Special 40 Days Meditation Passages for Our 50th Anniversary

*The Servants of the Word will approach the 40 Days and the Octave of Easter this year as an additional spiritual preparation for our 50th anniversary celebration in August. Each week considers various aspects of our life and mission by means of a key word beginning with “C.”*

**Week Zero: CALL**

The Lord calls us personally by name. These next 40 days are an invitation to go further up and further in.

**Wed. 03/02 | Is. 43:1-4**

The Lord calls us; we are his.

**Thur. 03/03 | Jn. 1:36-39**

“Come and see” — Jesus’ inviting words are echoed by those who become his disciples (cf. Jn 1:45-46, 28-29).

**Fri. 03/04 | Mk. 2:14-17**

Jesus came not to call the righteous but sinners.

**Sat. 03/05 | Is. 55:1-3**

Only the love of God and his word can truly satisfy.

**Week One: CONVERSION**

The Lord’s call to us entails continual repentance and renewal on our part.

**Sun. 03/06 | Lk. 4:1-13**

Jesus is tempted in the desert.

**Mon. 03/07 | Ps. 32**

Awareness of sin and confessing it bring deliverance.

**Tue. 03/08 |** **1 Jn. 1:6-2:2**

We have confidence in confessing our sins to the Lord for he always forgives.

**Wed. 03/09 | Heb. 5:7-10**

We imitate Jesus in “learning obedience through suffering.”

**Thu. 03/10 | Jn. 13:6-11**

Because Jesus washes us (reference to baptism) we are “clean all over.”

**Fri. 03/11 | Jn. 21:15-19**

Being in Galilee again, Jesus calls Peter once more to “follow Me.”

**Sat. 03/12 | Lk. 7:37-50**

He who is forgiven much loves much, so let us realize how greatly we have been forgiven.

**Week two: CONSECRATION**

Our response to the Lord’s call is a consecration involving our “inside” and “outside.” We willingly and wholeheartedly give ourselves to the Lord in undivided devotion.

**Sun. 03/13 | Lk. 9:28b-36**

Jesus is transfigured; this gives the disciples a glimpse of his resurrected glory.

**Mon. 03/14 | 2 Sam. 23:14-17**

The three mighty men’s devotion to David — are we willing to do likewise for the Lord?

**Tue. 03/15 | 1 Tim. 4:7b-16**

Set an example in speech and conduct, in love, faith and purity.

**Wed. 03/16 | Rom. 14:17-19**

Righteousness, peace and joy in the Spirit.

**Thu. 03/17 | Jer. 9:23-24**

Our glory lies in understanding and knowing God.

**Fri. 03/18 | Phil. 3:7-14**

Paul considers all he had before as “skubala” (dung) compared to knowing Christ Jesus.

**Sat. 03/19 | 1 Cor. 7:32-35**

To remain unmarried can allow us to give our undivided devotion to the Lord.

**Week three: COVENANT**

We affirm our covenant — with the Lord, with our brothers, and with our people. While God is ever-faithful and remains true at all times, we on our part need vigilance in faithfulness.

**Sun. 03/20 | Lk. 13:1-9**

Jesus seeks the fruit of repentance and of transformed lives.

**Mon. 03/21 | Gen. 12:1-7**

God promises to bless Abraham and all the families of the earth with and by him.

**Tue. 03/22 | Ex. 19:1-8**

The Lord initiates a committed relationship with his am “segulah”, his treasured people and special possession (v. 5).

**Wed. 03/23 | Ps. 89:1-8**

It is right to praise God mightily for his covenant love.

**Thu. 03/24 | Mic. 6:6-8**

God does not demand our elaborate offerings, only our humble submission.

**Fri. 03/25 | Ps. 103:1-18**

There is great blessing in keeping our covenant with the Lord.

**Sat. 03/26 | 1 Tim. 6:6-12**

Our aim is righteousness, godliness, and so forth. With these we can be more than content.

**Week four: COMMON LIFE**

Living in community is a blessing to be celebrated and safeguarded.

**Sun. 03/27 | Lk. 15:1-3, 11-32**

A man had two sons — both were lost.

**Mon. 03/28 | Ps. 133**

Living in unity with our brothers is a source of great joy.

**Tue. 03/29 | Rom. 12:4-18**

Living in love together involves practical actions.

**Wed. 03/30 | 1 Jn. 3:16-18**

Living in community means laying down our lives for one another.

**Thu. 03/31 | Phil. 1:27-28**

Striving side by side for the faith of the gospel “as one man”.

**Fri. 04/01 | Acts 2:41-47**

The community of those filled with the Spirit live in close harmony and mutual sharing of goods both spiritual and material.

**Sat. 04/02 | Deut. 11:18-25**

We are to pass on our covenant way of life from generation to generation.

**Week five: COMMISSION**

Those who belong to the Lord are sent by him. This is true of prophets and apostles. All disciples of Jesus become his ambassadors and heralds.

**Sun. 04/03 | Jn. 8:1-11**

Jesus and the woman who was caught in adultery.

**Mon. 04/04 | Lk. 9:57-62**

Beyond family and other obligations, we are to proclaim the reign of God.

**Tue. 04/05 | 2 Cor. 5:14-21**

Because Christ’s love compels us, we are his ambassadors in the ministry of reconciliation.

**Wed. 04/06 | Mk. 5:15-20 (for longer reading, include vv. 1-14)**

In being healed and forgiven, we proclaim to others what Jesus has done for us.

**Thu. 04/07 | 1 Cor. 9:16-23**

Necessity is laid upon us to preach the gospel.

**Fri. 04/08 | Ps. 108:1-5**

To evangelize is to sing God’s praises among the nations.

**Sat. 04/09 | Mk. 14:3-9**

Our acts of love and devotion to Jesus become part of the continuing story of the gospel.

**Week six: CHALLENGE**

As the world rejects the Master, so it rejects his servants. Besides this we are beset by our weaknesses and continual sinfulness.

**Sun. 04/10 | Lk. 22:14—23:56**

Last Supper, arrest, trial, and crucifixion.

**Mon. 04/11 | Jn. 17:11-19**

Jesus prays for his disciples who are “in the world” but not “of the world.”

**Tue. 04/12 | 1 Pet. 4:12-19**

We should not be surprised or overwhelmed by our ordeals and sufferings.

**Wed. 04/13 | Jn. 16:20-33**

We might weep and lament now, but our sorrow will turn into joy.

**Thu. 04/14 | Jn. 13:1-20**

Jesus washing his disciples’ feet foreshadows his complete laying down of his life for us.

**Fri. 04/15 | Jn. 13:21-38**

Jesus knew one disciple would betray him and another would deny him. He knows our weaknesses yet he loves us “to the end.”

**Sat. 04/16 | Ps. 62:1-8**

Our soul waits in silence for the revelation of Christ’s victory over death.

**Easter Week: CELEBRATION**

Jesus’ victory means our salvation, and our joy knows no bounds.

**Sun. 04/17 | Jn. 20:1-9**

The tomb is empty.

**Mon. 04/18 | Jn. 20:11-18**

Mary of Magdala’s sorrow turns to joy.

**Tue. 04/19 | Jn. 20:19-31**

We, too, confess Jesus as Lord and God.

**Wed. 04/20 | Ps. 118**

A triumphant Psalm of the Risen One.

**Thu. 04/21 | Rev. 21:1-7**

Joined to Jesus in the Spirit, we anticipate life in the New Jerusalem where there is no more weeping, pain, and death.

**Fri. 04/22 | Ps. 16**

Jesus rejoices that his Father will not leave him among the dead but will show him the path of life.

**Sat. 04/23 | Rom. 8:31-39**

If God is for us, who is against us?

**Sun. 04/24 | Rev. 5:1-14**

Who is worthy? The Lion of the tribe of Judah has conquered and now receives praise equal to God.