is God using my service to impact others?

Prayer Focus

God, use my service to build Your Kingdom for Your glory.

Days 31-40 - Building A Spirit of Sacrifice

Day 31 - March 25

SACRIFICE BEGINS WITH SURRENDER

Scripture: Luke 9:23

23 Then he said to them all: “Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me.

Building an Understanding

Every building project reaches a point where the original landscape disappears. What once was must be cleared to make room for what will be. Clearing the original land is part of the process. The original look could be filled with clutter or debris. While the original elements may have served a purpose in the past, it will not serve the new purpose properly. Sometimes old stuff has got to go! And that’s ok. While it may be hard to clear old things out, be encouraged that everything will look so much better on the other side.

Scripture Commentary

Jesus makes it plain—discipleship requires denial of self. Sacrifice begins when our desires no longer outrank God’s direction.

Application

You cannot carry the cross and cling to control at the same time. Surrender is the first act of sacrifice.

Reflection Questions

- What am I being asked to lay down in this season?
- Where am I still holding onto control?

Prayer Focus

Lord, help me surrender my will to Yours.

Day 32 - March 26

SACRIFICE COSTS SOMETHING

Scripture: 2 Samuel 24:24

²⁴ But the king replied to Araunah, “No, I insist on paying you for it. I will not sacrifice to the Lord my God burnt offerings that cost me nothing.”

Building an Understanding

Free materials rarely build lasting structures. Quality always costs something. The bigger the sacrifice, the more meaningful the offering. Consider what goes into a breakfast plate consisting of bacon and eggs. For eggs to arrive on your plate a chicken has to lay a few eggs and offer them as a sacrifice. However, for the bacon to show up, a pig has to offer up themselves. Where does the greater sacrifice lie? Is why bacon costs more at the store. Probably not, but the principle remains. Cost is directly associated with sacrifice.

Scripture Commentary

David refuses to offer God something that costs him nothing. True sacrifice requires personal investment.

Application

If it doesn't cost you something, it's not a sacrifice—it's convenience.

Reflection Questions

- What does my sacrifice truly cost me?
- Have I confused comfort with commitment?

Prayer Focus

God, teach me to give You offerings that honor You.

Day 33 - March 27

SACRIFICE REQUIRES TRUST IN GOD'S PROVISION

Scripture: Genesis 22:8

8 Abraham answered, "God himself will provide the lamb for the burnt offering, my son." And the two of them went on together.

Building an Understanding

Abraham walked up the mountain carrying what he loved most—believing God would still provide. A sacrifice reconciles the internal tension of value. It forces a person to answer the question of, "what matters more to me?" In Abraham's example he was willing to sacrifice his son, Isaac...which did not come as an easy conclusion. He loved his son. So, why was he willing to do it? Because he felt that obeying God meant more to him than anything else. He was willing to give up his son (something of extreme value) to demonstrate his obedience – which mattered more.

Scripture Commentary

Sacrifice stretches faith because it releases what we value into God's hands.

Application

God doesn't take from us to diminish us—He does it to reveal Himself as Provider.

Reflection Questions

- What am I afraid to release to God?
- Do I trust Him to provide after I sacrifice?

Prayer Focus

Lord, help me trust You beyond what I can see.

Day 34 - March 28

SACRIFICE IS AN ACT OF WORSHIP

Scripture: Romans 12:1

Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship.

Building an Understanding

Worship isn't just sung—it's lived. It's a misnomer that the act of worship is limited to what happens when the music is playing. That couldn't be further from the truth. Worship is what we offer to God (which can come through music). However, the greatest act of worship comes through how we serve God daily. Lifting your hands is great, but doing something with your hands is greater.

Scripture Commentary

Paul reframes sacrifice as worship. Our lives become offerings placed on God's altar.

Application

Sacrifice is worship when obedience costs more than words.

Reflection Questions

- Does my lifestyle reflect worship?
- What part of my life needs to be placed on the altar?

Prayer Focus

God, receive my life as an act of worship.

Day 35 - March 30

SACRIFICE REVEALS WHAT WE VALUE

Scripture: Matthew 6:21

21 For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

Building an Understanding

Budgets reveal priorities. So do sacrifices. Whatever is of value to you will be at the top of your list things that receive attention. You're likely to sacrifice for whatever is prioritized on your budget. After all, you'll do almost anything for what's close to your heart.

Scripture Commentary

What we're willing to give up exposes what truly has our heart.

Application

Sacrifice forces us to confront misplaced priorities and realign our hearts with God.

Reflection Questions

- What does my sacrifice say about my values?
- Where is my heart truly invested?

Prayer Focus

Lord, realign my heart with what matters most to You.

Day 36 - March 31

SACRIFICE OFTEN GOES UNNOTICED

Scripture: Matthew 6:3–4

3 But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, 4 so that your giving may be in secret. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.

Building an Understanding

Some of the strongest support beams are hidden behind walls. The most important elements of our faith aren't found in the everyday outward expressions with each other, but what is done behind the scenes. Publicly praying with a fellow believer is great, but meeting someone's needs and walking life with someone is greater. The authentic sacrifice with no agenda is the most meaningful sacrifice.

Scripture Commentary

Jesus teaches that unseen sacrifice is seen by God—and rewarded by Him.

Application

Sacrifice loses its power when it seeks applause.

Reflection Questions

- Am I okay with serving and sacrificing unseen?
- Who am I really seeking approval from?

Prayer Focus

God, help me sacrifice for You alone.

Day 37 - April 1

SACRIFICE IS FUELED BY LOVE

Scripture: John 15:13

13 Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends.

Building an Understanding

Love changes what we're willing to give up. It's no secret that love is a verb — an action word. With that considered, sacrifice is the pinnacle demonstration of our love for something or someone. It's simple, if you love someone you should be willing to give up something to show it. While sacrifice is obviously difficult, you can justify it through your love.

Scripture Commentary

Jesus connects sacrifice directly to love. The cross was love in action.

Application

Sacrifice makes sense when love leads the way.

Reflection Questions

- Who am I called to love sacrificially?
- Does love motivate my obedience?

Prayer Focus

Lord, fill my heart with Your love.

Day 38 - April 2

THE ULTIMATE SACRIFICE

Scripture: Luke 23:46

46 Jesus called out with a loud voice, “Father, into your hands I commit my spirit.”
When he had said this, he breathed his last.

Building an Understanding

The cross stands as history’s greatest exchange—life for life. Make no mistake, Jesus willingly went to the cross, hung on the cross, and died on the cross for our benefit. There were several instances in scripture where Jesus mentions that he’s willing to offer his life—it wasn’t taken from him. That’s love. And that demonstration of love is the ultimate sacrifice.

Scripture Commentary

Jesus gave everything so we could gain everything. His sacrifice made salvation possible.

Application

We don’t sacrifice to earn salvation—we sacrifice because it was given freely.

Reflection Questions

- How does Christ’s sacrifice shape my response?
- What does the cross call me to change?

Prayer Focus

Jesus, thank You for the price You paid for me.

Day 39 - April 3

SACRIFICE LEADS TO NEW LIFE

Scripture: John 12:24

²⁴ Very truly I tell you, unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds.

Building an Understanding

Seeds must break open to produce life. Until the seed is broken, it remains as untapped potential. More can come from a seed once it's sacrificed. Only when it's broken can it give birth to something new. This is the law and principle that God placed in seeds. When the seed is broken and dies, it will breed a blessing in due season. Consider this principle whenever you are in a position to sacrifice. Your sacrifice will bring life.

Scripture Commentary

Jesus teaches that death to self produces multiplication and fruit.

Application

What you release today may birth something greater tomorrow.

Reflection Questions

- What might God bring to life through my sacrifice?
- Am I willing to let go for growth?

Prayer Focus

God, bring new life through what I release.

Day 40 - April 4

BUILT BY THE CROSS, RAISED BY THE RESURRECTION

Scripture: Luke 24:6

6 He is not here; he has risen! Remember how he told you, while he was still with you in Galilee:

Building an Understanding

What looked like an ending was actually a foundation. God is always building something. What may look like an empty plot of land can turn into a home. What looks like a finished home, can undergo renovations. What is renovated can always be repurposed. God will take what looks finished and transform it into something more fantastic. God is a master builder!

Scripture Commentary

The resurrection proves sacrifice is never the final word. Life always follows obedience.

Application

Because Jesus rose, our sacrifices are never in vain.

Reflection Questions

- How has this journey shaped my heart?
- What is God building in me now?

Prayer Focus

Risen Lord, help me live fully in resurrection power.

