Forty Days of Prayer with Scriptures

*Selections by Karen Frost, St. James Lutheran Church, Redding, California*

**Day 1  Dear God, Please prepare our hearts to hear your story.**

*Titus 3:4-6  But when the kindness of God our Savior and His love for mankind appeared He saved us, not on the basis of deeds which we have done in righteousness, but according to His mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit, whom He poured out upon us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior.*

**Day 2:  We pray for those who will be telling the story.**

*John 17:17-18  " Sanctify them in the truth; Thy word is truth.  As Thou didst send Me into the world, I also have sent them into the world."*

**Day 3  Praise God for speaking to us through the Bible.**

*Mark 1:1-3  The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.  As it is written in Isaiah the prophet, " Behold, I send my messenger before your face, who will prepare Your way; the voice of one crying in the wilderness.  Make ready the way of the Lord, make His paths straight.*

**Day 4:  Ask the Lord for guidance as we seek Him.**

*Psalm 61:1-2   Hear my cry, O God; give heed to my prayer.  From the end of the earth I call to Thee, when my heart is faint; lead me to the rock that is higher than I.*

**Day 5:  Thank God for our small group leaders.**

*Psalm 143:10  Teach me to do Thy will, for Thou art my God; let Thy good spirit lead me on level ground.*

**Day 6:  Pray that we will be led to truth, freedom and hope.**

*Ephesians 4:23-25  And that you be renewed in the spirit of your mind, and put on the new self, which in the likeness of God has been created in righteousness and holiness of the truth.  Therefore, laying aside falsehood, speak truth, each one of you, with his neighbor, for we are members of one another.*

**Day 7:  Confess our lack of attention to His word.**

*John 17:13-14  " But now I come to Thee; and these things I speak in the world, that they may have My joy made full in themselves.  I have given them Thy word and the world has hated them, because they are not of the world, even as I am not of the world."*

**Day 8:  Pray for our friends and family as we share God's story with them.**

*Psalm 69:13 But as for me, my prayer is to Thee, O Lord, at an acceptable  time; O God in the greatness of Thy loving kindness, answer me with Thy saving truth.*

**Day 9:  Pray for spiritual growth in our church.**

*I Corinthians 12:4-9  Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same spirit.  And there are varieties of ministries and the same Lord.  And there are varieties of effects, but the same God who works all things in all persons.  But to each one is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.  For to one is given the word of wisdom through the Spirit, and to another the word of knowledge according to the same Spirit; to another faith by the same Spirit and to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit.*

**Day 10:  Ask God to bless our children as they learn of His love for them.**

*Mark 10:14  But when Jesus saw this, He was indignant and said to them, " Permit the children to come to Me, do not hinder them; for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these."*

**Day 11:  Thank the Lord that His written word is so accessible to us.**

*Luke 24:44-45  Now He said to them, " These are My words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that all things that are written about Me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled."  Then He opened their minds to understand the scriptures.*

**Day 12:  Pray that we will be challenged by each week's message.**

*Psalm 26:2-3  Examine me, O Lord, and try me; test my mind and my heart.  For Thy loving kindness is before my eyes and I have walked in Thy truth.*

**Day 13:  Praise God for Jesus Christ, the ultimate expression of His love.**

*John 3:16  For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have eternal life.*

**Day 14:  Ask God for wisdom as we apply His story to our own life story.**

*Proverbs 4:5  Acquire wisdom!  Acquire understanding!  Do not forget , nor turn away from the words of my mouth.*

**Day 15:  Thank God for those who prepared the materials for our study.**

Psalm 111: 1-2  Praise the Lord.  I will give thanks to the Lord with all my heart, in the company of the upright and in the assembly.  Great are the works of the Lord; they are studied by all who delight in them.

**Day 16: Praise God for His Holy Spirit who guides us.**

John 14:16  And I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may be with you forever.

**Day 17:  Pray for families as they experience The Story of the Bible together.**

*Ruth 1:16  But Ruth said, " Do not urge me to leave you or turn back from following you; for where you go, I will go, and where you lodge, I will lodge.  Your people shall be my people, and your God, my God.*

**Day 18:  Pray for conviction of sin in our lives and willingness to repent.**

*Psalm 32:5  I acknowledged my sin to Thee, and my iniquity I did not hide; I said,  " I will confess my transgressions to the Lord" ; and Thou didst forgive the guilt of my sin.*

**Day 19:   Ask God to protect our minds from distractions.**

*Psalm 55:1-2  Give ear to my prayer, O God; and do not hide Thyself from my supplication.  Give heed to me, and answer me; I am restless in my complaint and am surely distracted.*

**Day 20:  Ask God to be our voice as we  share our testimony.**

*Psalm 19:14  Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in Thy sight, O Lord, my rock and my Redeemer.*

**Day 21:  Praise God for the grace He has extended to His people.**

*Romans 11:6  But if it is by grace, it is no longer on the basis of works, otherwise grace is no longer grace.*

**Day 22:  Pray for salvation for those who have not taken that step.**

*Romans 15:21  but as it is written, " They who had no news of Him shall see, and they who have not heard shall understand."*

**Day 23: Pray for physical protection of leaders and participants.**

*Psalm 121:5-8  The Lord is your keeper; the Lord is your shade on your right hand.  The sun will not smite you by day, nor the moon at night.  The Lord will protect you from all evil; He will keep your soul.  The Lord will guard your going out and your coming in from this time and forever.*

**Day 24:  Pray that each participant would sense God's presence.**

*Psalm 40: 8  I delight to do Thy will, O my God; Thy law is within my heart.*

**Day 25:  Pray God's blessings be upon those who lead and serve.**

*I Peter 4:10-11  As each one has received a special gift, employ it in serving one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.  Whoever speaks, let him speak, as it were the utterances of God; whoever serves, let him do so as by the strength that God supplies; so that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belongs the glory and dominion forever and ever*.*Amen*

**Day 26:  Pray that we will respond to God with praise.**

*Psalm 40:3  And He put a new song in my mouth, a song of praise to our God; many will see and fear, and trust in the Lord.*

**Day 27:  Pray that we will hunger and thirst for spiritual transformation.**

*Psalm 42:1-2  As the deer pants for the water brooks, so my soul pants for Thee, O God.  My soul thirsts for God, for the living God; When shall I come and appear before my God?*

**Day 28:  Pray that we would experience deeper relationships.**

*John 15:12  This is My commandment, that you love one another, just as I have loved you.*

**Day 29:  Ask God to lead us to neighbors who need Jesus.**

*Luke 10:27 You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbor as yourself.*

**Day 30: Pray that God will bring groups together to share The Story.**

*II Corinthians 9: 12  For the ministry of this service is not only fully supplying the needs of the saints, but is also overflowing through many thanksgivings to God.*

**Day 31:  Ask God for spiritual protection for our leaders and participants.**

*Psalm 42:11  Why are you in despair, O my soul?  And why have you become disturbed within me?  Hope in God, for I shall yet praise Him.  The help of my countenance and my God.*

**Day 32:  Pray for a renewed desire to pursue spiritual habits.**

*Psalm 43:3-4  O send out Thy light and Thy truth, let them lead me; let them bring me to Thy holy hill, and to Thy dwelling places.  Then I will go to the altar of God, to God my exceeding joy; and upon the lyre I shall praise Thee, O God, my God.*

**Day 33:  Pray for each person to have a servant's heart.**

*Romans 12:6-7  And since we have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let each exercise them accordingly:  if prophecy, according to the proportion of his faith; if service, in his serving; or he who teaches, in his teaching*.

**Day 34: Praise God for the hearts that wil be changed by this study.**

*Psalm 5:11  But let all who take refuge in Thee be glad.  Let them ever sing for joy; and mayest Thou shelter them, that those who love Thy name may exult in Thee.*

**Day 35: Ask God to powerfully use The Story to impact our community.**

*Philippians 2:1-4  If therefore there is any encouragement in Christ, if there is any consolation of love, if there is any fellowship of the spirit, if any affection and compassion, make my joy complete by being of the same mind, maintaining the same love, united in spirit, intent on one purpose.  Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind let each of you regard one another as more important than himself; do not merely look out for your own personal interests but also for the interests of others.*

**Day 36   Pray that our love of God will grow.**

*Romans 5:1-2 and 5  Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom also we have obtained our introduction by faith into this grace in which we stand; and we exult in hope of the glory of God.  And hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out within our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us.*

**Day 37: Ask God to maintain unity among leaders and participants.**

*Philippians 2:14-15  Do all things without grumbling or disputing; that you may prove yourselves to be blameless and innocent, children of God above reproach in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among who you appear as lights in the world*.

**Day 38:  Pray for lasting, eternal fruit.**

*Isaiah 55:11-12  So shall My word be which goes forth from My mouth; it shall not return to me empty, without accomplishing what I desire, without succeeding in the matter for which I sent it.  For you will go out with joy, and be led forth with peace; the mountains and the hills will break forth into shouts of joy before you, and all the trees of the field will clap their hands.*

**Day 39:  Pray that guests to our church will be warmly welcomed.**

*Hebrews 13:1-2  Let love of the brethren continue.  Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by this some have entertained angels without knowing it.*

**Day 40: Pray that The Story will be a defining experience in our church's journey.**

*Psalm 85: 11-13  Truth springs from the earth; and righteousness looks down from heaven.  Indeed, the Lord will give what is good; and our land will yield it's produce.  Righteousness will go before Him, and will make His footsteps into a way.*