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**2021 Lenten Fast and Scriptures**

The following information is provided to guide you through the 2021 Lenten Season with information on Fasting and scriptures for reflection during the Lent.

***May you have a Blessed Lent!***

**Instructions for Fasting**

**Step 1: Assessment**

What holds too much power in your life? What has authority over you that displaces other things? It can be different things for different people, but one of the primary reasons for fasting is to Re-order our lives after the example of Christ. Before you fast, take a moment to think about what you need to fast from. What is keeping you from a deeper relationship with Christ? What is keeping you from a deeper relationship with one another? Write it down and make a plan on how you are going to do this, and what way you are going to grow closer to God instead of giving time, money, and effort to this other thing.

**Five helpful tips on how to fast.**

1) *Tell people with whom you primarily interact with about your fast and how they can help.* This is not the same as announcing it on social media, i.e. making a public spectacle of a religious practice. But, your fast isn’t only going to affect you. If you are fasting from eating meat, for example, let people know who you are going to have dinner with about your fast. It might even spark a conversation that can have a significant impact on their lives!

2) *Remove the Temptations.* To put it in terms of fasting from food, you would not go to dinner at your favorite restaurant if you cannot eat anything there. In almost everything in our lives, we have systems and machinations put in place to give us what we want. If you have notifications, automations, habits reinforced by a certain group of people, you might need to take a break from those things. Make it easier on yourself to succeed rather than view this as a punishment.

3) *Journal, don’t count points.* Fasting from food is not a diet plan, it is a spiritual practice utilized to spur spiritual growth. When we blur the lines of these things, we are missing the point of why we are fasting in the first place. Journaling is great because it is offering reflection on what you are doing, not counting the cost or benefits.

4) *Have an exit strategy.* A fast is not designed to last forever, but is instead a tool to reprioritize things in our lives. However, a hoped for outcome of fasting is not to go back to the way we always did things, but to undergo change and become more like Christ. So, make a plan of what that will look like.

5) *Dedicate to prayer and journaling.* This will keep you focused and purposeful in your fast. So, while it has become a trend to add something instead of taking something away, it is suggested that what you add is prayer and journaling, not something else when fasting is what we are trying to do.

**STEP 2: Fast Scriptures for each day of Lent.**

**February**

17th: Luke 4:1-3

 18th: Luke 4: 4-5

 19th: Luke 4: 6-8

 20th: Luke 4: 9-10

 22nd: Luke 4: 11-13

 23rd: Matthew 6: 16-18

 24th: Luke 24: 36-37

 25th: Luke 24: 38-39

 26th: Luke 24: 40-41

 27th: Luke 24: 42-43

**March**

1st: Acts 10:1-2

 2nd: Acts 10: 3-5

 3rd: Acts 10: 6-8

 4th: Acts 10: 9-10

 5th: Acts 10: 11-12

 6th: Acts 10: 13-14

 8th: Acts 10: 15-16

 9th: Acts 10: 17-18

 10th: Acts 10: 19-20

 11th: Acts 10: 21-23

 12th: Acts 10: 24-26

 13th: Acts 10: 27-29

 15th: Acts 10: 30-31

 16th: Acts 10: 32-33

 17th: Acts 10: 34-37

 18th: Acts 10: 38-40

 19th: Acts 10: 41-43

 20th: Acts 10: 44-46

 22nd: Acts 10: 47-48

 23rd: Psalm 63: 1-2

 24th: Psalm 63: 3-4

 25th: Psalm 63: 5-8

 26th: Psalm 63: 9-11

 27th: Acts 11: 1-3

 29th: Acts 11: 4-6

 30th: Acts 11: 7-10

 31st: Acts 11: 11-14

**April**

1st: Acts 11: 15-16

 2nd: Acts 11: 17-18

 3rd: Mark 2: 18-20

**April 4, 2021 – Easter – Resurrection Sunday!**