



40 DAYS OF PRAYER

PRIOR TO PENTECOSTS

APRIL 19TH TO MAY 28TH





DEVOTIONS GUIDE

“40 DAYS IN PRAYER PRIOR TO THE PENTECOST DAY”



Mission:

Promote prayer in the Mesoamerica Region to build our lives in accordance with God's purposes.

“This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us. 15 And if we know that he hears us—whatever we ask—we know that we have what we asked of him.” 1 John 5:14-15

“if my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land.” 2 Chronicles 7:14

Objetives:

- Challenge individuals, families and congregations to pray to build their lives and be guided to God's purposes.
- Establish places of prayer in homes and churches.
- Provide facilities for total involvement in prayer.
- Lead people to repentance on Pentecost Sunday.

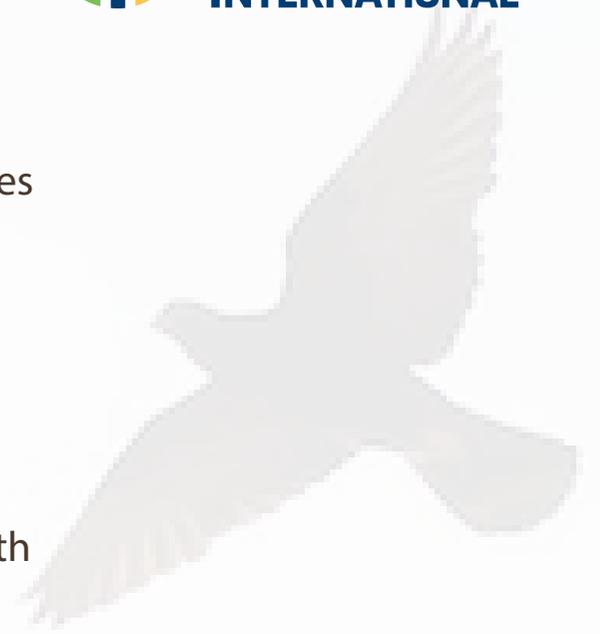
Purpose of the pentecost day of prayer in local churches:

Establish 24 hours of constant prayer for the care of people, families, towns, cities, communities, government leaders and for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit on his people.

PRAYER GUIDE:



April 19 to 26	HOLINESS Living Holiness in Modern Times
April 27 to May 4	EDIFICATION Jesus the Center of my Life
May 5 to 12	BEING DISCIPLES Like Jesus
May 13 to 20	MAKING DISCIPLES In the Cities, Children and Youth
May 21 to 28	STEWARDSHIP Gifts, Talents and Resources at the Service of God



“But I pray not only for these, but also for those who must believe in me because of their word.”
John 17:20

- Make reminders or share the prayer requests for each block to your friends, family and siblings via email.
- Do concerts of prayer and praise with the youth.
- Organize Prayer Breakfasts.
- Maintain a Prayer Room in your churches for those who wish to come and pray. Assign one person each day to attend to those who arrive.
- Organize Prayer Services and Thanksgiving for answered petitions.
- Make prayer chains for families.
- Make prayer chains for ministries.
- Organize Prayer Vigils.
- District leaders, organize prayer chains for churches.
- Fast, those who can, the 40 days.
- Make and distribute prayer commitment cards.
- Keep a record of the people who are taking this prayer time.

Based on our essential values and being a sent people who respond to the call of Christ and are enabled by the Holy Spirit to go into the world to testify to the lordship of Christ and participate with God in building up the church and extending his kingdom. (2 Corinthians 6:1), we begin these 40 days of Prayer in accordance with our mission

DAY 1

LIVING IN HOLINESS IN MODERN TIMES

“I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.”
Galatians 2:20

With Christ we are crucified and I no longer live, he lives in me. That is the declaration of the person who longs to live a life of holiness for his Lord.

Holiness is turning aside for God and living a consecrated life for him. It is the quality of being holy and implies living a pure life before its creator. Holiness is not something we do for ourselves, but God does in us through his Holy Spirit when you and I voluntarily surrender our will to him. The question is: can we live in holiness in a selfish convulsed world full of evil? Yes of course, but it does not depend on us but on God who sanctifies our life from all evil.

6 PRINCIPLES THAT WILL HELP YOU IN THE CALL TO HOLINESS.

- Consecrate your life: The way to learn something is by practicing, therefore practice prayer and spiritual disciplines naturally.
- He grows in holiness in his word.
- Read the scriptures, ruminates it, that is, enjoy it and embody the word in your life, but most importantly, share it with others.
- Live in obedience. Paul, after his incredible conversion, obeyed God in everything, because he knew that he now lived for God. Let's learn to obey God.
- Run away from temptations. Every day you will have to make decisions and fleeing from sin is the most important to not fail God so flee from those things that can seduce you to sin.
- Follow Peace and justice. God's eyes and ears are close to the just and peacemakers. Keep peace and harmony and follow holiness.
- Be a servant: Service is the consequence of a heart sanctified and grateful for God's work in your life.

PRAYER

God help me to live for you and that he may be a witness to a life set apart for you and for the service of others. I want to commit to pray and read the bible and serve you. Amen!

Dr. Milton Gay

DAY 2

THEME: HOLINESS – LIVING IN HOLINESS IN MODERN TIMES

“His divine power has given us everything we need for life and godliness through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness. Through these he has given us his very great and precious promises, so that through them you may participate in the divine nature and escape the corruption in the world caused by evil desires.” – 2 Peter 1:3-4

After the Sunday morning service had ended, I overheard a conversation in the foyer of the church building. The sermon had been on holiness, a distinctive of our denomination.

“You don’t really think we can live holy lives, do you?” asked one middle-aged woman. “I mean, holiness is just for God and certain saints like Mother Theresa, right?”

“Well, maybe it was easier centuries ago before all of the current temptations of media and our culture,” her friend answered. “Nowadays I just don’t see how anyone could stay pure for more than a day or two and still function in society!” Even if you would never admit it out loud, do you find yourself thinking the same thing? Is holiness too lofty a standard for a modern-day believer?

I could see that line of thinking if we considered the Bible as nothing more than a collection of notable ancient texts. But if we believe Scripture is inspired and applicable throughout the centuries – in other words, all the way up until present day – we must acknowledge that God’s will is for his children to be holy as he is holy (Lev. 11:44,45; 19:2; 20:7; 1 Peter 1:16).

Slowly read our key verses from 2 Peter again. God is not making a demand he cannot help us keep. His godly power has provided us every single essential thing we need to live victoriously (1:3a). How is that possible? Through knowing him more and more, growing in our relationship with him (1:3b). Even more amazingly, he wants us to “participate in the divine nature” and share with him in his very likeness (1:4b)! He guarantees that we can stand up to temptation and escape sin: yes, you! And yes, me (1:4c)!

These were not promises given only to first-century followers of Christ. This same power can be accessed today, by all of us smart phone carrying, Netflix watching disciples, too. It comes down to this: God would never call us to a standard of holiness without providing the power to live holy lives, as well. The same Spirit that raised Jesus from the dead is also living and working in you and me!

PRAYER

Father, forgive me for doubting your power to make me holy. I want to live a life of holiness. Make me pure and like your Son. In Jesus’ name, amen

DAY 3

THEME: HOLINESS – LIVING IN HOLINESS IN MODERN TIMES

“Strive for peace with everyone, and for the holiness without which no one will see the Lord.” Hebrews 12:14

Our denomination is a holiness one. I googled our Holiness Today magazine formerly named Herald of Holiness and found 4363 articles being referenced. We give thanks to God for our Holiness forefathers and all our leaders who have held our heritage of holiness (1908 to present) close to their hearts and leadership endeavors.

To live a holy life in these modern times as Jesus would want us to, is best stated by the apostle Paul who wrote – “Strive for peace with everyone, and for the holiness without which no one will see the Lord.” (Hebrews 12:14)

For me personally, living a holy life is at times difficult in light of the increasing shades of grey that is present in the church today, the liberalizing of beliefs in our country and world, and our own compromising of foundational beliefs. But, with the presence of the Holy Spirit, the love of God and neighbor in our hearts we are able to conquer sin and live unto Him who has called us and transformed us.

Let us allow the Holy Spirit to fill us with love as we navigate holiness living in this modern day. Let us have a holy vision that is clear in our hearts without being judgmental and legalistic. Let us have hands that are clean in spite of modern days’ temptations. Let us have hearts that are forgiving and trusting in view of our own weaknesses. Let our conscience be aligned with HIS divine revelation in our thoughts and actions.

The following hymn is regarded as our anthem in many, if not all Nazarene churches.

“Holiness unto the Lord” is our watchword and song,
“Holiness unto the Lord” as we’re marching along;
Sing it, shout it, loud and long,
“Holiness unto the Lord,” now and forever.

PRAYER

Father, we thank you for drawing us close to you, by your divine grace and mercy help us lord to live Holy Lives today and forever.
“Forgive us of all our trespasses and lead us not into temptation.”

Rev. David Ali

DAY 4

THEME: HOLINESS – LIVING IN HOLINESS IN MODERN TIMES

HOLINESS

In a large house there are articles not only of gold and silver, but also of wood and clay; some are for special purposes and some for common use. Those who cleanse themselves from the latter will be instruments for special purposes, made holy, useful to the Master and prepared to do any good work. 2 Timothy 2:20 – 21

Every age has had conflicts in the conception of holiness. In the Old Testament, the Lord reveals himself as a Holy God, and it is his desire and purpose that his people should also be distinguished as a holy people, chosen, separated and different from the nations that surrounded them, but similar to their own. Creator. That is why the Lord indicates a series of laws so that they could achieve that purpose.

However, Holiness is a lifestyle that includes the being and doing of the person in any place and at any time.

Paul writing to Timothy indicates the beginning of the utensils in the great house: some are for honorable uses and others for vile uses. There were instruments of great value used to serve special moments and people. But there were also vessels or instruments designated for vile uses or other purposes: waste, garbage containers, or remains of food for animals.

We need to recognize that the utility as glasses is not only in the temple as a meeting space, but in every place where we are and perform. It is mistakenly thought that the glass is only useful in liturgical spaces.

Holiness is not then a bunch of external and legalistic arguments that presume spirituality, but a low lifestyle at the service of Jesus Christ. This holiness is active, using the free will to cleanse itself of everything that disqualifies so as not to fall into the vile and belittled or get out of there.

How would our life and environment change if we lived as useful vessels EVERYWHERE?

PRAYER

Thank you Father for allowing us to reflect your image as a Holy GOD, I want to be an instrument of honor in every place and circumstance in which I find myself. Amen.

Rev. Carlos Cordero Lugo

DAY 5

THEME: HOLINESS – LIVING IN HOLINESS IN MODERN TIMES

Therefore, since we have these promises, dear friends, let us purify ourselves from everything that contaminates body and spirit, perfecting holiness out of reverence for God. 2 Corinthians 7:1

The purpose is to show that holiness is not a concept of the past, it is a reality of the present and relevant for all time.

Holiness is an order from God, it is not an option, because the salvation we preach comes from God and everything that comes from God is in harmony with his nature and character. So, since God is Holy our life must be sustained with a holy life.

WHY LIVE IN HOLINESS TODAY?

- Because it is still a requirement to see God. Therefore, if our goal is to see God, the requirement of being holy remains a topic for today.
- Being God so great, infinite, good, merciful, etc., he deserves our total consecration to him.
- Because the presence of the Holy Spirit is still necessary to help us in the modern challenges and temptations that come our way.
- Because holiness makes us different from the world, even though we are in the world, we are not part of this sinful system, it is going against sin, not adapting to its philosophy or lifestyle imposed by modernity.
- Holiness is what should characterize us in front of others. Recognize what it means to live apart for God. This does not mean that you are going to live antisocially. When we live apart for God, we know that everything we do will negatively or positively affect our relationship with God. We do not want this relationship to be affected, so we take care of it with our actions. What actions? Any behavior that makes it difficult for you to get closer to God once more. Sin makes us feel guilty, and that guilt makes us run away from God.

Finally, living in holiness is an everyday practice. Only by living in Holiness, even with modern challenges, we have the guarantee that we will see the face of God.

PRAYER

Lord, I ask you to sanctify us and that we can enjoy Your sanctifying grace to always do your will and not ours. That in the midst of this world that offers more and more temptations, we can continue to live for you and for you, keeping our integral lives in holiness. We ask this in the Holy Name of Jesus, amen.

Rev. Ana Zoila Díaz de Marciaga

DAY 6

THEME: HOLINESS – LIVING IN HOLINESS IN MODERN TIMES

A DECISIVE STEP

"I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me." Galatians 2:20

One of the most significant steps of faith in our spiritual journey is connected with our total, unreserved surrender to God. This is precisely what the apostle Paul testified to.

And although at first glance the figure of being crucified does not seem so attractive, the result of this step of faith is worth it because it is the gateway to an extraordinary dimension that we can describe as full life in Jesus.

But be careful to only cross the threshold and stay there on the edge, because in addition to renouncing the old life, it is necessary to answer the question: What will I do now with the life that I have in Christ?

The answer is, live completely for the Lord. Stop living on my own strength, running after my dreams, so that, instead, I live in the power of his Spirit and embrace God's dreams for me and his church.

It is by advancing in this dimension of life that we discover that holiness is not limited to a list of prohibitions, but is about what we can do now that we are free in Christ. It is about intimate communion with God. It is about loving God and our neighbor with all our hearts. It is about being like Jesus, but not by imitation, but by what He can do in us. It is about experiencing a continuous transformation from the inside out, and being part of God's redemptive mission in this world. It is there that we see that walking hand in hand with Jesus is the most exciting adventure that could exist.

PRAYER

"Dear God, I give you my life in exchange for your sweet presence. My past, present and future are surrendered before You, in exchange for eternity with You".

Rev. David González

DAY 7

THEME: HOLINESS – LIVING IN HOLINESS IN MODERN TIMES

“But just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do; 16 for it is written: “Be holy, because I am holy”.
1 Peter 1: 15 – 16

To speak of holiness is to speak of purity, it is to speak of deep cleanliness in the life of every born-again believer. To speak of holiness is to speak of God's will towards his church, because his will is and will always be our sanctification.

Unfortunately, we are living in a world corrupted by sin, technological advances and the influence of social networks are distorting the truth of the gospel and sowing doubt in the hearts of believers.

Knowing this reality, what should we do to live in holiness in modern times?

- to. Have intimacy with God: If we cultivate a life of closeness and relationship with God, it will be easier for us not to let ourselves be influenced by the sin that haunts us.
- Pray: Prayer will strengthen our relationship with God and help us resist any attack from the evil one.
- Read the Bible: Knowing God's will through his word will enable us to discern everything that is sinful and that does not please God.

Today we challenge each believer to abide in God, to cultivate holiness in all our way of life and to be more like God; because He is Holy!

PRAYER

Father, help us to be more like you, fill our minds and hearts with your word and teach us to be right before you.

Rev.: Laura Campos

DAY 8

THEME: HOLINESS – LIVING IN HOLINESS IN MODERN TIMES

TAKE OUT THE TRASH

" Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed, which is idolatry. Because of these, the wrath of God is coming. You used to walk in these ways, in the life you once lived. But now you must also rid yourselves of all such things as these: anger, rage, malice, slander, and filthy language from your lips."
Colossians 3:5-8

The Christian life is an experience or lifestyle, there are many practices that we had before being Christians that are contrary to the identity that we now have in Christ.

Something that we regularly do in our homes is take out the garbage, which is very good for our health because it helps prevent diseases and improve our quality of life.

The advice that Paul gives us is to put to death the sinful things and the earthly in us, that is, to remove the garbage from our lives and keep ourselves free from it once the Lord has cleansed us. Garbage contaminates and does not allow growth or bear fruit.

To make die is to consider "those things" as dead for us and we dead for them. The Christian life is a continuous struggle, where past sins come back again and again to trap us and try to get us to abandon the new path we started on.

It is very true that the things mentioned in this verse are garbage and it is sad that knowing that they are garbage we do not remove them from our lives, sex as God's creation is not bad within the correct order, the problem occurs when it controls us and everything arises from thoughts and desires not controlled by the Holy Spirit.

That is why Paul reminds us that we put on the new clothes (new man), it is a change in our whole person, we do not need to remember or live in the past wasting time, on the contrary, our efforts should be to know God more

PRAYER

Lord, I am grateful for your sanctifying grace that has made changes in my life, help me to remove or keep the garbage out of me and enjoy this new life to the fullest, knowing and loving you more each day. In the name of Jesus, amen.

Rev. Jonatán González

DAY 9

THEME: EDIFICATION - JESUS THE CENTER OF MY LIFE

JESUS, THE CENTER OF MY LIFE

"But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well."
Matthew 6:33

The purpose of this theme is to recognize that our life in all its dimensions has a balance as long as we put the Lord Jesus Christ as the center in everything we do and live.

This great theme is part of the great teachings of the Lord Jesus in his well-known "Sermon on the Mount", which is one of the dense materials of his preaching reported in the gospels, since it covers chapters five to seven of the book of Matthew.

In the different topics that Jesus mentions in his Sermon on the Mount, there is one in particular that refers to the different needs that every human being faces to survive, the three famous questions: What will we eat, what will we wear, and what will we drink? (Matt 6:25). On these questions Jesus establishes that our trust and security in him must be our priority. Christ has to be our center of life.

For our difficult times that we are going through, we can mention the following questions that the human being of these times asks: How am I going to meet my needs and those of my family in these times? Will I have work to bring food and shelter to my home? Do high job skills currently generate uncertainty and spiritual, emotional, social and family instability?

The teaching of Jesus in this lesson is that he is warning us to put aside those worries that generate crises and excessive and uncontrolled desires for material things. Rather, Jesus invites us to give total priority to him being our world, our center, and everything that is related to his kingdom and justice. Someone interpreted the text of Matthew 6:33 in this way "Look for me first and I will take care of you and your needs."

PRAYER

Lord Jesus, this day we surrender to you, we beg you to rule our lives, that everything we do is always for the benefit of your kingdom, that you always live in us and show us your divine and holy will. Amen.

Rev. Jorge Baños

DAY 10

THEME: EDIFICATION - JESUS THE CENTER OF MY LIFE

“So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God.” 1 Corinthians 10:31

We all have our own order of priorities and we always have the idea that God is the most important on this list. But we have to translate this idea into our daily lives, that in every action we carry out, our thought is: Does what I am going to do give glory to God?

Many only give him his place during the weekend and then disconnect from him. During the week we dedicate ourselves to so many things and forget that God has to do with everything. If we are really going to make God the center of our life, we must give him his place in everything we do, and not just when we are in some kind of need.

Let's reflect on these questions, to know how much we have given place to God in our life:

- Am I giving glory to God in my work?
- Am I giving glory to God in my family?
- Am I giving glory to God in my studies?
- Am I giving glory to God in my friendships?

If you have answered positively to these questions, you are on the right track to make God the center of your life. If your answer is negative, don't worry, today you have the opportunity to invite the Lord to be part of your life.

PRAYER

Lord, I ask your forgiveness if I have not given you the place you deserve. Give me the wisdom to live subject to your direction; may your presence be with me and lead me into a more intimate relationship with you.

Rev.: Wilmer Ac

DAY 11

THEME: EDIFICATION - JESUS THE CENTER OF MY LIFE

I WILL REMAIN IN HIM

Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me. John 15:4

So many things around us compete for our hearts, our time, talents and resources, diverting us from the purpose for which we have been called by God: to be and make disciples like Jesus in all nations. Today the Word reminds us that Jesus is the center of the life of his disciples.

There is no life, there is no peace, there is no love, nor growth and multiplication of disciples if Jesus is not the center. For the Jew in antiquity, Israel was the center of everything, it was the ancient vine, the people of the pact with God; but unfortunately, in Israel the holy purposes of God were not fulfilled. Now Jesus arrives and reveals that he himself is the vine, the promised Messiah that he would be the Savior of Israel and all peoples. Jesus came by his grace to sanctify through his death and his resurrection all people on earth. In a special way Jesus emphasizes that we abide in Him. He invites us into a special relationship of mutuality and unity. Jesus also assures us that He will remain connected to us as long as we live dependent on Him and in contrast warns us that without Him we cannot be or do anything, including, we cannot even be His disciples.

- What is staying? It is that Jesus stays with us and invites us to stay with Him always, in our daily life and does not accept competition. He comes to us to be the center of everything in our lives.
- In what way do we abide in Jesus? The word remain speaks to us of continuity, it speaks to us of unity. Abiding in Jesus is about a life of ongoing fellowship and fidelity to Jesus and his work. This includes growing faith in Jesus by God's grace and includes constantly listening to and obediently responding to his Word (Lyons & Daniels, 2020).
- What are the benefits of abiding in Jesus? When the branches or clusters remain attached to the trunk, they are alive, they have the necessary nutrients to grow. By using this metaphor, Jesus tells us that when we remain dependent on Him, we receive directly from Him the power to develop ourselves that is supplied by His Holy Spirit. We receive guidance and help from him. In addition, we receive the fullness of the "sap" of love from him that leads us to bear much fruit.
- What is the fruit? The spiritual maturity of the disciples. In other words, when Jesus is the center of their lives, the disciples grow healthy, the fruit of the Spirit is manifested in them, and this serves as a witness to the world. Multiplication arises as a consequence of the fruit.

Will we be willing to completely surrender to the Lord as the center of our lives? Can we detach ourselves and move away from everything that is not convenient for us to be faithful and obedient disciples who bear fruit of his tender love?

PRAYER

Father, give us the power to abide in you and bear fruit that abounds to your account. May your Spirit sanctify our entire being and let us enjoy unity with you always, in the midst of this complicated world that surrounds us.

Rev. Marta González

DAY 12

THEME: EDIFICATION - JESUS THE CENTER OF MY LIFE

"I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me."
Galatians 2:20

Do we really understand what it means to have Jesus as the central figure in our lives? Accepting Christ's finished work on the cross by faith gives Christians access to a life free from the law that chained the Apostle Paul and others before they too encountered Christ.

This is what the great apostle was saying to the Galatian believers. When Christ was crucified upon that tree; when his blood was shed and his body broken, all who believe in him gained access to the privilege of living a life of faith, free from the impossible burden of the law. We now have the capacity to make Him the center of our lives.

Our entire being is now dominated by the living Christ. We acknowledge that He and He alone controls our lives. Our old sinful egos are crucified as He was crucified. We want to live the way that He wants. When we are tempted, or even when we fall prey to temptation, our hearts are stricken with sorrow. We want to be restored so we confess and receive His gracious forgiveness. We listen to that soft inner voice of the Spirit of God who empowers us and choose His way-NOT our way. This is the outcome of having Christ at the center of our lives.

PRAYER

Father, we come to you in the name of your son- our Savior and Lord- Jesus Christ. We thank you for his sacrificial death on the cross that completely atoned for our sins and indeed for the sins of the world. We love you Lord and we welcome your Holy Spirit into our hearts to continually fill us, to continually mold and shape us, to help us to keep Jesus at the very center of our lives. This we ask in Jesus' name. Amen!

Rev. Donnamie Ali

DAY 13

THEME: EDIFICATION - JESUS THE CENTER OF MY LIFE

“And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength. This is the main commandment.” Mark 12:30

All of us, at some point in our Christian life, have expressed these powerful words to Jesus: Lord, be the center of our life! however, there are many factors that make this statement lose credibility in our way of life. Daily occupations, worries, the social environment, are factors that, instead of bringing us closer to God, end up moving us away from his presence.

Making Jesus the top priority, and the most important person in our lives, requires us to understand 4 important elements that Jesus himself highlighted in the Gospel of Mark.

- You will love the Lord with all your heart: not halfway, not just with some areas, but with the totality of what your person represents.
- With all your soul: Deciding to leave everything that conscience knows is not pleasing to God, and begin instead to act according to God's will.
- With all your mind: Aligning our thoughts in search of his direction, recognizing that we need him and long to be filled with his word and wisdom.
- With all your strength: Our attitude, time and energy must be focused on Jesus, it is not only about being strong physically, but spiritually.

If we direct our life with this special commandment, it will be easier to surrender our life to Jesus, and give him the place he deserves in our hearts.

PRAYER

Father, take the place that corresponds to you in our life, be the center of it and direct it under your will and sovereignty. In your holy name, Amen!

Por Rev.: Laura Campos

DAY 14

THEME: EDIFICATION - JESUS THE CENTER OF MY LIFE

"He must become greater; I must become less." John 3:30

"The center of everything is Jesus, the center of everything is Jesus..." Many of us have heard this beautiful song recorded and performed by Israel & New Breed. I love this song!

One Sunday, while we sang it during the Sunday morning service, I thought: Is Jesus really here at the center of everything, for me, for my family and for my brothers?

We love Jesus, of course we do, we serve Jesus, we worship Jesus. But what I'm talking about is our daily lives. Where do we spend most of our time? Is Jesus the center of my life when I endlessly scroll through social media? When do I make that post? Is Jesus truly the center of my life when I talk with my friends? Is Jesus the center of my life in the way I dress, in my thoughts, in my attitudes? Am I more concerned with impressing others than Jesus?

I want to make sure that Jesus is truly the center of my life, in everything. Jesus deserves the best of all of us. He deserves our time. As we spend more time in prayer, in his Word, and in his service, we become more and more of the person He wants us to be. We become more like Him.

I want to be more like Jesus! Let us allow Him to work in us. Amen! Jesus makes us better. He makes us better husbands, better fathers, better co-workers, better neighbors. Who doesn't want to be better?

Let's always focus on keeping Jesus as the center of our lives, and let's not be self-centered, but Christ-centered!

PRAYER

"Lord, help me to truly make You and keep You the center of my life. I know Jesus, that You make me better. I need you, every day, every hour, every minute. May You increase in my heart and in my life, while I decrease. Thank you Lord for your faithfulness. Amen."

Por Tammy Soto

DAY 15

THEME: EDIFICATION - JESUS THE CENTER OF MY LIFE

John 2:1-12 – “What Jesus did here in Cana of Galilee was the first of the signs through which he revealed his glory; and his disciples believed in him.” v. 11

The first miracle of Jesus that the disciples witnessed was at a party. Yes at a wedding. Jesus, Mary and the disciples were invited and a problem arose that, like every mother, Mary wanted to fix, and that is that the wine ran out and her mother asked her son to help them so that the newlyweds would not be embarrassed.

After arguing with her, Jesus simply obeys and commands those who serve to fill the jars with water and they obeyed as He commanded and the water turned into wine and everyone is surprised why He had done the first miracle in the feast of Cana in Galilee.

You may wonder, what can we learn from this story? Let me share with you 3 gifts from Jesus for your life.

- Invite Jesus into your life so that He is the center of your heart: Yes, He is in the right place, all your loves will be in the right place. Your motivations and desires will be aligned to the only love that governs your heart.
- With Jesus you will not lack anything: In the most difficult moments of your life he will always be with you to help you in everything you need. He will do the miracle, he will convert everything you need for your good and well-being. Learn to trust God no matter what, whatever the circumstance, remember that He promised to be with you until the end of the world.
- Be obedient like Jesus and like the servants: Learn to obey a mother like a son, or like the servants who heard the order, fill the jars with water and take them to the teacher. When we obey we unleash a lot of blessing because he rewards obedience with his miracles.

Tell me, what do you take away from today's reflection? What miracle do you need Jesus to do in your life?

PRAYER

Father, just as you worked the miracle at those weddings, do one in my life today. I know that Jesus always gives us the best and other people can see how you work in my life. Thank you for sending your best gift to my life God, to Jesus, my Savior. Amen!

Por Olga Gay

DAY 16

THEME: EDIFICATION - JESUS THE CENTER OF MY LIFE

EDIFICATION

"Unless the Lord builds the house,
the builders labor in vain.
Unless the Lord watches over the
city, the guards stand watch in vain."
Psalm 127:1

For some years I have a very enthusiastic young man (Javier) who is dedicated to making plumbing, electrical, painting, etc. Over time we have become good friends and every time I require his presence due to a broken device or a malfunction, I call him and he comes right away with his team of workers.

But lately he has had a lot of work (thank God) and he just stops by to see me to find out that he offers himself to me and leaves his employees fixing and he goes to supervise other works.

The last time he came I had to tell him that I wanted him to be in charge of my works, because his staff does not work as well as he does. He is now home again and running maintenance. No, it is not the same when he is in charge as when only his staff is left doing everything.

When I thought about the verse that concerns us, I immediately related it to the experience I had with Javier. He has to be in charge of the works.

This is exactly what happens when we allow builders to take over the work. It's a waste of time.

The one who knows and knows how to do things is our God and we have to let Him be the one in charge of doing the work in us. He is the one who should build our life, our character, our service to God.

Otherwise we are wasting time and what will happen to our lives will happen to the foolish house for not having built it under the direction of someone who knows what we need.

Only allowing the Lord to be the center of my life, who builds our house (directs us) can we be calm with the solidity of our home and our life.

PRAYER

Lord, support me in the decision to allow you and only you to be the builder who builds my life, to do everything in your name.
Amen.

Carlos Quijano

DAY 17

THEME: BEING DISCIPLES LIKE JESUS

BEING DISCIPLES

From this time many of his disciples turned back and no longer followed him. 'You do not want to leave, too, do you?' Jesus asked the Twelve." – John 6:66-67

If Jesus were attempting to form a megachurch, he was well on his way. 5,000+ had come to hear his teaching, and when they got hungry, he miraculously used a kid's lunch to feed all of them. The crowd pursued him on foot around the entire Sea of Galilee, and this was his chance! The masses would only multiply from here on out, right?

At this stage in the gospel of John, Jesus makes a peculiar decision. Instead of tickling the crowd's ears with "fluffier" material, he chooses to get highly controversial. Using the metaphor of the feeding of the 5,000, he begins to refer to himself as the bread of life, coming directly from heaven. He even makes clear that his true followers must "eat of his flesh and drink of his blood" to remain in him (6:53-58). Not the best evangelistic strategy, Jesus! In fact, this latest sermon offended the Jews, causing them to grumble and argue with him and each other (6:41-42, 52, 61). The majority forsook him then and there because of such a "hard teaching" (6:60, 66).

It's almost as if Jesus' strategy was to not have the biggest following. It seems like he wanted only the few who were dedicated to completely knowing him and becoming like him. After all, isn't that what the controversy was all about? The masses preferred their physical needs met while Jesus was offering them something much more profound: intimacy and spiritual transformation from the inside out. "Not interested," many of them said. "We want loaves and fishes."

Before we blame the fickle crowds, it would behoove us to examine our own motives. Do we clamor for "bread" when Jesus longs to give us his very self? Do we prefer instant gratification and our immediate needs met much more than his abiding presence?

PRAYER

Jesus, you are the bread of life. I have thought myself to be hungry for many insignificant things. But nothing can satisfy like you. Feed me and teach me what it means to eat and drink of your presence. I proclaim now, emphatically, as Peter did: "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life" (6:68).

Rev. Scott Armstrong

DAY 18

THEME: BEING DISCIPLES LIKE JESUS

IN THE LIKENESS OF CHRIST

"I ask myself: what is mankind that you are mindful of them, human beings that you care for them?
Psalm 8:4

We have all been called to be Christlike disciples, to resemble him, and to replicate the model of service, fellowship, and unity that he taught us. Discipleship is a process of growth, where we go through different stages that will lead us to be better believers.

Reflecting on the questions that King David asks in this psalm: What is man? There are three steps that will help you understand the different stages you have gone through or will go through if you are not yet his disciple.

- Observation: You do not escape the gaze of the Lord, he has seen you in the course of your life, he knows the good and bad things you have done and, even so, he continues to trust you. And he calls you to follow him.
- Opinion: What is man, so that you think of him? The Lord has an opinion of who you are, he sees beyond your imperfections, your fears, and your limitations. Gideon was told: a strong and courageous man (Judges 6:12). Gideon had not become the leader God expected, but there was already a description of what he would do in him.
- Opportunity: What is man, so that you take him into account? If his gaze does not leave you, it is because he wants you to accept the invitation to follow him and serve him with all your heart.

PRAYER

Lord, thank you for having set your sights on me, for taking me into account for your purposes. Help me to have the courage to follow in your footsteps, in the name of Jesus, Amen.

Rev. Wilmer Ac

DAY 19

THEME: BEING DISCIPLES LIKE JESUS

“My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me.” (John 10:27)

Sheep are known to get into all sorts of trouble when they don't follow the shepherd and wander away. They don't have to look for the grass and water they need because by simply following their shepherd all their needs are fulfilled. They know the voice of their shepherd and won't confuse it with any other.

Now no one likes to be thought of as a sheep since these animals are not known to be smart, but then we can say that they're smart enough to know that they need to follow their shepherd who will lead them to food, away from danger and to the safety of the sheep pen. For us to be Christlike disciples, we have to understand that we are the sheep Jesus was talking about in the verse above (Jn.10:27).

Being Christlike, involves knowing our Shepherd intimately. To know his voice, to know his instructions, we must know what the Bible reveals about him. How can we follow One who we don't know? Our knowledge must be experiential- we must have an encounter with Christ. Our knowledge must be based on what we know of his life and teachings- we must read/listen to what the Scriptures say, especially in the Gospels. Lastly we must have the desire to become true followers with the help of the Holy Spirit.

There is a hymn – “I want to be like Jesus”. I close with v.2

He spent His life in doing good;
I want to be like Jesus.
In lowly paths of service trod;
I want to be like Jesus.
He sympathized with hearts distressed,
He spoke the words that cheered and blessed,
He welcomed sinners to His breast.
I want to be like Jesus.

PRAYER

Father, help us to have a deep desire to be like Jesus. Amen.

Rev. Donnamie Ali

DAY 20

THEME: BEING DISCIPLES LIKE JESUS

BEING CHRIST LIKE DISCIPLES

“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. 2 Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.”
Romans 12:1-2

The blessing of Christlikeness is achieved by grace expressed in death on the cross. That death on the cross becomes a model for everyone who is forgiven and made a Son of God. Therefore, according to the verse read, he presents us with three personal actions.

DELIVERY: The Apostle Paul invites us to “present ourselves as a living sacrifice”. The expression is “yourselves.” There is no way to start living like Christ than by giving everything, our everything, Oneself. I know that this is difficult for many because it means sacrifice, but it is the authentic way of living.

TRANSFORMATION: The apostle says that we must renounce the customs of this world. After surrendering everything, there will consequently be a change of mind. Transformation of the mind. We no longer think the same. The transformation will be difficult if we continue to think as before: when we were without God, we were not of the way.

GROWTH: Every day we grow in knowing God's will that is always pleasing and perfect. In all that we are saying, growth is necessary to become Christlike. The BEING is everything that is expected to be consecrated to God. The BEING is the essence of one.

PRAYER

Lord, I come before you to deliver ALL that I am, with my defects, qualities, doubts, struggles, desires, battles, joys. I want you to take my whole life, to start being like YOU. Amen.

Rev. Francisco Heriberto Cho Si

DAY 21

THEME: BEING DISCIPLES LIKE JESUS

JESUS, THE CENTER OF MY LIFE

"His sons used to take turns having banquets on their birthdays and inviting their three sisters to eat and drink with them. 5 Once the cycle of banquets was over, Job made sure that his children were purified before God. Very early in the morning he offered a holocaust for each one of them, because he thought "perhaps my children have sinned and cursed God in their hearts. For Job this was a daily habit." Job 1:4-5

The purpose of this passage is to show that parents who fear God and turn away from evil must also take care of the sanctification of their children. With this we teach them by example and follow-up so that our young children learn to live a pious life that brings honor and praise to God.

The life that pleases God is the life of holiness, for this you have to pray intentionally for your young children so that they are kept by his grace from sinning against God. Job was an upright man, fearful of God and away from evil and ensured that his children were also like him. What did he do? He became the family priest, praying very early in the morning every day.

His young children were fortunate to have a mentor and consecrated father who prayed for them out of love for God and love for his children. The wonderful thing is that Job was a model of trust and obedience to God and he expected his children to be as well.

He taught them that we should never allow our money and position to take God's place in our lives.

PRAYER

Lord Jesus Christ, I ask you to help us have a sensitive heart to help our children in their spiritual needs. We are aware that we live in a fallen world where good behavior is not always rewarded and we observe that bad actions are not punished. So we pray for all the young children to live in purity and holiness of life. Amen!

Rev. Ulises Solís

DAY 22

THEME: BEING DISCIPLES LIKE JESUS

"To this you were called, because Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow in his steps." 1 Peter 2:21

The apostle Peter does not remember in this passage that we are called to follow the legacy that Jesus Christ left us, and one of Jesus' greatest concerns was to form disciples who had the same passion, commitment and obedience that he had.

With his testimony Jesus, he gave us the guideline to follow men and women who not only live a life in holiness, but also put that holiness into practice, sharing an intentional discipleship that changes lives.

What call does the word of God lead us to?

- To follow the example of Jesus: leading people to convert from sin to a life of holiness.
- Not to be satisfied with the gift of salvation, but to listen and make God's call come true, transmitting to others the knowledge of a life committed to the legacy of Jesus.
- It reminds us that the ministry of Jesus, who dedicated himself to discipling HIS FOLLOWERS WAS NOT IN VAIN, THEREFORE, WE MUST CONTINUE THAT LEGACY WITH love and commitment.
- It invites us to learn about the life of the Apostle Peter, who was disciplined by Jesus, whose teachings were the testimony of a life transformed by the presence of God.

As children of God born again by the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, we must make his last invitation come true: Go and make disciples.

PRAYER

Lord Jesus, thank you for having chosen us to go and make disciples, please we ask you to help us to do your will by being your disciples and that with our testimony we make disciples in your image and likeness. Amen.

Rev. María Antonia Ponce Espinoza

DAY 23

THEME: BEING DISCIPLES LIKE JESUS

“When he came to Jerusalem, he tried to join the disciples, but they were all afraid of him, not believing that he really was a disciple. But Barnabas took him and brought him to the apostles. He told them how Saul on his journey had seen the Lord and that the Lord had spoken to him, and how in Damascus he had preached fearlessly in the name of Jesus. So Saul stayed with them and moved about freely in Jerusalem, speaking boldly in the name of the Lord.” Acts 9:26-28

The purpose is to show that we need to have a heart like Barnabas's. He was a man who believed, invested time in others, accompanied them and saw what God could do in the lives of others.

Not much is mentioned about the ministry of Barnabas, but we can see that he was a disciple maker. When Paul was not well seen or accepted by the disciples of Jesus, Barnabas accepted him, accompanied him and gave him his confidence to the point of putting himself as a guarantee for the apostles to believe in Paul.

We can really see some very interesting points in this disciple maker:

- He believed in the conversion of Paul. Barnabas no longer sees the old persecutor of the church, but he sees the man that God has saved.
- Paul, upon receiving the rejection of the believers for his past, found in Barnabas a pious man who decided to dedicate time to guide him in the first steps of his new life. We see in Barnabas a man who is willing to invest time in the formation of a new disciple.
- He accompanied Paul. Barnabas did not let Paul drift, but he took the responsibility of walking with Paul, accompanying him and guiding him in the steps of faith that he had to experience.
- He gave him his friendship and trust, seeing in Paul what others could not see, in such a way that when Paul was rejected it was Barnabas who stood up for him.
- Young people, adolescents and children need men like Barnabas to rise up today, who do not see them as a threat to the Church, but who will be willing to be disciple makers.

PRAYER

Lord, help us to have a heart like that of your servant Barnabas, so that we can invest our time, resources, knowledge, etc. in the lives of young people, adolescents and children, so that they can be your disciples. In your name, we pray. Amen.

Rev. Benjamín Soria

DAY 24

THEME: BEING DISCIPLES LIKE JESUS

“Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.” Matthew 28:19-20

The purpose is to remember that the mission of the Church of the Nazarene is driven by the Great Commission.

Who is the invitation for? For everyone. In the last letter to Timothy the apostle Paul provides a clear message to those of us who are collaborators and our mission to proclaim the Word (2 Tim 1:8), giving a series of recommendations and explaining the duties that correspond to us as ministers of the gospel.

The demand is that we be diligent (2:15), honest (2:21), sensible (2:7), do nothing to be ashamed of (2:15), be truthful, kind, and generous to all (2:24). In the face of suffering and opposition, he exhorts us to resist trials with courage (2:3-10). He also asks us not to get entangled in sterile discussions (2:14,16,17) and to remain firm in the teaching received (1 :13-14).

Empower others to work together for the sake of multiplication. Jesus said, "In this is my Father glorified, that you bear much fruit and so be my disciples" (John 15:8).

We are before an ETHICAL CHALLENGE that is presented as a constant theme in the relationship of Jesus with the poor and the marginalized of our cities. The connection between going out and seeing is particularly valuable. To SEE, and KNOW, to DISCOVER the world of the marginalized and the excluded, we have to get out of our narrow limited and limiting cultural frameworks. We have to cross the barriers that prevent us from immersing ourselves in the world of the poor and the excluded. We are talking about an unbreakable chain of LOVE- DELIVERY and this implies: GO OUT, SEE, COMPASSION, COMMITMENT, TRANSFORMATION. We are talking about a lifestyle that recognizes in the other not an object or thing, but a subject with dignity and rights.

Individually and collectively, the disciples have to be like our Lord and Master: friends of tax collectors and sinners (Luke 7:34), proclaiming every day the good news of the kingdom of God through cities and villages (Luke 8:1).

Are you willing to Disciple believers to accompany you on a mission that was bigger than him?

PRAYER

My Lord and my God, thank you very much for all the people with whom I have been able to share your love and your Word. Thank you for those that I have been able to disciple and help in their walk with you. Thank you for allowing me to be the bearer of your words and your presence. What a great blessing to see the spiritual growth of those who have decided to follow and serve you! Holy Spirit, thank you for those who have decided to be your disciples by fulfilling this task. Help us focus on helping believers reproduce their Christian life of faith in other people. As followers of Jesus we also help to know, understand and imitate your methods. Amen!

- Rev. María Lucía Manuel

DAY 25

TEMA 4: HACIENDO DISCÍPULOS :EN LAS CIUDADES, A LOS NIÑOS Y A LOS JÓVENES

MAKING MISSION FOCUSED DISCIPLES

When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted. Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age." Matthew 28:17-20

What does making disciples mean to you? Make people convert? Or, help people become a responsible follower who makes disciples too?

The great commission consists of intentionally forming those who receive Jesus as their Savior. Teach them to walk with the Master, to trust him and to listen to him, obeying his word

¿Por qué debemos discipular?

- Why it is an imperative: Jesus told his disciples to go and make disciples everywhere you go and teach him to obey in everything and his presence will be with you until the end. The great commission is not an option nor is it an omission but the most important function and privilege that the church has.
- Why that is the mission. The mission is not only to preach but to form men and women in an integral way. Disciples who serve, who accompany the new ones in the church and who are witnesses with a life of holiness.
- The mission of the church is to make disciples and while we make them we can preach, teach and heal people.
- We must not confuse evangelization with discipleship, they work together, go hand in hand and complement each other when a person receives Jesus and we are ready to accompany him in his Christian maturity.
- Because people matter: every child, youth, women, and elderly are important to the Lord and must be part of God's mission to reach this world. By delegating the mission to them we can all reach someone, but together we can reach the world with our own generations.
- Because we must prepare the new generation of leaders for service. Your generation needs you to share the hope and the message of salvation with them and therefore you must respond to that call.

PRAYER

Father, help us to know you and follow you every day and also accompany your disciples on the path of grace. Help us as disciple makers to teach them to obey and serve you in the fulfillment of the mission. Amen.

Dr. Milton Gay

DAY 26

TEMA 4: HACIENDO DISCÍPULOS :EN LAS CIUDADES, A LOS NIÑOS Y A LOS JÓVENES

DISCIPLESHIP, A PROCESS THAT GIVES LIFE

1 Samuel 3:1-21 – “The Lord was with Samuel as he grew up, and he let none of Samuel’s words fall to the ground. And all Israel from Dan to Beersheba recognized that Samuel was attested as a prophet of the Lord. The Lord continued to appear at Shiloh, and there he revealed himself to Samuel through his word.” vs. 19 – 21.

Samuel's life is an outstanding example of good discipleship.

It is an intentional process, it is not achieved in an intensive academic program, but rather throughout life. Samuel had the ingredient of a pious mother who consecrated him before he was born and delivered as she offered. How precious must have been the years before she left him in the temple under the responsibility of Eli!

Discipleship is decisive for every person. According to the contents and goals, the disciple will achieve the development or delay of it.

Discipleship requires alliances. In the story of Samuel we see a home that unites with the structure of the temple so that they integrally form its character. At present, other alliances should be considered for greater benefits. The question that arises is: What impact would it cause if we implement the home-church-school alliance? There is no discipleship in opposite ways, but in productive agreements.

Discipleship is contextual. This is oriented from the stage of the disciple and his context. Samuel's time was one of profound deficiencies (“The Word was scarce and there was no vision” 1 Samuel 3:1). God works in the midst of the most difficult moments to bring the people to the path. Do not be discouraged by the adversities that arise, but move on.

Discipleship takes advantage of every moment and has the goal of leading to obey the Lord. God's call to Samuel is given while he sleeps, and each time he goes to Eli, his teacher. He did not take advantage of it to make him a servile disciple, but led him to obey the Lord.

The role of the disciple is to guide, to be aware of the spiritual discoveries that enrich the life of the disciple. Discipleship can make the apprentice reach higher than the teacher. Samuel was decisive in an important period of Israel marking the beginning of the monarchical time.

PRAYER

Lord help us to disciple effectively, that we can guide them to listen to your voice and obey your plans for their lives, give us the strength not to abandon this wonderful task.

Rev. Carlos Cordero Lugo

DAY 27

THEME 4: MAKING DISCIPLES: IN THE CITIES, CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

MAKING DISCIPLES FOCUS ON CHILDREN

“Hear O Israel: The Lord our God, The Lord is one. Love The Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul, and with all your strength. These commandments that I give you today are to be on your hearts. Impress them on your children”. Deuteronomy 6:4-7a

In Scripture we are commanded to make disciples (Matt 28:19-20). As parents, we are commanded to teach our children the ways of The Lord, to pass on our faith to the next generation. Deuteronomy 6 helps us in that regard.

So, not only are we to love The Lord our God with all our heart and have His words on our hearts, but we are commanded to diligently teach our children to do the same. Ephesians 6:4 tells fathers to “bring their children up in the discipline and instruction of The Lord”. Proverbs 22:6 says to “train up a child in the way he should go.”

It is clearly important to God that we pass on His glory and the excellency of Christ to the next generation. As children are disciplined this is one way, God seeks to fulfill the Great Commission of making disciples of all nations.

It is a joy, privilege, and an amazing opportunity we have to share Christ with our children and lead them to Him.

A big portion of disciplining them is in our day to day lives. Deuteronomy 6:7b-9 says, “talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road.

As we live our lives everyday with our failures and successes, our children get to see how the Gospel impacts our lives, hearts, and relationships. They see our need for Jesus and how we run to Him daily. It is important that they see us in our relationship with God. I read somewhere it was said that Discipleship is a “with them” thing. Don’t first tell them what to do, but do it with them.

PRAYER

Dear God, help us to see disciplining our children as a great privilege and may we make the most of the opportunity in Jesus’ Name, Amen.

Rev- Deborah Edgill

DAY 28

THEME 4: MAKING DISCIPLES: IN THE CITIES, CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

DO YOU WANT TO SEE A DISCIPLE OF CHRIST? YOU CAN SEE ME!

" Follow my example, as I follow the example of Christ." 1 Corinthians 11:1

Before thinking about pride or arrogance, let's think about the great responsibility we have to reflect Christ through our lives.

The purpose of this devotional is for us to understand that children and young people are looking for close models of what it really means to be disciples of Jesus Christ. Each one of us has that great privilege, but at the same time great responsibility, to show with our way of living, how he is a disciple of Christ.

What can we do to have that solvency that Paul had to say? Imitate me, because I imitate Christ.

- A disciple knows his teacher very well. It is necessary to spend time with the teacher to be able to know him, this is not about religiosity, but about a continuous intimate relationship with Jesus.
- A disciple lives according to what he has learned from the teacher. This means a continuous change in our lives, we can clearly see the testimony of Paul's conversion, how his life changed after having a personal encounter with Christ, we cannot call ourselves disciples of Jesus and continue living the same.
- A disciple is willing to pay the price. Paul testifies of all the sufferings he experienced for being a disciple of Jesus. The teacher said that anyone who is willing to lose his life for him will save it. Being a disciple leads to a total surrender, without reservations, to give everything for the cause of the teacher.

The challenge or question is: Do I really have the solvency like Paul to be able to tell children and young people, do they want a real example of a disciple of Christ? Look at me because I am imitating Christ..

PRAYER

Lord, I ask you to help us to be your true disciples, to yearn to know you more, to let ourselves be molded according to your purposes and to be willing to give ourselves completely to you. Help us to be people worthy of reflecting you, through our lives. May we inspire children and young people so that they too can be your disciples. In your name, Amen.

Rev. Benjamín Soria

DAY 29

THEME 4: MAKING DISCIPLES: IN THE CITIES, CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

MAKING DISCIPLES FOCUSED ON CHILDREN

“When Jesus saw this, he was indignant. He said to them, “Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these.” Mark 10:14

Coming from the mouth of Jesus, we should be moved by God's love for children. Many times the church is focused on adults and we forget that children must also be discipled so that when they grow up they do not stray from the true path.

The image that comes to mind in this biblical passage is Jesus with his arms open to receive those children who followed him, but were prevented by adults from reaching him.

How many children would be alive if we had approached them and discipled them according to their childish mind, many would not be on drugs if we only told them about that loving Jesus who included them on their way through this earth.

What does Jesus ask of us?

- Reach out to children as he did, and give them that hug that can change their lives.
- Let the children know of Jesus' interest in their spiritual growth, leading them by the hand through child discipleship.
- Motivate Bible teachers to disciple children, teaching them the way to become men or women of faith who transmit their life testimony to others.
- Do not impede the spiritual growth of our children, putting up language barriers or other physical impediments, but that discipleship be inclusive.
- It should be the interest of the church, that our children feel that they are a blessing and not a nuisance, that his presence in the temple reminds us of little Jesus doing the will of his Father.

PRAYER

Lord Jesus, we ask your forgiveness for the times that we have not given discipled a child, for the times that we forget that they are people for whom you also gave your life. Give us the love to disciple street children, abused children, homeless children, sick children, and every child who comes looking for You in the church, who can see your image in us. Give us the wisdom not to entertain children, but to form your holy character in them, amen.

Rev. María Antonia Ponce Espinoza

DAY 30

THEME 4: MAKING DISCIPLES: IN THE CITIES, CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

A FAITH THAT ACTS

"By faith Moses' parents hid him for three months after he was born, because they saw he was no ordinary child, and they were not afraid of the king's edict." Hebrews 11:23.

Faith can only be transmitted when it is experienced, even if the scenario is complicated, our children have to see that their parents are living what they believe in order to influence them in such a way that they come to make a decision for Jesus Christ and do not end up straying from the path of the Lord.

The scriptures tell us about the parents of Moses, the great liberator of the people of Israel, who can help us in the transmission of unfeigned faith in the family.

Our children must see that parents:

- Put their trust in God. Moses' family was in crisis when he was born, Pharaoh's command was that all male children born should kill them. The writing says that they saw that he was beautiful. God imparted such faith to them that they dared to defy the order and trust that He would deliver his son from death.

Will fight for them. His mother Jochebed decided to fight, and God supported her, He is interested in our children, in our family. This is a battle that we have to fight by faith and by the side of the Lord so as not to allow them to fall prey to Satan who wants to control and destroy our children and young people.

- Believe and accept the will of God. For a mother to get rid of a child is the most difficult thing she can do. Jochebed had to do it twice, submitting her feelings and the pain that this caused her, (when she left him in the water and when she gave him up after raising him for a while). God's plan for Moses was bigger than what his parents had. That plan included separating him from his home and handing him over so that he would be raised with other customs and another faith.

The work that Jochebed had to do was very important since Moses did not forget what his origin was.

He now touches us to live in such a way that our children are impacted by our faith in Jesus Christ.

PRAYER

Lord help me to live trusting in you even though the trials are difficult, and give me the wisdom to teach my family to trust in your perfect plan. In the name of Jesus, Amen.

Rev. Jonatán González

DAY 31

THEME 4: MAKING DISCIPLES: IN THE CITIES, CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

MAKING DISCIPLES OF CHILDREN AND YOUTH

Then the king ordered Ashpenaz, chief of his court officials, to bring into the king's service some of the Israelites from the royal family and the nobility— 4 young men without any physical defect, handsome, showing aptitude for every kind of learning, well informed, quick to understand, and qualified to serve in the king's palace. He was to teach them the language and literature of the Babylonians." Daniel 1:3-4

It is very important to disciple children and young people. It is not by discourse or by strategy of the moment; it is because they too are reached by God's grace and are instruments in God's hands. Discipling children and young people is so important that King Nebuchadnezzar commissioned Ashpenaz to disciple them so that they would work for his kingdom

- The Children of Israel are coveted. Christian children and young people are coveted by the world: they are promising. If you can see the faces of some children and young people who are part of the church, perceive in them the potential they have and how they can be "great" instruments in the hands of God.
- It is ideal to be in the King's Palace. Children and young people are suitable to be with the Lord. In fact, everyone, only by being reached by the grace of God and formed through intentional discipleship. God can use the talents and abilities of our children and youth; in fact, it is our challenge that the Church be built up and strengthened through them.
- That they teach them the letters and languages of the Chaldeans. The discipleship of children and young people is so important since they are formed by schools, institutes and universities. That is why we must make known the basic contents of the Christian faith and the truths of the word of God. Our prayer is for children and youth.

PRAYER

Lord, help us to be good disciples of our children and youth, and teach us to be an example of life for them. Amen.

Rev. Francisco Heriberto Cho Si

DAY 32

THEME 4: MAKING DISCIPLES: IN THE CITIES, CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

CHILDREN MAKING DISCIPLES

"Come, follow me," Jesus said, "and I will send you out to fish for people." Mathew 4:19

The purpose of this devotional is to think that the child can be like Jesus making disciples of other children.

In the Bible we find different passages where Jesus invites us to share the gospel making disciples of others, who know the love of God and be disciples of Him too.

How can I make disciples?

- Following his example, Jesus looked for each person or disciple, he went to where each one of them was and made the invitation clear and direct. (Matthew 4:18)
- I use the words and activities that they knew so that what Jesus was asking of them was understandable, (first fishermen) You can make the invitation in your school telling others that Jesus taught and inviting others to be like Him. But it can also be that you are receiving that invitation to renew your fellowship with God today.
- Finally, the obedience of these people (fishermen) when hearing the call of Jesus teaches us that there are always people who want to follow and be a disciple of Jesus. Accept that invitation today!
- You can make disciples wherever you are, school, home, community. You know Jesus because a disciple told you about him.

PRAYER

Lord Jesus today I want to be more like you, sharing the love of God and the good news, I ask you to help me obey and follow faithfully in your way. In the name of Jesus, Amen.

Alma Hidalgo

DAY 33

THEME 5: STEWARDSHIP - GIFTS, TALENTS AND RESOURCES AT THE SERVICE OF GOD

GOD OWNS MY FINANCES

"The silver is mine and the gold is mine,' declares the Lord Almighty." Haggai 2:8.

Before knowing the Lord, the enemy was the owner of our lives, our body, our home and even our money, but by giving our lives to Him, Jesus is the owner of everything, including our finances.

Since with our new birth God is the owner of everything we are and what He has given us, we must give an account of how we handle the money He has entrusted to us. The money is ours only in the sense that God has lent it to us to administer the upkeep of our families and for the propagation of the gospel.

Although we honor God with a tenth of our income, the tithe, we must not think that only 10% belongs to him. The remaining 90% also belongs to him. We must be careful to manage it in a way that pleases him, and a good way to do this is to help with offerings so that the gospel reaches the ends of the earth.

How sad that there are many brothers who call Him the Lord of their lives, but not of his portfolio. God could never be the Lord of your life, if He is not also the Lord of your money. Who is your lord, Lord Jesus or Mr. Money?

Psalm 24 begins with the following: The Lord belongs to the earth and everything in it, the world and all who live in it. This is a fundamental principle of biblical stewardship. God owns everything, we are simply stewards or administrators who act in His name. Given that God is the owner of everything, what would be the relationship of the believer in terms of the money that God entrusts to Him? The believer's relationship to the money that God entrusts to Him is that of administrator, not owner.

PRAYER

Lord, thank you for what you have given us, life, our body and finances, help us to be good stewards because everything belongs to you. Help us also to share with others what we have received from you and so that the gospel of the Kingdom is preached by those who have been called to go. Amen.

Ana María Crocker-Díaz

DAY 34

THEME 5: STEWARDSHIP - GIFTS, TALENTS AND RESOURCES AT THE SERVICE OF GOD

"Again, it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted his wealth to them. To one he gave five bags of gold, to another two bags, and to another one bag, each according to his ability. Then he went on his journey." Matthew 25:14-15

The purpose of this topic is to recognize that God has endowed us with gifts and talents as human beings and children of God, but that these resources must be used and placed at the service of the Lord and His church.

How can we harness and make the best use of these abilities and resources that God has provided us?

First of all, we must know our capabilities. In a part of verse 14 He mentions that "to each one according to his ability". So, to get the best out of our abilities, we must know the abilities we have. Doing this will surely bring out the best in each of us.

Second, we must make use of these abilities. The text of Matthew under study mentions in verses 16-17 "The one who received five talents went and traded with them, and gained another five talents. Likewise, the one who received two, he also gained another two". The capacities or abilities that we have as human beings and Christians are not only to keep them or to show off that we have these resources, it is with the intention of making use of them.

Finally, we must keep two things in mind, that these gifts and talents come exclusively from Our Lord Jesus Christ, and that they are given for the service of his work. Verse 14 mentions "The kingdom of heaven is like a man who, going far away, called his servants and delivered his goods to them. From him come these abilities that every human being has. There is also a quote in 1 Corinthians 12:7-8 (KV95) that refers to the gifts "But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the good of all. To one is given by the Spirit the word of wisdom; to another, the word of knowledge according to the same Spirit...". All this is given to edify the church and its work according to Ephesians 4:12 "... for the work of the ministry, for the edification of the body of Christ."

PRAYER

Heavenly Father, on this day we want to understand and accept that the gifts, talents, and resources that each of us have come from you, and that they are exclusively to put them at the service of your church and your work in this world. Amen.

Rev. Jorge Baños

DAY 35

THEME 5: STEWARDSHIP - GIFTS, TALENTS AND RESOURCES AT THE SERVICE OF GOD

GOOD ADMINISTRATORS

"Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms."
1 Peter 4:10

God holds us accountable to be stewards of all that he has given us. This started from Genesis when he charged the first human being to till the Garden of Eden and take care of it. Furthermore, he charged Adam and Eve to grow and multiply. They were supposed to be good stewards (administrators) of all that God had provided and entrusted to them, but they failed.

The apostle Peter establishes that now through Christ human beings do not have to continue failing, because Christ has suffered for all in the flesh to put an end to sin and to be built according to God's will. Therefore, since we have received such undeserved gifts, we have the vocation to be good stewards of God's gift in Christ.

The apostle describes that main gift or gift as the love of the Lord.

- What things am I an administrator of? We are to be good stewards of our time (1 Peter 4:3). It is a call to a commitment to Jesus and not waste time on what is not convenient while we must take advantage of the time living according to the will of God (1 Pet. 4:2). He calls us to be good stewards of the words that come from our lips, being sober and not murmuring. He also directs us to be good stewards of the resources we have by sharing them with others and being (generous) hosts (1 Pet. 4:9).

On the other hand, he admonishes us to be stewards of our flesh (emotions) and not to walk as the world walks, because the new life of the believer is different since the multiform grace of God builds us up.

1/2

Rev. Marta González

DAY 35

THEME 5: STEWARDSHIP - GIFTS, TALENTS AND RESOURCES AT THE SERVICE OF GOD

GOOD ADMINISTRATORS

- In what way is God's grace multiform? Among other things, grace has building ability (And now I commend you to God and to the message of his grace, which has the power to build you up and give you an inheritance along with all those he has consecrated for himself, Acts 20:32 NLT) . He does it by example: preventing, reconciling, saving, justifying, healing, sanctifying, glorifying.
- Where is this multiform grace found? Ultimately and essentially, grace is found in the Lord Jesus Christ himself, and is experienced through his work in our hearts as we humbly seek to know him more and more.
- What is it about being edified? It is about all activities resulting in oneself being made in the likeness of Jesus or another believer being made in the likeness of Jesus.
- How can I be edified and edify others? The manifold grace of God strengthens us by pouring out his fervent love in our hearts and sacrificial love like that of Jesus endows us with the necessary grace for unity and communion among the community.

How do we administer the gospel of salvation that has been given to us by the grace of God? Do I have stewardship of my emotions being built up in God's love and bring others closer to his love?

PRAYER

Father, what a blessing to know that you have given us multiple gifts and talents through which to serve and worship you. Help us not to fail you and to be faithful. Teach us to be good stewards of everything you have put in our lives to grow in your grace and for others to grow too. In the name of our Lord Jesus, we ask this. Amen.

2/2

Rev. Marta González

DAY 36

THEME 5: STEWARDSHIP - GIFTS, TALENTS AND RESOURCES AT THE SERVICE OF GOD

STEWARDSHIP

“For the kingdom of heaven is as a man traveling into a far country, who called his own servants, and delivered unto them his goods. And unto one he gave five talents, to another two, and to another one; to every man according to his several abilities; and straightway took his journey.” Matthew 25:14-15

Stewardship is a concept that includes all areas of life, not just money. Eg. one's gifts, one's abilities, one's time, and one's possessions.

God owns everything because He is Creator, and He has entrusted us with everything we have. Psalm 24:1-2.

He has entrusted us with our skills, musical talent, ability to teach, our time to be used wisely praying, serving, and caring for one another. The way we respond to what has been entrusted to us reveals our relationship with The Master.

Further in the passage we see that The Master was pleased with the stewardship of the first two servants as He said to them, “Well done, thou good and faithful servant.”

What about the third servant? He did nothing. He failed in his stewardship to God. Our level of stewardship is based on what God has given to us. We can't compare ourselves to someone else and make a determination about how well we're doing. Everyone is different. Some of us are better at some things than others, so the results will vary, but our faithfulness will be rewarded. The results are dependent on God working through our investment of time, talents, and treasures that He gave us to use.

Stewardship involves a level of responsibility. Since God owns everything we are obligated to carry out The Father's Will. When God blesses us we have a responsibility to handle what He has given to us.

Stewardship also involves a level of accountability. We have to be able to report on what we have done with what has been entrusted to us.

PRAYER

Lord, as we reflect on our stewardship, give us the desire to do better. Remind us that everything belongs to You, and as we serve, we are keeping in view our eternal reward, in Jesus' Name, Amen.

Rev. Deborah Edgill

DAY 37

THEME 5: STEWARDSHIP - GIFTS, TALENTS AND RESOURCES AT THE SERVICE OF GOD

ALL HELP COUNTS

"I long to see you so that I may impart to you some spiritual gift to make you strong—that is, that you and I may be mutually encouraged by each other's faith." Romans 1:11-12

If you have participated in a service project in the church or in support of the community, or have had the opportunity to preach, share a workshop, be part of an evangelism group, volunteer in a Vacation Bible School, among many others service opportunities, it is very likely that at the end of the task you have realized that you have received much more than what you gave.

That is, you were blessed and spiritually strengthened through the people who were part of the service, event or activity. With this in mind, you will surely identify with what the apostle Paul says to the church in Rome: "I want to see you, and I want to help you spiritually, but I also know that you will bless me with your spiritual help" (paraphrased verses 11 and 12).

On the other hand, perhaps given the magnitude of the task, you have doubted that you have the necessary gifts, talents, resources and experience to complete the task. Of course, this should encourage you to prepare diligently and do your best, but it should especially encourage you to know that the Holy Spirit is working in every person who is a part of the ministry, and this includes you. Our confidence is not in our abilities but in the power of the Holy Spirit. And in this sense, there is no great or small task but the invitation of God to be collaborators with Him.

How wonderful to understand that in the church of Christ all help counts! Yes, we help each other, we encourage, we correct, we grow together and we seek that our faith in God remains; and that through our service other people know Jesus.

PRAYER

"Dear Father, may there always be that fervent desire to be with the brethren, and as we serve together, have a receptive and humble heart to enjoy mutual aid."

Rev. David González

DAY 38

THEME 5: STEWARDSHIP - GIFTS, TALENTS AND RESOURCES AT THE SERVICE OF GOD

"Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good." 1 Corinthians 12:7

The purpose: It is to motivate Christians to exercise an integral stewardship, because everything we are and have belongs to the Lord. Therefore, we must put ourselves on the path of service to God with the gifts, talents and resources that He gives us and be found faithful.

1. Stewardship: In its etymology gives us the description of a person who manages or runs a house or farm- a person who manages the property of another's house.
2. Biblical principles of stewardship:
 - a. God created all things (Genesis 1:1, Psalm 89:11 and Acts 17:24)
 - b. God owns all things (Psalm 24:1-2, Deuteronomy 10:14, Romans 14:8)
 - c. Man is a steward. He owns nothing (Genesis 1:26-28; Leviticus 27:30- 32; 1 Corinthians 4:7, 12:7).
 - d. Man will give an account of his stewardship (Luke 16:1-2:12:42-48; Matt. 25:19) and it is expected that he will be found faithful, for which he will be rewarded; and if he is not, then he will be fired, cast into darkness, and suffer forever.

The Bible teaches that we are trustees and not owners, that is why it is necessary to know that we cannot use the gifts, talents and resources that the Lord allows us to have as we see fit but we need to learn how to use them. Spiritual gifts must be discovered and know how to use them for the building up of the church and put them at the service of God, just as the apostle Paul teaches in 1 Corinthians. 12. The talents are those capacities or professions that we can acquire or be equipped to help society with them, as in the same church.

Regarding economic resources, we have a wise guide from John Wesley, who taught by saying "Earn as much as you can, it motivates us to be productive; save as much as you can, urge not to get carried away buying what is not needed for example, buy 2 and get 3 or buy today and start paying in 3 or 6 months; and finally, give everything you can, by carrying out the two previous tips, we can grow in being generous in giving for the work of the Lord, in his mission and giving to help others in their needs.

PRAYER

Lord, continue to teach us how to be faithful stewards of everything that you entrust to us, so that in the end you tell us "well done, well I serve faithfully, you will be rewarded; Since you took good care of the little I gave you, now I am going to entrust you with more important things, come let's celebrate it."

DAY 39

THEME 5: STEWARDSHIP - GIFTS, TALENTS AND RESOURCES AT THE SERVICE OF GOD

TAKING CARE OF OUR BODY

“Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothes? 26 Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they?” Matthew 6:25 – 26

Here the message of JESUS is direct to his disciples about the basic concerns of life, such as food, clothing and other things, to which he gives timely and wise advice to react to this situation

1. Eagerness or anxiety makes its appearance when we give rise to fear for the daily things of life, unforeseen events, natural disasters, or the pandemic that made fear a giant that surpassed the faith and hope of many. Anxiety is worrying about something that has not happened yet, it is a future event (tomorrow). This state causes us lack of sleep, strong palpitations, desires to cry among others, and this in turn physical consequences that can compromise our health.
2. Jesus wisely invites us to rest in HIM, because He takes care of everything that happens, He has the ability to provide even in the worst scenarios of our lives. So it's not worth being full of anxiety. Let's drop it and start focusing on the peace and care that Jesus wants us to live in the midst of difficult situations.
3. Everything originates in the mind: The mind is a constant battlefield between thoughts and emotions that can completely control us and we can project ourselves based on it, which can be dangerous for our health. Filling ourselves with excessive worries and fears can affect our quality of sleep, performance and functioning of our body. We are not only spiritual beings, but also physical and emotional ones, and taking care of and ensuring our mental and physical health is as important as the spiritual one, since everything is interconnected with each other. David in Psalm 103 says: Bless my soul to Jehovah and bless all my being his Holy Name, because he knew that he had to speak to his emotions, order them to glorify the Lord, despite the times of affliction that he lived, He understood that even emotions can be subjected to the Lord.

PRAYER

Let us pray and ask the Lord to help us manage, identify, control and above all to heal those emotions that hurt us and drain our strength. Well, the best antidote for fear and anxiety is the word of the Lord. Do not isolate yourself, seek help, find someone in whom you can be who you are, do not repress emotions, get them out of your body and Bless the Lord.

DAY 40

THEME 5: STEWARDSHIP - GIFTS, TALENTS AND RESOURCES AT THE SERVICE OF GOD

“and you are of Christ, and Christ is of God.” 1 Cor. 3:23

It was in November 1977 that my wife and I had a personal encounter with God at the altar of the Church of the Nazarene San Fernando. The journey of stewardship began because of a surrendering of our will to God’s will and as I reflect over the years, in some areas it was simple and in others complex.

Stewardship is having a deep understanding that “we are in Christ and Christ is of God”.

Each one of us is unique with gifts that can be used by God regardless of our personality, IQ, social status to add a few that can be used for and for God. Let us embrace Psalm 139:14 “I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful. I know that full well.”

Each one of us has to number our days as explained in Psalm 90. Since our time is limited let us embrace each moment to spend with God, each moment to praise his name, each moment to share his divine purpose with all, and each moment to do His will.

Each one of us has resources that can be used for God. I heard a loving brother who led the Sunday school in his Church say to all the members of the church who owns a car, that the hour before SS every Sunday, the car belongs to Jesus to transport children and adults to SS. May I endorse this sentiment and expand it to say that all that we own belong to Jesus and to be used for his will. I give God thanks for all the opportunities that he has given me to use my gifts, time and resources for Him within the Church of the Nazarene and other places he has directed me.

PRAYER

Father, we are eternally grateful that you have chosen us. Consecrate our hearts and lives so that we will be a reflection of your love towards us and our neighbors.