

## 2023 Lenten Bible Challenge

Lent is a season of 40 days, not counting Sundays, which begins on Ash Wednesday and ends on Holy Saturday. In Christian tradition, people abstain from entertainment, sensual pleasures and worldly desires during Lent. Many Christians use this time to prepare their body, mind, and spirit to be baptized on Easter.

We want to spend this Lenten journey with **Paul's Letter to Romans** (16 chapters) and **Gospel according to Luke** (24 chapters). We will have 40 chapters to read each day of Lent. You will also be given 3 questions each day to meditate on the given chapter. You are invited to write your thoughts on the given paper.

Here are guidelines:

1. Each Sunday a weekly schedule (a chapter and three questions for the day) will be available with Sunday Bulletin (\*This will be also available through News 3700)
2. Each day, read the chapter of the day, and write your answers to three questions on the weekly schedule (this will be your weekly journal). There is no right or wrong answer. You can also write any questions on the journal instead of answers.
3. You have three choices regarding what to do with your journal as below:
  - a. You may keep your journey to yourself.
  - b. You may bring your weekly journal to church and discuss it in small groups after church three times (March 5, 19, and April 2). Please sign up to be in a small group. Each small group will have 3-4 people and we will divide the groups according to the number of people who sign up for small group discussion.
  - c. You may join a **zoom meeting** on the following days to share your thoughts and journey with others. If you want to join in this zoom meeting, let pastor Lee know (slee@cumcstockton.org) by Ash Wednesday (02.22.2023)
    - i. March 5 (Sunday) 7:00 pm to 8:00 pm
    - ii. March 19 (Sunday) 7:00 pm to 8:00 pm
    - iii. April 2 (Sunday) 7:00 pm to 8:00 pm
4. You may do this together with your loved ones at home. This can be your Lenten **Family Journey!**

*"Lent is about Becoming, Doing, and Changing whatever it is that is blocking the fullness of life in us right now. Lenten is a summons to life ANEW"*  
(by Sister Joan Chittister)

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# 2023 LENTEN BIBLE CHALLENGE WEEKLY JOURNAL (Week 1)

Your Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## **Day 1      February 22 (Wed)      Romans Chapter 1**

1. Why was Paul not ashamed of Gospel?
  2. What does it mean, "The one who is righteous will live by faith"?
  3. When did you experience invisible God's power and nature in your life vividly?
- \* What would you give up today for the glory of God and for your blessed life?  
\* *What acts of kindness would you do today for your neighbors and for the world?*

## **Day 2      February 23 (Thur)      Romans Chapter 2**

1. How do the gentiles know what the laws are?
  2. What does it mean that circumcision is a matter of heart?
  3. When do you feel that you have a circumcision of heart?
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## **Day 3      February 24 (Fri)      Romans Chapter 3**

1. How many people can be justified by law?
  2. If we are justified by faith, why do we still uphold the law?
  3. How would you demonstrate to others that you have faith in Jesus?
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## **Day 4      February 25 (Sat)      Romans Chapter 4**

1. What was reckoned as righteousness to Abraham?
  2. How did Abraham become a father of many nations?
  3. When did you experience that God was able to do what God promised?
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# 2023 LENTEN BIBLE CHALLENGE WEEKLY JOURNAL (Week 2)

Your Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## **Day 5      February 27 (Mon)      Romans 5**

1. What does produce hope?
2. What does it mean that “where sin increased, grace abounded all the more”?
3. When did you feel that your action made an impact on the whole community that you belonged to?

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## **Day 6      February 28 (Tues)      Romans 6**

1. Why will sin have no dominion over us?
2. What does it mean that we are slaves to righteousness, leading to sanctification?
3. What is your personal experience of being a slave to righteousness? How does it lead you to sanctification?

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## **Day 7      March 1 (Wed)      Romans 7**

1. Why did we bear fruits of death?
2. Why did Paul cry out, saying, “Wretched person I am!”?
3. When did you feel that you did not do good that you wanted and did evil that you did not want?

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**Day 8            March 2 (Thur)            Romans 8**

1. Why is the mind set on the flesh is hostile to God?
2. How do you know that the Spirit of God dwells in you?
3. What are the evidences that you are led by the Spirit of God?

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**Day 9            March 3 (Fri)            Romans 9**

1. Why did Paul have great sorrow and unceasing anguish in his heart?
2. Who is an example of striving for righteousness on the basis of works and not on the basis of faith?
3. How do you strive for righteousness on the basis of faith?

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**Day 10            March 4 (Sat)            Romans 10**

1. How does one can be led to righteousness and to salvation?
2. Why do they say that the feet of the one who brings Good News are beautiful?
3. With whom did you share the Good News? When and where did it happen?

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# 2023 LENTEN BIBLE CHALLENGE WEEKLY JOURNAL (Week 3)

Your Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## **Day 11      March 6 (Mon)      Romans 11**

1. What did God say to Elijah who said that he alone was left?
2. How will all Israel be saved?
3. What aspect of your life would make the non-believers or Jewish people to be jealous in terms of salvation?

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## **Day 12      March 7 (Tues)      Romans 12**

1. What is our reasonable act of worship?
2. When do you feel that “we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another”?
3. When you read verses 9-21, which advice is difficult for you to follow? Why?

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## **Day 13      March 8 (Wed)      Romans 13**

1. Why do we have to be subject to authorities?
2. How would you “throw off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light?”
3. What makes you realize that “it is already the moment for you to wake from sleep”? What would you do when you “wake from sleep”?

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**Day 14      March 9 (Thur)      Romans 14**

1. Who are “weak in faith”?
2. What should we do if what we eat or drink or do make someone stumble?
3. When did you do something against your own conviction not to shake the faith of others (those who are weak in faith)? How did they others respond to you?

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**Day 15      March 10 (Fri)      Romans 15**

1. Why do we need to “please our neighbors”?
2. Why was Paul going to Jerusalem?
3. What have you done to “please your neighbors”?

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**Day 16      March 11 (Sat)      Romans 16**

1. Who is Phoebe?
2. What are the characteristics of “such people who do not serve our Lord Christ but their own appetites”?
3. If you write a letter to the Central UMC, whom do you want to greet? What is your relationship with them?

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# 2023 LENTEN BIBLE CHALLENGE WEEKLY JOURNAL (Week 4)

Your Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## **Day 17      March 13 (Mon)      Luke 1**

1. Who is the recipient of this letter?
2. Why Zachariah became mute?
3. What was the most unbelievable words or events that you have accepted as God's will? Why did you accept them as God's will?

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## **Day 18      March 14 (Tues)      Luke 2**

1. Where did Joseph go to register his family?
2. When Joseph and Mary gave "a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons" as their sacrifice offerings, what does that tell you about their social class or financial status?
3. What was the most unforgettable memory that you had related to a church or a religious institution of your childhood?

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## **Day 19      March 15 (Wed)      Luke 3**

1. What did John the Baptist proclaim?
2. How can people bear fruits worthy of repentance?
3. What was your baptism story? When and how were you baptized? Or if you are not yet baptized, why? What does baptism mean to you?

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**Day 20      March 16 (Thur)      Luke 4**

1. What were the three tests that the devil tried against Jesus?
2. What was the content of the scroll that Jesus read at the synagogue in Nazareth? Would you summarize it in your own words?
3. Jesus did a preaching, healing, and teaching ministry. Among these three forms of ministry, which one does appeal to you personally?

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**Day 21      March 17 (Fri)      Luke 5**

1. Why did Peter say, "Go away from me, Lord, for I am a sinful man!"?
2. Why did Pharisees begin to question, "Who is this who is speaking blasphemies?" when Jesus said to the paralytic, "Your sins are forgiven!"?
3. When did you hear Jesus saying to you, "Follow me!" What made you to follow Jesus, and what sacrifices did you have to make?

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**Day 22      March 18 (Sat)      Luke 6**

1. What did Jesus do on Sabbath day? Why were all those Pharisees angry?
2. When you read the verses 27-42, which teaching is the most challenging to you? Why?
3. What fruits did you bear in your life in relation with the Kingdom of God?

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# 2023 LENTEN BIBLE CHALLENGE WEEKLY JOURNAL (Week 5)

Your Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## **Day 23      March 20 (Mon)      Luke 7**

1. Whom did the centurion want to heal? Why?
2. Why did Jesus say that “the least in the kingdom of God is greater than John”?
3. When did you hear Jesus saying, “Your sins are forgiven”? What did you do when you hear that?

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## **Day 24      March 21 (Tues)      Luke 8**

1. Why did some women follow Jesus from town to town? Who were they?
2. What is the main point of the parable of the Sower?
3. With whom do you identify yourself among those four people in this chapter? (The Gerasene Demonic, Jairus daughter, A woman who had suffered from flow of blood for twelve years, or Jairus) Why?

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## **Day 25      March 22 (Wed)      Luke 9**

1. What part of the instruction that Jesus gave to the twelve do you have hard time to follow? Why?
2. What did Jesus do to feed the five thousand people with five loaves of bread and two fishes?
3. What are your crosses that you have to carry daily to follow Jesus? What does give you strength to continue?

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**Day 26      March 23 (Thur)      Luke 10**

1. What was the reason why the seventy- two disciples should rejoice?
2. In the Good Samaritan story, with whom do you identify yourself? Why?
3. In Marth and Mary story, whose advocate you are? why?

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**Day 27      March 24 (Fri)      Luke 11**

1. What part of the Lord's prayer is the most challenging to you? Why?
2. What is your personal experience of the power of prayer?
3. Who are blessed and who are cursed in this chapter? Why?

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**Day 28      March 25 (Sat)      Luke 12**

1. Which part of your private life are you afraid of being revealed?
2. How would you be rich toward God? Where do you store up your riches?
3. What are the signs that you can use to interpret the present time?

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# 2023 LENTEN BIBLE CHALLENGE WEEKLY JOURNAL (Week 6)

Your Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## **Day 29      March 27 (Mon)      Luke 13**

1. What are the sins that you need to repent?
2. What is one tree (ministry) that you have to dig around and put manure on it?
3. Which is the best parable of the Kingdom of God (mustard seed, yeast, narrow way, etc.) for you? Why?

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## **Day 30      March 28 (Tues)      Luke 14**

1. If you work on Sundays and skip the Sunday services, what works do you do?
2. What does it mean that you should invite someone to a banquet who cannot repay you? When and how have you done that?
3. What is the cost that you pay to be a disciple of Jesus?

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## **Day 31      March 29 (Wed)      Luke 15**

1. What was the complaint that the Pharisees and scribes had against Jesus?
2. What important things have you lost and found in your life?
3. When did you feel that you are the prodigal son, and when did you feel that you are the older brother?

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**Day 32      March 30 (Thur)      Luke 16**

1. How do you use your money to make friends in the world? What are the examples that you can share?
2. How do people know that you serve God, not money?
3. What is the point of the story of a rich man and Lazarus? How would you apply it to your life?

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**Day 33      March 31 (Fri)      Luke 17**

1. What are your personal examples of causing someone to sin? When did you repent it?
2. When were you angry that you were not recognized for what you had done and given? What did help you to say, "I did what I had to do as a servant of God"?
3. What did Jesus mean when he said that "The kingdom of God is among you!"? When do you feel that the kingdom of God is among us?

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**Day 34      April 1 (Sat)      Luke 18**

1. What are you praying for day and night without losing heart?
2. When do you feel like praying, "God, be merciful to me, a sinner!"?
3. What are the similarities and differences among little children, a rich young man, and a blind beggar?

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# 2023 LENTEN BIBLE CHALLENGE WEEKLY JOURNAL (Week 7)

Your Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## **Day 35      April 3 (Mon)      Luke 19**

1. When did you have such a dramatic joy in Jesus that Zacchaeus had?
2. What emotional reaction do you have when you hear the parable of ten pounds? Why?
3. Why did the chief priests, the scribes, and the leaders of the people keep looking for a way to kill Jesus? Why they could not?

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## **Day 36      April 4 (Tues)      Luke 20**

1. Why did the chief priests and scribes hesitate to answer Jesus' question about John's authority? How did it relate to Jesus' authority?
2. When the chief priests and scribes heard the story of wicked tenants how did they try to trap Jesus? Why did it not work?
3. What is a noticeable characteristics of resurrection life?

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## **Day 37      April 5 (Wed)      Luke 21**

1. What percentage of your income do you give to God? Why?
2. What would happen at the end time? List them chronologically according to Jesus' words in this chapter.
3. How would you prepare for the end time?

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**Day 38      April 6 (Thur)**

**Luke 22**

1. Judas Iscariot planned to betray Jesus. Disciples planned to have a Passover meal with Jesus. What are you planning to do with Jesus now?
2. What are the meaning of bread and wine according to Jesus' own words? How do you perceive them when you take communion at church?
3. In your opinion, who was the worst among these: chief priests and scribes, Peter who denied Jesus three times, people who mocked and beat Jesus, disciples who slept while Jesus was praying and you. Why do you think so?

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**Day 39      April 7 (Fri)**

**Luke 23**

1. Why did Pilate send Jesus to Herod, and why did Herod send Jesus back to Pilate?
2. When did you give in to the public pressure or peer pressure and did something against your own conviction or conscience?
3. With whom do you identify yourself at the last moment of Jesus' life on the Cross? (Simon of Cyrene who took the Cross for Jesus, women who were beating their breasts and wailing for Jesus, people who stood by watching, leaders who scoffed at Jesus, one of the criminals on the cross who mocked Jesus, one of the criminals on the cross who pleaded to Jesus to save him, and Joseph from Arimathea)

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**Day 40      April 8 (Sat)**

**Luke 24**

1. If you meet the angels in an empty tomb, saying that Jesus was resurrected, what would you do?
2. How did the two disciples who walked to Emmaus believe in resurrection of Jesus?
3. Try to explain to the non-believers the reasons why you believe in resurrection of Jesus as persuasive as possible.

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