160 Days of Prayer

During the next 160 days, let us pray that God will lead us, touch our hearts with His love and help us to learn more about Him. We will learn how His special people came about, were changed and became a great nation. Then we will see this great nation fall into ruins because they turned away from Him.

The Old Testament is a school master and history lesson. There is so much useful knowledge in the Old Testament that we as a church need to understand more fully.

The time required to read through the Old Testament at about 5 chapters a day is 160 days. This will be a long term process but one that can be exceedingly beneficial to those who are willing to apply themselves to this task for this length of time. The Old Testament is approximately four times longer than the New Testament and so this study will be four times longer than the 40 days we spent in the New Testament.

Day 1 - Monday September 12

<u>Today's Challenge</u>: Plan a time each day to use this booklet. Mark it on your calendar. Put it in a place that is visible. Place your Bible next to the booklet. Make a commitment to God to give your best to Him for the next 160 days. Take the first step toward a great walk with the Lord and get ready for God to bless you in amazing ways.

Today's Bible Reading: Genesis 1-5

<u>Today's Prayer</u>: Pray for the patience and perseverance to complete this great challenge.

<u>Today's Devotional</u>: Use the space below to journal your thoughts about this 160-day challenge. How do you feel about it? What do you hope God will do in you? How can you use the lesson from today to help you in your walk with the Lord?

Journal:

Day 2 - Tuesday September 13

<u>Today's Challenge</u>: Think about races, such as the tortoise and the hare. Slow and steady will win a long race. To be better Christians we need to grow in our steadfastness and commitment to the Lord. Be committed to becoming a better Christian, learn from your mistakes. Encourage a brother or a sister to be strong in the face of trials. Visit, call or send a note to someone who could use a kind word.

Today's Bible Reading: Genesis 6-11

<u>Today's Prayer</u>: Ask the Lord for strength so you can be a steady and profitable worker for the Lord.

<u>Today's Devotional</u>: The journey of a thousand miles begins with one step. When you think the problem is too large to conquer, take it on a bit at a time. Think positive thoughts and be assured that any trouble can be solved by time, prayer and the help of the Lord.

Day 3 - Wednesday September 14

<u>Today's Challenge</u>: Seek to be closer to God. To know God is to be His in mind and body. Think about ways you can bring yourself closer to Him.

Today's Bible Reading: Genesis 12-17

<u>Today's Prayer</u>: Ask for the Lord's help in coming to love Him more dearly.

<u>Today's Devotional</u>: The Lord is your God. He is like the mighty oak that never falls. Think about your life and the one thing in it that will never fail, never die and always be there for you. Be still and know that your God truly is the rock of ages.

Journal:

Day 4 - Thursday September 15

<u>Today's Challenge</u>: God made a covenant with the Jews, they were to be His people and He was to be their God. Through Jesus we also have a covenant with God. Today's challenge is to think about your part in this agreement and what we must do to serve Him properly.

Today's Bible Reading: Genesis 18-22

<u>Today's Prayer</u>: Ask the Lord for the strength and determination to carry out His will.

<u>Today's Devotional</u>: Never give up, if at first you don't succeed pray, pray, pray. Look at Sarah who was barren for so many years, even though she thought that she would never have any children she was able to conceive through the blessing of the Lord. Not only did she have a child, she became the mother of a nation that became more numerous that the stars in the sky. Take some time to journal your thoughts on the statement that "all things are possible through the might of the Lord."

Day 5- Friday September 16

<u>Today's Challenge</u>: Abraham arranged for Isaac to marry someone other than the local women. He wanted his son to marry a woman who would be a good influence in his life. Are there things in your life that are in opposition to living a Christian life, if so what are they and how can you go about removing these things from your life?

Today's Bible Reading: Genesis 23-28

Today's Prayer: Pray for the physically and spiritually weak.

<u>Today's Devotional</u>: Eliezer showed by his actions that he was a faithful servant to Abraham, so should we also be faithful servants by following the wishes of our heavenly Father. Journal your thoughts on what being a faithful servant means.

Journal:

Day 6- Saturday September 17

<u>Today's Challenge</u>: The way of truth is always the best path to follow. When Rachel leaves her father's household she steals some items and then lies to her father about it. God wants total honesty in His people. For today tell nothing but the whole truth, no deception, no half-truths, but only the words that you would say if the Lord were with you, because He is.

Today's Bible Reading: Genesis 29-34

<u>Today's Prayer</u>: Pray for an open and honest heart.

<u>Today's Devotional</u>: Honesty is the best policy. Some people say religion and politics don't mix. As the children of God, all good things are a vital part of our religion and God is the final authority in all things.

Day 7- Sunday September 18

<u>Today's Challenge</u>: Let us be a people free from envy and strife. Joseph's brothers hated him because he was their father's favorite son. Many people feel slighted by the simplest things. Today's challenge is to treat all people the same no matter what their past or their problems.

Today's Bible Reading: Genesis 35-40

<u>Today's Prayer</u>: Pray for the ability to live at peace with all people as much as is possible.

<u>Today's Devotional</u>: "Lord, help us all to love unconditionally." Let us be a people with one purpose and one heart. Help us Lord to love all people as You love us. Write down three people you love dearly and one person that is just hard to love and pray for help in loving all the same.

Journal:

Day 8 - Monday September 19

<u>Today's Challenge</u>: Put God first in your life. Commit to spending at least 10 minutes in prayer when you start your day. Find a quiet spot and talk to God. If you are in a relationship take time to pray with them and grow together in God's love.

Today's Bible Reading: Genesis 41-46

<u>Today's Prayer</u>: Pray for spiritual growth.

<u>Today's Devotional</u>: Start a personal prayer list and pray for these people. You can use the church bulletin as an aid. Whatever means you choose to use, write the names down and pray for those people listed every day and watch God put your prayers to work.

Day 9 - Tuesday September 20

<u>Today's Challenge</u>: As Jacob was about to die he blessed his son. Our heavenly Father in similar fashion has blessed us through the death of His Son. Think about all the blessings that have been given to you and share from your wealth with those who are in need.

Today's Bible Reading: Genesis 47-50

<u>Today's Prayer</u>: Thank the Lord for the blessing of His Son who died for us.

<u>Today's Devotional</u>: Today is the first day of the rest of your life. Thank God for all the good things He has given you and remember that what may seem like a bad thing today may turn out to be a blessing. Our Lord knows the future and can help us in ways we don't understand. Keep a positive attitude and know that all things work for the good of those that love the Lord.

Journal:

Day 10 - Wednesday September 21

<u>Today's Challenge</u>: As Moses had to flee from Egypt to save himself; at times we also must flee from spiritual dangers in order to save our souls. If there is something in your life that is pulling you away from God, the best course of action may be to get as far away from it as possible. Take one step at a time and give your best efforts to the Lord.

Today's Bible Reading: Exodus 1-5

<u>Today's Prayer</u>: "Lord, help us to keep our eyes on the goal in the presence of worldly distractions."

<u>Today's Devotional</u>: The devil is as a roaring lion that seeks not only to destroy our earthly bodies but our souls as well. Bad habits and addictions are costing us and our families so much each day. Be wary of the devil's ways; keep watch and be strong in faith and prayer.

Day 11 - Thursday September 22

<u>Today's Challenge</u>: No matter what your age, your work is not finished while you are on this earth. You cannot retire from the work of the Lord. When you leave your home today, take your Bible with you like a solider going on patrol takes his armor and sword with him. So as you go into the world this day, go armed with the sword of truth and the armor of the gospel.

Today's Bible Reading: Exodus 6-11

<u>Today's Prayer</u>: "Help us Lord, to always be ready to give an answer to anyone who may inquire about what we believe."

<u>Today's Devotional</u>: Take this opportunity to reflect about your life. Are you a dedicated servant to the Lord? Do you put God first in all things? There are many parts to the body of Christ and many different jobs that need doing. Find your place in the church and give your best effort in His service.

Journal:

Day 12 - Friday September 23

<u>Today's Challenge</u>: When Moses led the Israelites out of Egypt they were so happy to be free, but it didn't take them long to start complaining and to turn against the God that had freed them. It is easy for people to forget the good things the Lord has done for them. Today wear your positive attitude like a coat to protect you from the fears and worries of life.

Today's Bible Reading: Exodus 12-17

Today's Prayer: "Help us Lord to be cheerful in the knowledge that You are with us always."

<u>Today's Devotional</u>: Use the space below to write down your thoughts about the way God has led you to this point in your life. How can you improve on your spiritual life? If you could summarize your life's story in a few words what would you say?

Day 13 - Saturday September 24

<u>Today's Challenge</u>: Abraham walked with God because he believed and his faith in the Lord made him right with God. Now we need to believe in God and that He will take care of us. Today take all your worries and cares and give them to the Lord and have faith that all will be well.

Today's Bible Reading: Exodus 18-23

<u>Today's Prayer</u>: "Dear Lord, help me to have faith in You at all times."

<u>Today's Devotional</u>: Write a short paragraph on what faith can do in your life and how it can help you to reach out to others who are without faith.

Journal:

Day 14 - Sunday September 25

<u>Today's Challenge</u>: God gave Moses specific instructions on how to build His Tabernacle. God has also given us specific instructions on how to live our lives. Read and study your Bible to ensure that that your life is being lived according to God's plan.

Today's Bible Reading: Exodus 24-29

<u>Today's Prayer</u>: Pray for clarity of mind to be able to follow the Lord's plan for us.

<u>Today's Devotional</u>: Are God's intentions for us hidden? Are we able to understand His intentions for us? Journal your thoughts on what are the most important things in your life.

Day 15 - Monday September 26

<u>Today's Challenge</u>: When Moses went up on the mountain it was only a short time before the Jewish people began to turn from God to idols. Do we have idols that get between us and God today? Take some time to think about idols and their place in your life.

Today's Bible Reading: Exodus 30-35

<u>Today's Prayer</u>: Pray for a pure life that puts nothing before the Lord.

<u>Today's Devotional</u>: Here am I Lord send me. Let your worship be pure and honest. Approach the Lord with an open heart and if there is anything in your life that keeps you from His service, lay it down at the foot of the cross.

Journal:

Day 16 – Tuesday September 27

<u>Today's Challenge</u>: Ready yourself to be a blessing to others today. Jesus was a trailblazer; He did things differently than anyone who had come before Him. He was a great and perfect example, now you need to be a good example to others and follow in the Master's footsteps.

Today's Bible Reading: Exodus 36-40

<u>Today's Prayer</u>: Pray for opportunities to be helpful to those around you.

<u>Today's Devotional</u>: Use the space below to journal your thoughts about service. What would Jesus do today if He were with you? (Remember- - He is!)

Day 17 - Wednesday September 28

<u>Today's Challenge</u>: When the Israelites made a grain offering they were required to put salt on the offering as a symbol of their agreement that would last forever. Salt was very important to people at this time in history. Salt was used as a seasoning and a preservative on food. Let us all add the Lord's spiritual salt to our lives so we may persevere in doing what is right in the sight of the Lord.

Today's Bible Reading: Leviticus 1-5

Today's Prayer: Pray for guidance in our lives.

<u>Today's Devotional</u>: Give thanks to the Lord, for unlike men when God makes a promise, He keeps it. Journal your thoughts on the promises God has made to you and what you need to do to keep the covenant you have made with the Lord.

Journal:

Day 18 - Thursday September 29

<u>Today's Challenge</u>: The Bible tells us it is better to have little and be in the right than to have much and be in the wrong. Today is a time to look within and make sure all your dealings are fair and honest. A good Christian does the Lord's will in the church building and in the meeting room.

Today's Bible Reading: Leviticus 6-11

Today's Prayer: Thank the Lord for His gift of the Holy Spirit.

<u>Today's Devotional</u>: At times we can lose sight of what God wants for us, but we have the Bible and our brothers in Christ to help us along our way. Journal your thoughts on what helps you the most on your journey through life.

Day 19 - Friday September 30

<u>Today's Challenge</u>: The Bible tells us to live one day at a time and not to worry about tomorrow. Today's challenge is to focus all your strength and energy on today and living for Christ and let tomorrow take care of itself.

Today's Bible Reading: Leviticus 12-17

<u>Today's Prayer</u>: "Lord, give me the strength to change the things I can, the courage to leave alone the things I can't and the wisdom to know the difference." [Serenity Prayer]

<u>Today's Devotional</u>: Today is the first day of the rest of your life. Journal your thoughts about what your life would be like if you could put all your efforts into today and let the Lord take care of tomorrow.

Journal:

Day 20 - Saturday October 1

<u>Today's Challenge</u>: As a child is innocent, we also should strive to be. Let us be as innocent as doves but as wise as vipers.

Today's Bible Reading: Leviticus 18-23

<u>Today's Prayer</u>: Pray for wisdom for God has told us that He will give to those who seek.

<u>Today's Devotional</u>: Walk with the Lord is not an easy thing. At times, events and people try to lead us astray. For every problem we have an answer in the form of Jesus Christ the Rock of ages. What is your greatest problem in life? Write down thoughts about the troubles you will face today and how the Lord's words can give you strength.

Day 21 - Sunday October 2

<u>Today's Challenge</u>: Take some time today to send someone an encouraging message. Tell them something thoughtful and positive. And try to use scripture in your message.

Today's Bible Reading: Leviticus 24-27

<u>Today's Prayer</u>: Pray that the words you sent in your message will lift the spirits of the receiver and aid them in their walk through life.

<u>Today's Devotional</u>: Make a list of people that have been encouraging to your life. Take time to thank God for these people and the effect they have had on you and others.

Journal:

Day 22 - Monday October 3

<u>Today's Challenge</u>: We all need discipline in our lives. A child that has never been disciplined is unruly and offensive. Adults will be the same if they do not have discipline in their lives. Let us be confident and steady so we will be stronger in our faith.

Today's Bible Reading: Numbers 1-5

<u>Today's Prayer</u>: Pray for those who do not know our God.

<u>Today's Devotional</u>: Life is an ongoing process and each day is different. Take each day as it comes and always be looking for an opportunity to serve the Lord. Be an encourager and reach out to those who are struggling.

Day 23 - Tuesday October 4

<u>Today's Challenge</u>: The Book of Numbers is mostly about offerings. In the Old Testament all kind of offerings are described. Today we don't need to make an offering from the blood of animals because Christ gave himself as the perfect offering on the cross. Today is a good day to look at your life and thank God for the gift of eternal life through the blood of Jesus.

Today's Bible Reading: Numbers 6-11

Today's Prayer: Pray for help in living our lives as a sacrifice to the Lord.

<u>Today's Devotional</u>: The Jewish Nation lived under the rules of God. We as members of Christ's body are God's chosen and must also live under the rules that have been set down before us. Take a few minutes to journal your thoughts today about the similarities between the Jewish Nation and our "Christian" Nation.

Journal:

Day 24 - Wednesday October 5

<u>Today's Challenge</u>: When the Israelites were about to enter the land of Canaan they sent out twelve spies. Two of the spies came back with positive reports but the other ten had negative reports. Because the people of Israel believed the negative reports they had to spend the next forty years wandering in the desert. Let us today show our faith in God by living each day in the knowledge that the Lord will be with us and take care of us.

Today's Bible Reading: Numbers 12-17

<u>Today's Prayer</u>: "Help us Lord to look at the things of this world in a positive way."

<u>Today's Devotional</u>: When the Israelites put their fear of the unknown above their faith in God, they turned from His will and had to then pay a terrible price for their failings. Journal your thoughts about how we can let our fear come between us and the will of the Lord.

Day 25 - Thursday October 6

<u>Today's Challenge</u>: As we read in Numbers, Moses because of his actions, was also not allowed to enter the promised land. As the old saying goes, pride comes before a fall. The Lord loves a humble spirit. Today's challenge is to be humble from sun up to sun down. In all your actions today try to be humble and Godly.

Today's Bible Reading: Numbers 18-23

Today's Prayer: Pray for protection from the evil one and his schemes.

<u>Today's Devotional</u>: What does a truly humble person act like? Can we give up our selfish desires and become a person who is truly humble in the sight of God? Journal your thoughts on what you can do to become a humble person.

Journal:

Day 26 - Friday October 7

<u>Today's Challenge</u>: Our words are powerful. They help us to communicate and influence the lives of others. The Bible encourages us to season our words with love and speak the truth in all things. Determine in your mind today to speak nothing more than love will allow.

Today's Bible Reading: Numbers 24-30

<u>Today's Prayer</u>: Pray for the blessings of God to be poured out on those who lead and serve.

<u>Today's Devotional</u>: Why does God deserve praise? Use the space below to journal your thoughts about the magnificence of God and then use these words to form a prayer to Him.

Day 27 - Saturday October 8

<u>Today's Challenge</u>: The book of Numbers deals with the history of Israel. The Israelites had to spend forty years wandering in the desert because of sin. As the old saying goes, those who do not learn from history are bound to repeat it. Think about your past, learn from it and don't make the same mistakes again.

Today's Bible Reading: Numbers 31-36

Today's Prayer: "Help us Lord to see with clear eyes and an open heart."

<u>Today's Devotional</u>: As time goes by we make mistakes and hopefully learn from them. Let the experiences of the past help shape the way you manage problems in the future. Thank the Lord for His help in our lives and praise Him for His great mercy and Love.

Journal:

Day 28 – Sunday October 9

<u>Today's Challenge</u>: As the Israelites began to march toward the Promised Land they had their first battles with the people who lived along their path. The Lord was with them so they gained victory after victory. The Israelites won these battles because of their faith and belief in the Lord's strength. In your life, put the Lord first in all you do and see if the day doesn't turn out better.

Today's Bible Reading: Deuteronomy 1-5

Today's Prayer: Pray for guidance so that your faith will be put to good use.

<u>Today's Devotional</u>: In the verses we are reading today you can see that Moses is trying to foster an increased respect for God's laws. Moses reminds the people of the consequences they had suffered when they failed to follow the law. He tells them of the law's power to bring them into a closer relationship with the Lord. Journal your thoughts about how living the way the Lord has told us to live can make our earthly lives better.

Day 29 – Monday October 10

<u>Today's Challenge</u>: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul and all your strength. Teach these commands to your children and talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lay down and when you get up. Write them down and tie them to your hands as a sign. Tie them to your forehead to remind you and write them on your doors and gates" Deuteronomy 6:5-9

Today's Bible Reading: Deuteronomy 6-11

<u>Today's Prayer</u>: Pray for the love of the Lord to fill Your life.

<u>Today's Devotional</u>: The Lord gave the Israelites good land in which to live. He reminded them to stay faithful to Him after they had conquered the land and were living in a time of plenty. But the Israelites began to worship other gods and leave the ways of the Lord. This type of behavior seems to happen often when people become rich and proud of their accomplishments. These people think they have succeeded by the work of their own hands and no longer need God. Does this behavior remind you of our country today? Write down your thoughts on the state of our nation as it is today.

Journal:

Day 30 – Tuesday October 11

<u>Today's Challenge</u>: Some people love to give advice and most people don't want to hear it. The Lord gives us commands and tells us how to live. These commands are not advice that may be followed one day and forgotten the next. Today's challenge is to spend time in study so you may know what the will of the Lord is for you.

Today's Bible Reading: Deuteronomy 12-17

<u>Today's Prayer</u>: Pray for the heart of a servant.

<u>Today's Devotional</u>: We serve a living God and are here on this earth to be His messengers. The job of sharing the gospel is not one that can be taken or left as we see fit. Let us not leave undone the good works the Lord has left for us to do.

Day 31 – Wednesday October 12

<u>Today's Challenge</u>: As we see in the Old Testament the Jewish people are waiting for their heavenly King to come. When Jesus did come He came to seek and save the lost and not to set an earthly kingdom but a heavenly one. Use today as a time to give glory and honor to our King and Savior.

Today's Bible Reading: Deuteronomy 18-23

<u>Today's Prayer</u>: Pray for those who are seeking the Lord.

<u>Today's Devotional</u>: Use the space below to journal your thoughts about our King. What does the term King of Kings mean to you? God is always with us and is ever waiting to aid us in our daily struggles. He is the great I Am.

Journal:

Day 32 – Thursday October 13

<u>Today's Challenge</u>: In our lives we face many obstacles. Some things are said to be blessings and others are thought of as problems. Moses told the Israelites to follow God's laws and they would be blessed. Let today be a day for counting blessings, write down three things in your life that are a blessing and then thank God for them.

Today's Bible Reading: Deuteronomy 24-29

<u>Today's Prayer</u>: Thank the Lord for all the blessings He has poured out on you.

<u>Today's Devotional</u>: At times we may have so many blessings that we fail to realize just how blessed we really are. The Lord has blessed us with His words, His love through Jesus the Christ and with peace that passes all understanding. Open your eyes and see all the good things you have been given then share with those who are in need.

Day 33 – Friday October 14

<u>Today's Challenge</u>: Anger can lead us into a dark place. The Lord has told us to not let anger control our lives. If you find yourself getting angry take a few seconds and think about how Jesus would react in your place.

Today's Bible Reading: Deuteronomy 30-33

<u>Today's Prayer</u>: Pray for patience and a spirit that is slow to anger and quick to forgive.

<u>Today's Devotional</u>: Moses was unable to cross the Jordan River because he became angry at the Israelite people and this anger led him to disobey God's instructions. Write down some ways anger can lead you to disobey the teachings of the Lord.

Journal:

Day 34 – Saturday October 15

<u>Today's Challenge</u>: As Moses is about to die, he passes the role of leadership on to Joshua. Joshua becomes a great leader and general and leads the Israelites into the promised land. Today we as a church need to be training our children to be leaders in the church. During the next week seek out a young person who has shown leadership in our congregation and encourage them.

Today's Bible Reading: Joshua 1-5

<u>Today's Prayer</u>: Pray for the younger members of our church family.

<u>Today's Devotional</u>: Leaders are not born. They are made or broken. Our leaders need to be strong enough to make the hard decisions even when those decisions aren't popular. Let us as a church family always strive for what is right and good in the sight of the Lord. So we must get involved. If you see a good program of work in the church, become a part of it and work tirelessly for the Lord.

Day 35 – Sunday October 16

<u>Today's Challenge</u>: Jesus tells us that we are His special people and when the world gets to be too much for us we have Him to lean on. Today's challenge is to put away your fears. When you feel fear creeping into your life, think about the love that Jesus has for you and how there is no place for fear in your life.

Today's Bible Reading: Joshua 6-11

<u>Today's Prayer</u>: Pray for the love of Jesus to fill your heart with hope and good cheer.

<u>Today's Devotional</u>: What do you have to be cheerful about today? Write down three things you are looking forward to today. If you cannot think of anything then open your eyes and look around and see what beauty the Lord has put before you.

Journal:

Day 36 – Monday October 17

<u>Today's Challenge</u>: Seek first the kingdom of God and know that all the other things in life that you need will be given to you. Today's challenge is simple, put God first in everything you do and let Him take control of your life.

Today's Bible Reading: Joshua 12-17

Today's Prayer: Pray for wisdom and understanding.

<u>Today's Devotional</u>: After you have prayed for wisdom, think about what is of true value in your life. Write down five of your greatest treasures if this life; It can be people, places, animals, or just anything that is of value to you. Now look at your list and praise the Lord for being so good to you.

Day 37 – Tuesday October 18

<u>Today's Challenge</u>: Unity is a difficult thing to achieve. We tend to be selfish beings that hesitate to do things unless there is some personal gain involved. This is one of the reasons you have been challenged throughout this journey to practice selfless acts. Jesus was completely selfless, and He is our greatest example of love. Do you have someone in your life that you love deeply? Do something selfless for that person today.

Today's Bible Reading: Joshua 18-24

<u>Today's Prayer</u>: Ask God for unity within our congregation.

<u>Today's Devotional</u>: Use the space below to make a personal prayer list. Make your prayers for these people an everyday event. Prayer and a selfless attitude will help us to grow strong in the Lord.

Journal:

Day 38 - Wednesday October 19

<u>Today's Challenge</u>: When the Israelites were conquering the Promised Land, they did not take all the lands the Lord had given them. God's plan was for all the original inhabitants to be removed from these lands because their presence there would lead the Israelites to worship other gods. Today's challenge is to examine your life and remove anything that might separate you from God.

Today's Bible Reading: Judges 1-5

<u>Today's Prayer</u>: Thank the Lord for the freedom to worship as you see fit.

<u>Today's Devotional</u>: We have so much going on in our lives today. There is so much we think we need to see and to do. Ask the Lord to open the eyes of your heart so that you can see the truth of things and have the courage to do what is right and not what is popular.

Day 39 - Thursday October 20

<u>Today's Challenge</u>: Words that are quickly spoken without thought can be very dangerous. Jephthah made a vow to God that if he were victorious in battle, he would sacrifice the first thing to come out of the door when he returned home. His only child and beloved daughter was the first thing to run out and greet him. How much anguish could we save ourselves if we would just think before we speak? Today's challenge is to think before speaking and to consider others feeling before our own.

Today's Bible Reading: Judges 6-11

<u>Today's Prayer</u>: Ask the Lord for help in controlling our tongues.

<u>Today's Devotional</u>: The tongue is an evil fire that can set ablaze the whole world. To keep one's tongue in check is indeed a difficult task. Write down some things that will help you to be more loving and tolerant when speaking to difficult people.

Journal:

Day 40 - Friday October 21

<u>Today's Challenge</u>: The word of God should be a balm to us. A balm is a soothing ointment that is used to heal wounds. We all have wounds from life both physically, mentally and spiritually. Use the words of God as a spiritual balm to heal the wounds that you will receive in life.

Today's Bible Reading: Judges 12-17

Today's Prayer: Pray for the Lord to heal you both physically and spiritually.

<u>Today's Devotional</u>: Think of someone who has been a great influence in your life. What did this person do for you? Write their name down then thank God for putting them in your life.

Day 41 – Saturday October 22

<u>Today's Challenge</u>: The tribe of Benjamin was almost destroyed by sin. They had wandered so far from God's teachings that they committed terrible sins against a fellow Israelite and had to face the consequences of that sin. Let us as Christians seek to remove even the smallest of sins from our lives so we may be pure in the sight of God.

Today's Bible Reading: Judges 18-21

Today's Prayer: Pray for purity in our lives

<u>Today's Devotional</u>: Today is a good day to think about things that are eternal. Don't let the problems of the day cloud your vision. Think instead about the true mission in our life. Keep your heart free from sin so that you may be a better servant of God. Write down your thoughts about how Jesus has freed you from the burden of sin.

Journal:

Day 42 – Sunday October 23

<u>Today's Challenge</u>: Today's reading is in Ruth. This is a story about the power of love to overcome the problems we face. Think about the person that you love the most in this world, then thank God for putting that person in your life.

Today's Bible Reading: Ruth 1-4

<u>Today's Prayer</u>: "Help us to love others more than we love ourselves."

<u>Today's Devotional</u>: "So these three things continue forever: faith, hope and love, and the greatest of these is love". Hence, journal your thoughts today considering how love has a part in your life and how you can use this love to change the lives of others.

Day 43 – Monday October 24

<u>Today's Challenge</u>: People who are truly seeking the Lord will want to be involved with church related work. Talk freely to people about how God is a blessing in your life. Challenge yourself to be open and honest with others about your life and remember God is good all of the time!

Today's Bible Reading: I Samuel 1-5

<u>Today's Prayer</u>: Pray for hope and freedom through Jesus the Christ.

<u>Today's Devotional</u>: Use the space below to journal your thoughts about your week. What have you accomplished? What obstacles have you overcome? How is God helping you to live a better life?

Journal:

Day 44 – Tuesday October 25

<u>Today's Challenge</u>: The Israelites wanted an earthly king because the countries around them had Kings. The Lord told Samuel that the Israelites had not rejected him but their God. Do we today look at the world around us and want to be like it? Challenge yourself today to live in the world but not a part of it.

Today's Bible Reading: I Samuel 6-11

Today's Prayer: Pray for strength so you may live pure lives in the sight of the Lord.

<u>Today's Devotional</u>: If you seek the kingdom of God first in your life all the other things that you need will be given to you also. God will give us all we need, but not necessarily all we want. Journal your thoughts about what you need versus what you want.

Day 45 – Wednesday October 26

<u>Today's Challenge</u>: David was a man after God's own heart. He wrote many Psalms asking the lord for forgiveness and help. Today's challenge is for you to ask the Lord for help. If you have a problem, there is no better help than the Lord because the power of prayer is far beyond our understanding.

Today's Bible Reading: I Samuel 12-17

<u>Today's Prayer</u>: Pray for those in our Church family that are struggling.

<u>Today's Devotional</u>: If you are having a problem that is causing you to stumble, write the problem down on a slip of paper, then ask God to help you. Now tear up that slip of paper and throw it away. When you are tempted, remember how you were able to throw away that slip of paper and with God's help you will be able to discard the problem also. Journal all the problems you can recall that God has taken away from you.

Journal:

Day 46 – Thursday October 27

<u>Today's Challenge</u>: Saul was jealous of David because the people loved him so much. Jealousy can be a terrible emotion. If you find yourself becoming jealous of someone, you need to realize we are all blessed in different ways. Instead of being jealous over what you don't have, thank God for all you do have.

Today's Bible Reading: I Samuel 18-23

<u>Today's Prayer</u>: Pray that the Lord will bless you with a humble spirit.

<u>Today's Devotional</u>: Have you ever heard of the term "a green eyed monster?" Envy is one of the devil's favorite tools. It can make one hate a friend and do terrible things. Another old saying is to "never begrudge another man his good fortune". Journal your thoughts about how jealousy can tear people, families and congregations apart.

Day 47 – Friday October 28

<u>Today's Challenge</u>: When you look at your life, what do you see? This is a good day to consider who am I, what are my goals in life and who is my master? Try to find a way to get involved in your church. Be a leader, take on an extra project and ignore the critics. Stand tall and be the Lord's instrument of change in your community.

Today's Bible Reading: I Samuel 24-31

Today's Prayer: Pray for God to bless you with the gift of kindness.

<u>Today's Devotional</u>: Use the space below to journal your thoughts about serving God. What could you do to improve your role as a servant?

Journal:

Day 48 – Saturday October 29

<u>Today's Challenge</u>: When David hears that Saul and Jonathan have died he was very sad. Even though Saul had wronged him, David still loved Saul. When people mistreat and hate you today it would be very easy to hate them in turn, but God wants us to love all men; even our enemies.

Today's Bible Reading: II Samuel 1-5

Today's Prayer: Pray for the lost who hate you because you love God.

<u>Today's Devotional</u>: Many powerful people look down on us who try to follow the Lord's teachings. They call us backward and stupid and naive. Take this time and write down a few scriptures where the Bible tells us the world will hate us for belonging to Him.

Day 49 – Sunday October 30

<u>Today's Challenge</u>: Challenge yourself to see past the ordinary. Jesus could look into the heart of a person and see the good inside of them. Choose to see the goodness in people and try to help them by having a positive attitude toward them.

Today's Bible Reading: II Samuel 6-11

<u>Today's Prayer</u>: Give thanks to God for the freedom you have in Jesus.

<u>Today's Devotional</u>: Use the space below to write your thoughts about the great king David. How did the world see him? David was a man after God's own heart but he still failed to lead a faultless life; but he always repented when he realized he had fallen into sin.

Journal:

Day 50 – Monday October 31

<u>Today's Challenge</u>: During David's reign as king, he fought in many wars. Most of the nations around Israel wanted to destroy his country. We today are in a never ending battle against sin. Today's challenge is to be determined to constantly battle against sin wherever you may find it.

Today's Bible Reading: II Samuel 12-18

<u>Today's Prayer</u>: Pray for the strength to be an effective servant of God.

<u>Today's Devotional</u>: Is there a sin that is a constant battle for you in this life? Journal your thought on the way the devil tries to tear down your defenses and how you can prevent this from happening.

Day 51 – Tuesday November 1

<u>Today's Challenge</u>: David said the Lord is my rock. We should let the Lord be our rock, a place of strength and safety in world of danger and temptation.

Today's Bible Reading: II Samuel 19-24

<u>Today's Prayer</u>: Thank God for being the "Rock of Ages".

<u>Today's Devotional</u>: Journal your thoughts on what composes "true strength." A strong man may appear to be solid, but if his heart is not pure his whole body will fail him.

Journal:

Day 52 – Wednesday November 2

<u>Today's Challenge</u>: Pride is a good thing in the proper amount, but too much pride can lead a person to become dependent on their own strength and feel they no longer need God in their lives. Today's challenge is to set your pride aside and put others needs before your own.

Today's Bible Reading: I Kings 1-5

<u>Today's Prayer</u>: "Lord give us a humble heart so we may better serve You."

<u>Today's Devotional</u>: Journal your thoughts on what the Bible means by the first being last and the last being first. Open your heart to the Lord and serve him with all your might.

Day 53 – Thursday November 3

<u>Today's Challenge</u>: Are you having another crazy day? As Christians we should know that God is always with us. When you see someone having a bad day, go to them and comfort them. Pray for them and help them however you can. If we show our love for others, maybe we can influence them by living a Godly life.

Today's Bible Reading: I Kings 6-11

<u>Today's Prayer</u>: Pray for those who are sad and depressed.

<u>Today's Devotional</u>: Use the space below to journal your thoughts about the grief and sorrow that we all experience at some point in our lives. There will be dark days for all of us! Having a close relationship with the Lord is the best way to make it through these dark valleys in life.

Journal:

Day 54 – Friday November 4

<u>Today's Challenge</u>: When the nation of Israel split it was the beginning of a long slide into destruction. We are all stronger when we are working together. Today's challenge is to be united in Jesus. Call, text, tweet, visit or pray for a leader of our congregation and work with them to help our Church family to be more united than ever.

Today's Bible Reading: I Kings 12-17

<u>Today's Prayer</u>: Pray for unity and love to overcome the problems we face as a congregation.

<u>Today's Devotional</u>: A small stick is easily broken but a bundle of sticks is almost impossible to break. Write down your thoughts on what <u>you</u> can do to encourage others and make our congregation a more united church family.

Journal:

Day 55 – Saturday November 5

<u>Today's Challenge</u>: Today is a day for cold water. Exactly what does this saying mean? Look around you today and seek out someone who needs a blessing or a helping hand. Hold open a door, give up your spot in the parking lot, be a servant to all. Invite people to church services and show your love for others with action. Your good deeds might change the way some people see the world.

Today's Bible Reading: I Kings 18-22

<u>Today's Prayer</u>: Pray that God will bless those who lead and serve.

<u>Today's Devotional</u>: Satan hates for us to commit our time and energy in working for the Lord. He especially hates to see us spending all our time in service to others. Write down your thoughts about how satan uses people and circumstances to frustrate us in our lives. Be determined to not let satan control of your life. What are some things that will help you stay grounded and faithful?

Journal:

Day 56 – Sunday November 6

<u>Today's Challenge</u>: No matter what you are doing today, challenge yourself to stop every few minutes and say "Praise the Lord"! God is good and our King and you need to praise Him often. Add it to your everyday actions until it becomes a part of your day.

Today's Bible Reading: II Kings 1-6

<u>Today's Prayer</u>: Thank God for His never ending mercy.

<u>Today's Devotional</u>: Take some time and think about how God uses other people to bless your life. Now write down at least three people who are a blessing in your life and the next time you see them tell them how important they are to you.

Journal:

Day 57 – Monday November 7

<u>Today's Challenge</u>: Today is a good day to appreciate our elders. The elders are the backbone of any congregation. Today's challenge is to offer a special prayer for our elders and to be thankful for good leadership.

Today's Bible Reading: II Kings 7-13

<u>Today's Prayer</u>: Thank God for our elders and their ability to lead.

<u>Today's Devotional</u>: Journal your thoughts about our church leaders. Our leaders will always be more effective with loyal, Godly followers. Let us all strive to support our leadership and let them know how important they are to us.

Journal:

Day 58 – Tuesday November 8

<u>Today's Challenge</u>: Ours is not to be a life of sadness but of joy. Today's challenge is to celebrate the day the Lord has given you and be glad in it knowing that a reward above all awaits the faithful.

Today's Bible Reading: II Kings 14-20

<u>Today's Prayer</u>: Pray for your joy to be complete in following the example of Jesus.

<u>Today's Devotional</u>: Write down three things that make you happy. Now take a closer look at these three things, and if these things are something that God would approve of then thank him for their presence in your life. If God would not approve of any of these things, then ask the Lord to remove

them from your life.

Journal:

Day 59 – Wednesday November 9

<u>Today's Challenge</u>: The people of Israel were a chosen people. We are also a chosen people because we have accepted Jesus into our lives. Today's challenge is to live this day as if it were the day that Jesus was returning for us. Let us live as His representatives and heirs.

Today's Bible Reading: II Kings 21-25

Today's Prayer: Thank God for the precious gift of His Son.

<u>Today's Devotional</u>: As a chosen people, we must live in such a way that the world about us can find no fault with us. Write down your thoughts on what is required of us as the Lord's special people.

Journal:

Day 60 – Thursday November 10

<u>Today's Challenge</u>: May our Church be a place where the hurting, the hopeless, the discouraged, the depressed, the frustrated and confused can find love, acceptance, guidance and encouragement. This is what we should be striving for as a Church family. To achieve this goal, we need to invite these people into our fellowship. Today seek out the broken, helpless and weak and invite them to join us at our next service.

Today's Bible Reading: I Chronicles 1-5

Today's Prayer: Pray for the weak and weary.

<u>Today's Devotional</u>: Use the space below to journal your thoughts about spending time with new

people in our congregation. What could we do to be more effective ministers? Are you seeking to serve above all else?

Journal:

Day 61 – Friday November 11

<u>Today's Challenge</u>: Today is a day to love your enemies. Do you have someone who has wronged you? Would you challenge yourself to pray for them?

Today's Bible Reading: I Chronicles 6-11

<u>Today's Prayer</u>: Pray for those in the world that are being misled and that they may see the truth.

<u>Today's Devotional</u>: The world is full of people who do wrong and seek only to please themselves, but bad people have been known to repent and change their ways. Write down some ways you can help those who are living a life controlled by their sinful ways.

Journal:

Day 62 – Saturday November 12

<u>Today's Challenge</u>: People who are seeking the Lord should want to get involved in church related activities. To be together and come closer to one another is part of God's plan for His Church. When we become stronger Christians it is easier for us to talk to people freely about how God is a blessing in our lives. Challenge yourself to be open and honest with people about your Christian walk and remember God is good, all the time.

Today's Bible Reading: I Chronicles 12-17

Today's Prayer: Pray for an honest, open and loving heart.

<u>Today's Devotional</u>: Use the space below to journal your thoughts on how you can become the type of Christian you want to be. We must be aware that satan will oppose us and will put obstacles in our path, but through prayer and dedication we can overcome all of life's problems.

Journal:

Day 63 – Sunday November 13

<u>Today's Challenge</u>: The Lord has told us that He will always be with us. The Lord does not leave us, we leave him. Today's challenge is to seek the Lord, find a quiet place and think about what the Lord wants you to do today, then go out and face the day knowing that whatever may come, you are not alone.

Today's Bible Reading: I Chronicles 18-23

<u>Today's Prayer</u>: Pray for the sanity to see the truth of things and not to be led astray by the evil one.

<u>Today's Devotional</u>: Because the Lord is always with you, write some things that might be beyond your comfort zone and then ask the Lord for the strength to go beyond what is normal for you. Seek to please the Lord in all you do.

Journal:

Day 64 – Monday November 14

<u>Today's Challenge</u>: Have you ever heard anyone say: "you need to stop and smell the roses"? Many of us are so overwhelmed with the things that we have to do right now, that we don't realize many of these things are just not as important as we think they are! Today's challenge is to take 10 minutes and just think about what is really important to you and to your service to the Lord.

Today's Bible Reading: I Chronicles 24-29

<u>Today's Prayer</u>: Thank God for the peace He provides us through prayer.

<u>Today's Devotional</u>: Write your thoughts on what helps you to be calm, peaceful and happy. Now look to God for the peace that passes all understanding.

Journal:

Day 65 – Tuesday November 15

<u>Today's Challenge</u>: Solomon asked God for wisdom and this pleased God so much that He gave him wisdom and many other gifts. Today's challenge is to seek wisdom; then put it to work in the service of the Lord.

Today's Bible Reading: II Chronicles 1-5

<u>Today's Prayer</u>: Pray for wisdom so you may better serve.

<u>Today's Devotional</u>: Write your thoughts about what having wisdom means. Where does it come from? How do you obtain it? How do you keep it? The Lord has told us to ask for wisdom and it will be given to us. What a wonderful Heavenly Father we have, He tells us to ask, to seek to knock and what we seek will be given to us.

Journal:

Day 66 – Wednesday November 16

<u>Today's Challenge</u>: Give to the Lord what is His and do His good will whenever you can. We should give to the Lord the first fruits of our lives and put Him first in all things. Today's challenge is look for opportunities to serve because God has told us that He has put good works in front of us for us to do.

Today's Bible Reading: II Chronicles 6-11

Today's Prayer: Pray for an open and giving heart.

<u>Today's Devotional</u>: Journal your thoughts about giving. Are you giving the Lord all you can of your money, your time and your love? The Lord tells us that He is a jealous God and we should put nothing before Him in our lives.

Journal:

Day 67 – Thursday November 17

<u>Today's Challenge</u>: This is a great day to be a servant. Don't wait for something to do. Plan an act of kindness today. Listen and watch for opportunities to do good for others. Make it your goal to do five good deeds today, and don't do these good things with the expectation of getting something in return, but rather with the love of God in your heart.

Today's Bible Reading: II Chronicles 12-17

<u>Today's Prayer</u>: Pray for the misguided who seek only physical wealth in this life.

<u>Today's Devotional</u>: Journal your thoughts on what the Lord would have you do to further His kingdom. Does He expect you to move mountains or to seek to serve Him as a loving and obedient soul with a kind and giving heart?

Journal:

Day 68 – Friday November 18

<u>Today's Challenge</u>: One of the things we see in the early Church is their willingness to share their story, including their brokenness. Why were they willing to be so raw, open and honest with each other? Why did they willingly confess their sins to one another? Because they knew they would be accepted and loved even though they weren't perfect. Would you be willing to try it? Even for just one day? Find someone you can trust and pour your heart out. David had Jonathan. Hezekiah had Isaiah. You need someone too. Be careful to choose the right person, but don't hold back.

Today's Bible Reading: II Chronicles 18-23

Today's Prayer: Praise God for the hearts that will be changed by this study.

<u>Today's Devotional</u>: Use the space below to discuss what it means to confess all your sins. How do you feel when you confess your sins? Write some of your sins on a separate sheet of paper. Remember that God knows all the secret things. When you are finished trash it, shred it, burn it and ask God to forgive you. Then forgive yourself. Only when you ask for forgiveness and forgive yourself as God has can you receive the peace that surpasses all understanding!

Journal:

Day 69 – Saturday November 19

<u>Today's Challenge</u>: Fear is the mind killer. We should fear only God and obey Him because the devil uses our fears against us. The Lord has told us that perfect love drives out fear. Today's challenge is to drive out this useless fear from our lives.

Today's Bible reading: II Chronicles 24-30

<u>Today's Prayer</u>: Pray for God's to help overcome all the needless fear within you.

<u>Today's Devotional</u>: Write down your greatest fears. Take a close look at what you have written. Now lay those fears down at the foot of the cross because you know the Lord is with you and if He is with you nothing else matters.

Journal:

Day 70 – Sunday November 20

<u>Today's Challenge</u>: As the Jewish people were allowed to return to the Promised Land, so can we, as a country, return to God. We must take a more active role against the evil that would have us enslaved to the wiles of the devil. Your challenge today is to call, write or e-mail an elected official and let them know how you stand on prevalent issues that are facing our country today.

Today's Bible reading: II Chronicles 31-36

<u>Today's Prayer</u>: Pray for our elected officials.

<u>Today's Devotional</u>: In our lives we may have to make decisions that may not be accepted as politically correct by the world but we are not of the world. We are a special people and we must accept our role in the care and spreading of God's word. Write down three things that you can do to spread the word of God and then pray for the strength to put these things into practice.

Journal:

Day 71 – Monday November 21

<u>Today's Challenge</u>: Have you ever watched a butterfly emerge from a cocoon? It is an amazing sight. What is even more amazing is what you don't see, the transformation that is going on inside. Take opportunity today to share your story with someone. Tell them how God is changing you from the inside out. If you like social media use a tweet, post, or a group message to let others know how much God means to you.

Today's Bible reading: Ezra 1-5

<u>Today's Prayer</u>: Pray for the Church to hunger and thirst for spiritual transformation.

<u>Today's Devotional</u>: God is not finished with you yet. You will shed your cocoon when you leave this world. Use the space below to write what you would like to change right now in your life. What things would you like to give up? Are you willing to give them to God?

Journal:

Day 72 – Tuesday November 22

<u>Today's Challenge</u>: As the old saying goes "Confession is good for the soul." The Bible tells us that we are to confess our sins to each other, but many people don't want to appear weak in front of their brothers and sisters. We must come to understand that in asking for help in weakness we gain strength. The challenge for today is to never be ashamed to show our weakness to a brother or sister and if you have a problem you are struggling with you need to open your heart to fellow Christians

Today's Bible reading: Ezra 6-10

<u>Today's Prayer</u>: Pray for those who are struggling with addictions.

<u>Today's Devotional</u>: Write down a few problems that you have had in the past. How did you overcome them? Do you see anyone who is having problems with the same things? Will you have the courage to approach these people and offer your help?

Journal:

Day 73 – Wednesday November 23

<u>Today's Challenge</u>: In Nehemiah the Israelites have returned to the Promised Land and are rebuilding the walls of Jerusalem. The walls of a city were very important because it kept the enemies out and made the city safe from attack. Today's challenge is to construct defensive walls to protect you from the evil one. The best way to build these walls is to pray to God for the strength to resist evil in any form that it may come in.

Today's Bible reading: Nehemiah 1-7

<u>Today's Prayer</u>: Pray for those who have fallen into sin and left the Church.

<u>Today's Devotional</u>: Sin can creep into our lives bit by bit. It may be only a small thing that continues to grow and get worse like a cancer. If there is anything that tempts you write it down and then pray for God to strengthen you and then mark out the sin on the paper until nothing remains. This is how the Lord works, He blots out our sins and remembers them no more.

Journal:

Day 74 – Thursday November 24

<u>Today's Challenge</u>: Being human we have fears and doubts but these things are to be overcome as Christians. We have a great example of how our lives are to be lived in Jesus the Christ. Your challenge for today is to search your hearts and be assured that you are His and that He died for you and since He died for you then God truly loves you.

Today's Bible reading: Nehemiah 8-13

<u>Today's Prayer</u>: Pray for God to give you a heart that knows neither fear nor doubt.

<u>Today's Devotional</u>: Write some things that cause you to have doubts. Maybe there are none. If so, that is great, but many of us are subject to doubts on occasions. The mind that is centered on Jesus is protected from the evils and doubts of this world. If we become too enamored with this world we and find fear and doubt creeping in and our faith eroded.

Journal:

Day 75 – Friday November 25

<u>Today's Challenge</u>: Esther is a story of love and how one person risked her life in order to save the entire Jewish nation. The love of one person can be a mighty thing and the love of a congregation can be an extremely powerful force. The challenge for today is to think about the person you love the most in this world and then tell them how much they mean to you.

<u>Today's Bible reading</u>: **Esther 1-5**

<u>Today's Prayer</u>: Ask the Lord to fill our hearts with love for all of His children.

<u>Today's Devotional</u>: The Bible speaks often about love, without love nothing else matters. First must come love and then all things will follow if your love is pure and true. Journal your thoughts about what you have seen in your life that lets you know that God truly loves you.

Journal:

Day 76 – Saturday November 26

<u>Today's Challenge</u>: The goal of our journey is more than just a destination. It is one we are making as a Church family. Hopefully this journey will be a blessing to all involved! We also hope that this study will help us to become a blessing to our community. Take some time today to compile a list of things that we can do to help our community. How can God use our hands and feet? Write your ideas down and keep them close by as a reminder to do the good works the Lord puts in front of us.

Today's Bible reading: Esther 6-10

<u>Today's Prayer</u>: Ask God to powerfully use His Word to impact our community for Christ.

<u>Today's Devotional</u>: We are called to be fishers of men, evangelists, teachers and workers in the kingdom of the Lord. How is our effectiveness in our community? Use the space below to journal your thoughts about what we can do to improve in sharing the good news with those in our community.

Journal:

Day 77 – Sunday November 27

<u>Today's Challenge</u>: Job was a man that suffered sorrow but did not blame God. We all have bad days from time to time and we will all undergo trials and temptations. Today's challenge is to accept the bad days with the knowledge that whatever happens, God cares for you and is watching over you.

Today's Bible reading: Job 1-5

Today's Prayer: Pray for those who are sad.

<u>Today's Devotional</u>: In weakness and sorrow we are still the children of God. Write down a few things that help you keep a smile on your face during those awful, terrible, very bad days. Remember to help the brothers and sisters who are weak and struggling for we need to care for others just as God cares for us.

Journal:

Day 78 – Monday November 28

<u>Today's Challenge</u>: Your challenge for today is to take 10 minutes and think about what eternity means. Now think about how wonderful this will be.

Today's Bible reading: Job 6-11

<u>Today's Prayer</u>: Pray for a heart that is at peace.

<u>Today's Devotional</u>: We think of a year as being a long time but as we grow older, time seems to slip away more quickly. There will come a day when time will be done away with and death will no longer trouble us. Write the names of three people that you would love to spend eternity with. Do all that is within your power to ensure that these people are living a life that will lead them to heaven.

Journal:

Day 79 – Tuesday November 29

<u>Today's Challenge</u>: Today is a good day to be thankful. Open your eyes and look around and realize that most of us are in the top 10% of the world in physical wealth. Challenge yourself to use all your wealth, both physical and spiritual, to serve the Lord.

Today's Bible reading: Job 12-17

<u>Today's Prayer</u>: Thank God for all the good things He has given you.

<u>Today's Devotional</u>: God has given us many special gifts: a spouse, children, grandchildren, a country where we can worship without fear and greatest of all, His only son. Write three things that you are thankful for, then praise God for being so good to you.

Journal:

Day 80 – Wednesday November 30

<u>Today's Challenge</u>: If a man has clear eyes he can see to walk in the light of the Lord. When the Bible talks about eyesight it is not only speaking of physical sight but of spiritual sight as well. Today your challenge is to clear up your sight by removing anything in your life that might hinder your walk with the Lord.

Today's Bible reading: Job 18-23

<u>Today's Prayer</u>: Pray for clarity of vision so that you may know the truth when you see it.

<u>Today's Devotional</u>: Journal your thoughts about the things that you come into contact with every day that lead to the erosion of your spiritual sight. At times the evil we come upon may be ugly and terrible to look at, or it may be beautiful and enticing because the devil is a deceiver and will stop at nothing in order to have us turn to sin.

Journal:

Day 81 – Thursday December 1

<u>Today's Challenge</u>: Regret is a painful thing, but unless it keeps us from repeating a sin it is of little to no use. Today's challenge is to take the regrets of your life and put them behind you. God will forgive you so you must in turn forgive yourself and move on as a true servant of the Lord.

Today's Bible reading: Job 24-30

<u>Today's Prayer</u>: "Dear Lord, help us to put the past behind us, the present in our focus and the future in your hands."

<u>Today's Devotional</u>: If a person commits a terrible wrong that causes great harm and damage to the lives of others, will God ever forgive them? Write down someone's name that has caused terrible problems but has turned their life around and been a powerful force for good. Maybe the name Saul/Paul might ring a bell.

Journal:

Day 82 – Friday December 2

<u>Today's Challenge</u>: Where does your trust lie? Today's challenge is to look in your heart and see where you put your faith, is it in your worldly possessions or your God?

Today's Bible reading: Job 31-37

<u>Today's Prayer</u>: Pray for the Lord to strengthen your faith.

<u>Today's Devotional</u>: The works of a man can bring him many earthly treasures. They can also bring him treasures laid up in heaven. Journal your thoughts at this time about your place in the Body of Christ. There are many things you can do in service to the Lord. Has the Lord not said he will bless His servants both physically and spiritually? There is nothing wrong with having physical blessings unless they become more important than the One who gave them to you.

Journal:

Day 83 – Saturday December 3

<u>Today's Challenge</u>: When God was talking to Job He told of His power and might and how He put the world in order. This shows how all things have a place in nature, truly God is the great I Am. Today's challenge is to find a quiet place and just think about how awesome is the God we serve.

Today's Bible reading: Job 38-42

Today's Prayer: "Dear Lord, help us to know you better and to dedicate our lives to your service."

<u>Today's Devotional</u>: Man tends to think of himself as so powerful and able to do anything he wants. People have tamed rivers and ridden on the wind but we are so insignificant when compared to the might of God. Journal your thoughts on the might of God and why He still loves us even though we are so weak and helpless compared to Him.

Journal:

Day 84 – Sunday December 4

<u>Today's Challenge</u>: The world is full of children that desperately need a mentor. Maybe you know a child that needs an encourager. Pray for them. Then, make some time to do something about it. Be a volunteer for their activities. Have them over to the house for dinner. Take them out for an activity. Be creative and make a difference. Try to encourage them with both your words and your

actions.

Today's Bible Reading: Psalms 1-8

<u>Today's Prayer</u>: Ask God to bless our children as they learn of His love for them.

<u>Today's Devotional</u>: Use the space below to journal your thoughts about children in today's society. How have things changed? What can you do to make a difference with the youth of our culture? What good things have you noticed, especially with our young people in the church family?

Journal:

Day 85 – Monday December 5

<u>Today's Challenge</u>: In the Psalms, we see that the evil ones will eventually get the punishment they deserve. The Lord moves at His own pace and we must accept His timetable above our own. Today's challenge is to put faith in the Lord's way of doing things. Something we most desperately want may not be what we need. The Lord will give us what we need not what we want.

Today's Bible Reading: Psalms 9-15

<u>Today's Prayer</u>: Pray for the Lord to take care of us and give us the blessings we need to be complete in Him.

<u>Today's Devotional</u>: Write the thing you want most in this world, then meditate about it and really look in your heart and see if this thing will help you to become a better Christian. If so, earnestly pray to God for it day after day. If not, ask God to take away the desire you have for it.

Journal:

Day 86 – Tuesday December 6

<u>Today's Challenge</u>: All good things come from the Lord. Take time today to thank the Lord for His blessings and open your heart to the power of the Lord.

Today's Bible Reading: Psalms 16-19

<u>Today's Prayer</u>: "Dear Father, please help me to understand how blessed I am. Thank you, Lord, for all the good things in my life especially the blessing of Your Son who died for me."

<u>Today's Devotional</u>: The Lord takes care of His own. At times, trouble will come to us as to all people but we have God to lean on. Write down three things the Lord has done for you in the past week, then praise God for His presence in your life.

Journal:

Day 87 – Wednesday December 7

<u>Today's Challenge</u>: No matter your plans today, challenge yourself to pause every few moments today to say "Praise the Lord," because God is good and He deserves to hear you say it. Add it to your vocabulary. You never know, it might stick!

Today's Bible Reading: Psalms 20-25

Today's Prayer: Praise God for Jesus Christ, the ultimate expression of His love.

<u>Today's Devotional</u>: Consider how good God has been to us. Now, take some time to describe how God has used other people to touch your life (at least three people). Consider how these people have blessed you throughout your Christian journey.

Journal:

Day 88 – Thursday December 8

<u>Today's Challenge</u>: "The Lord is my light and the one who saves me. So why should I fear anyone?" If we walk in the light of God's word we will not fear falling. Today examine your life and determine if you're walking in the light.

Today's Bible Reading: Psalms 26-32

<u>Today's Prayer</u>: "Dear Lord, help me to see and understand the path you have set before me to be your servant."

<u>Today's Devotional</u>: There is life and great beauty in the path of light. Write down your thoughts on what you see as the path your life has taken and where you would like to go in the future. Be sure to always put your faith in the Lord and be ready to serve when you are needed.

Journal:

Day 89 – Friday December 9

<u>Today's Challenge</u>: "Happy is the nation whose God is the Lord." Our nation was once the Lord's, but the devil has come in among us. People are now sometimes fired for mentioning the Lord. Your challenge today is to stand up and be counted. So you need to write, text, tweet or call our representatives and tell them that this country has wandered too far from God and its time to return to the morals and values that made this country great.

Today's Bible Reading: Psalms 33-37

<u>Today's Prayer</u>: Pray for our leaders to see the truth and follow God's will.

<u>Today's Devotional</u>: "It could never happen here", but it is! We are losing our right to worship as we see fit because we might offend someone. Journal your thoughts about the present state of our country, then pray to the Lord for guidance.

Journal:

Day 90 – Saturday December 10

<u>Today's Challenge</u>: "So Lord, what hope do I have? You are my hope." What is your hope built on? The blood of Jesus is the only true hope. Today challenge yourself to be happy and rejoice in this day because through the blood of Jesus you have hope.

Today's Bible Reading: Psalms 38-42

<u>Today's Prayer</u>: Give a prayer of thanks to The Lord for the gift of hope He has given you.

<u>Today's Devotional</u>: My hope is built on nothing less than Jesus's blood and righteousness. What a beautiful song and how true, journal your thoughts about hope and then praise the Lord for His great gift to us through Jesus.

Journal:

Day 91 – Sunday December 11

<u>Today's Challenge</u>: Everyone likes a word of encouragement. Take some time to send someone an encouraging message. Say something thoughtful and positive. Then, pray God uses your words to build them up. If you are in a relationship, focus on those individuals first.

Today's Bible Reading: Psalms 43-50

<u>Today's Prayer</u>: Praise God for speaking to us through the Bible.

<u>Today's Devotional</u>: Use the space below to journal your thoughts about the person you encouraged through today's challenge. How did they respond? Whom would you like to encourage next week? How can you plan ahead for those words of encouragement?

Journal:

Day 92 – Monday December 12

<u>Today's Challenge</u>: What a friend we have in Jesus. He loved us before we were born and will love us after we are dead. A true friend is worth so much. Do you have a true friend? If you do, then you are a blessed person. Get in touch with your friend and tell them how special they are to you.

Today's Bible Reading: Psalms 51-57

<u>Today's Prayer</u>: Thank the Lord for the friends you have and ask God to bless them.

<u>Today's Devotional</u>: A true friend will stand beside you through good times and bad. All of us have at least one true friend that will never desert or disappoint us. Write your thoughts about the friend we have in Jesus and what He means to you.

Journal:

Day 93 – Tuesday December 13

<u>Today's Challenge</u>: The body of Christ is made up of many parts. We all have a place in the kingdom of God. A person who is doing God's will doesn't look for the most important job or the easiest, but the job that they can do the best. Today's challenge is to seek humility and accept the gifts God has given to you.

Today's Bible Reading: Psalms 58-66

<u>Today's Prayer</u>: Pray for insight to determine how we can best serve the Lord.

<u>Today's Devotional</u>: God loves the person who has a spirit that is broken to His will. Does the Lord mean more to you than anything on this earth? In the beatitudes, Jesus tells us that blessed are those who are poor in spirit, write down your thoughts on what it means to be poor in spirit.

Journal:

Day 94 – Wednesday December 14

<u>Today's Challenge</u>: Wisdom is a gift greater than gold. A wise man is a treasure for all who know him. The world does not understand the words of the Lord but the wise man understands and cherishes them. The challenge for today is to seek wisdom and use it to strengthen the Church.

Today's Bible Reading: Psalms 67-72

<u>Today's Prayer</u>: Pray for wisdom.

<u>Today's Devotional</u>: Do you know a wise man or woman? Write down what you think makes a person wise. Now seek wisdom for it is a great and rare treasure not many will find in a lifetime.

Journal:

Day 95 – Thursday December 15

<u>Today's Challenge</u>: The Lord is working in you. You may not see it, but if you are a Christian, it is true! God has placed His Holy Spirit in you. You should live with purpose, passion and zeal. Today could be a "me" day. Take one. You deserve it. Focus on what God's spirit is urging you to do. Take an early lunch. Find a quiet place. Do as the Psalmist did, meditate. Think about God's purpose for your life. He is writing your story! Do you think others would want to read it? Allow God to take the pen. Surrender to His will.

Today's Bible Reading: Psalms 73-78

<u>Today's Prayer</u>: Ask God to make our hearts receptive to His story and protect our minds from distractions.

<u>Today's Devotional</u>: Use the space below to add more people to your personal prayer list. Consider those who are sick and shut-in. How can God help them? What specific needs could you lift up?

Journal:

Day 96 – Friday December 16

<u>Today's Challenge</u>: Have you ever wanted something so bad that it was like a physical pain when you didn't get it. Life can be like that. The Lord will give us all we need; not all we want. Today's challenge is to determine what you need and cherish it. Consider what you want but do not need and learn to live without it.

Today's Bible Reading: Psalms 79-85

Today's Prayer: "Dear Father in heaven, help us to be grateful for our blessings, especially the

blessing of Your son and His sacrifice for us."

<u>Today's Devotional</u>: We should seek to be happy with what we have because there will always be someone with more material blessings. If we live as God would have us to, no one will have more spiritual blessings. Write down three things that God has blessed you with then thank Him for these gifts.

Journal:

Day 97 – Saturday December 17

<u>Today's Challenge</u>: Freedom is a wonderful thing but it almost always comes with a price. A generation had to pay a terrible price during the 1940's to keep this country free. Our Lord and Savior Jesus the Christ also had to pay a terrible price to give us freedom from our sins. Today's challenge is to take some time and think about the freedoms we now have in our country and our religion and how both are now coming under attack by the forces of evil.

Today's Bible Reading: Psalms 86-91

<u>Today's Prayer</u>: "Dear Father, give us the strength to confront evil wherever and whenever it may appear."

<u>Today's Devotional</u>: Write your thoughts about what it means to be free and think about what you need to do to maintain the freedom we all enjoy today.

Journal:

Day 98 – Sunday December 18

<u>Today's Challenge</u>: The Lord is clothed in majesty and the world is his footstool. We worship a powerful Lord and Master. The challenge for today is to open your eyes to the majesty and power of God. He is all around us and no power is greater than He.

Today's Bible Reading: Psalms 92-102

<u>Today's Prayer</u>: "Dear Heavenly Father, help us to understand the unlimited power and majesty that defines You."

<u>Today's Devotional</u>: Do you sometimes feel small and unimportant? Well, take heart! The Lord of all loves you and watches over you. Journal your thoughts about the gifts the Lord has given you. These gifts are given to be used! What is not used diminishes.

Journal:

Day 99 – Monday December 19

<u>Today's Challenge</u>: No matter what your age, your work is not finished. You still have enough time to do some important things. Make plans to give God all you got! Bring your Bible with you when you go out. And bring a Christ-like spirit! It's going to be a GREAT day!

Today's Bible Reading: Psalms 103-106

<u>Today's Prayer</u>: Thank the Lord that His written word is so accessible to us. Pray for grandmothers.

<u>Today's Devotional</u>: Take this opportunity to reflect on what it has meant to you to have daily devotions, readings, prayers, and prayer targets. What have you enjoyed the most about this program? What would you change?

Journal:

Day 100 – Tuesday December 20

<u>Today's Challenge</u>: God delivered the Israeli people from Egypt and even though it took a long time, He helped them to overcome their masters and gave them freedom. God has also delivered us from sin through His Son. We, as a special people, owe a debt to help others to overcome their servitude to sin and become productive members of His Church.

Today's Bible Reading: Psalms 107-114

<u>Today's Prayer</u>: Pray for those who are burdened with sin that they might overcome it with the Lord's help.

<u>Today's Devotional</u>: Write your thoughts about what it is like to see someone come up from the watery grave of baptism and become one of God's special people and how we can help these people. The devil loves to devour the young in Christ before they become strong in Him.

Journal:

Day 101 – Wednesday December 21

<u>Today's Challenge</u>: Trust is a thing that can take a lifetime to build and a second to lose. Where is your trust? Your challenge for today is to put your trust in the Lord and have faith that He will take care of you.

Today's Bible Reading: Psalms 115-119

<u>Today's Prayer</u>: "Dear Father in Heaven, help us to put our trust in You and to yield our will to Your service."

<u>Today's Devotional</u>: How long is a lifetime? How much wealth can one person acquire in a life? How important is our physical worth during the last second of our life on this earth? Write your thoughts on what is important in your life. Make a list and be honest with yourself. Now take your list and really think about what is excess and what is necessary to be the person God would have you to be.

Journal:

Day 102 – Thursday December 22

<u>Today's Challenge</u>: Today's challenge is to seek wisdom. The Lord has told us that if we ask him for wisdom it will be given to us. King Solomon understood that wisdom was one of the greatest gifts that a person can be given.

Today's Bible Reading: Psalms 120-135

Today's Prayer: "Dear Father, please give me the gift of wisdom so that I may better serve You."

<u>Today's Devotional</u>: Think of a person that you respect and think of as a wise person. Now write what this person does that makes him seem so wise. Once you can determine what traits go along with being wise then cultivate those traits in yourself and use them for the good of all those you come in contact with.

Journal:

Day 103 – Friday December 23

<u>Today</u>'s <u>Challenge</u>: God's love continues forever but man's love can be an ever shifting thing. Today challenge yourself to imitate the love that God has for us and not the love men have for one another.

Today's Bible Reading: Psalms 136-143

Today's Prayer: Pray for acceptance of God's love and His will for you.

<u>Today's Devotional</u>: Forever is a long time! In fact, time will have an end but God's love has no boundary. All the things we know on this earth will eventually end, but God will go on infinitely. Write your thoughts on the limitless love God has for us and what your vision of eternity is.

Journal:

Day 104 – Saturday December 24

<u>Today's Challenge</u>: Praise the Lord who is my rock. We all need a rock from time to time and God is the rock that will never fail. Today your challenge is to tell one person about the strength you find in the rock that is your God

Today's Bible Reading: Psalms 144-150

Today's Prayer: Pray for those who go through this difficult life without the steadying force our

Lord provides for His children.

<u>Today's Devotional</u>: Write down your thoughts on what it is like to know you have a friend that never fails you and will always be just a prayer away. The days can sometimes be long and at times all may desert you but never fear for one will always be by your side and never ever fail you.

Journal:

Day 105 – Sunday December 25

<u>Today's Challenge</u>: Knowledge begins with respect for the Lord. Challenge yourself to hold the name of the Lord with respect at all times. Too often, in today's world the Lord's name is used in vain. It is just something that those in the world see no problem with, but we as Christians should always hold His name with deepest respect.

Today's Bible Reading: Proverbs 1-5

Today's Prayer: "Lord, help me to honor You with all my thoughts and deeds."

<u>Today's Devotional</u>: Journal your thoughts about all the different names used to describe the Lord, such as God, King of Kings, Jehovah, the Great I Am and many more. It almost seems as if the Lord of all things needs more than one name to represent His greatness and power.

Journal:

Day 106 – Monday December 26

<u>Today's Challenge</u>: The Lord hates a lying tongue. The tongue is the member of the body that is probably the hardest to control because angry words can slip out so easily. Today's challenge is to control the tongue and only speak words that are good and helpful to others and to the work of the Lord.

Today's Bible Reading: Proverbs 6-11

<u>Today's Prayer</u>: "Dear Father, help us to control what we say and to praise You always."

<u>Today's Devotional</u>: Write down what causes you to lose your temper. Now look at your list and try to determine the best way to avoid or eliminate those things and then seek God's help in living as strife-free a life as is possible.

Journal:

Day 107 – Tuesday December 27

<u>Today's Challenge</u>: "Anyone who loves learning accepts correction. But a person who hates being corrected is stupid" (NCV). Today's challenge is a tough one, it is to accept correction and use it to become a better person and servant of God.

Today's Bible Reading: Proverbs 12-17

Today's Prayer: "Dear Father, grant us a spirit of meekness so that pride cannot harm us."

<u>Today's Devotional</u>: Have you ever been told how to do something and did it differently just to show that person you are your own person? We know what we are doing better than anyone else, right? Journal your thoughts at this time about how you feel when corrected by someone. Does it make you defensive or do you take a moment and take a look at yourself and see the truth of things?

Journal:

Day 108 – Wednesday December 28

<u>Today's Challenge</u>: Sometimes it is better to be kind than to be right. Kindness should be at the heart of our lives, Jesus was a very kind and understanding person and so should we be. The challenge for today is a random act of kindness; go that extra mile, help someone who is in need or just give a kind word. Just remember there is no limit to kindness. When given, it just fills the giver with more.

Today's Bible Reading: Proverbs 18-23

<u>Today's Prayer</u>: "Dear Father, help us to be loving and kind to those who deserve it and to those who don't."

<u>Today's Devotional</u>: Journal your thoughts about kindness and write the name of a person who seems to be always kind and helpful. Look on the bright side of life for our God is the Lord of light and beauty, so seek the good in things because seeking the bad never makes things any better.

Journal:

DAY 109 – Thursday December 29

<u>Today's Challenge</u>: The Bible has a lot to say about widows. God takes ministry to the widows seriously. In Romans 12 we can see that each of us has a talent. What is yours? Maybe it is encouraging those who are alone. Take some time to visit or call a widow. Check in on a lonely neighbor. Let God use you to be a blessing to someone who needs a word of love or an act of kindness.

Today's Bible Reading: Proverbs 24-28

Today's Prayer: Pray that each person would sense God's presence in their personal studies.

<u>Today's Devotional</u>: From time to time we need to do a spiritual inventory. Use the space below to list five of your spiritual gifts. Where are your talents? On the opposite side of that list... write ways that you can use those talents to the glory of the Lord. Consider a ministry or mission where you can use that talent and then take action.

Journal:

Day 110 - Friday December 31

<u>Today's Challenge</u>: Sorrow will come to all eventually. However, Godly sorrow is a good thing in that it will help a person who has sinned to see their guilt and return to the path of salvation. The challenge for today is to reach out to a wayward person and try to help them see the need for Godly sorrow in their life.

Today's Bible Reading: Proverbs 29-31

Today's Prayer: Pray for those who have gone astray and pray for the Lord to fill their hearts with

Godly sorrow.

<u>Today's Devotional</u>: To be sorry for doing something wrong shows that a person is aware of their actions but just being sorry is not enough. A Christian must do all in their power to correct whatever is causing them sorrow then give the problem to the Lord. Sorrow alone will not help anything but Godly sorrow will lead a person to do what is right. Journal your thoughts on the difference between "worldly sorrow" and "Godly sorrow" (cf. 2 Cor. 7:10).

Journal:

Day 111 – Saturday December 31

<u>Today's Challenge</u>: "There is nothing new here on earth" Eccl. 1:9. All things come in cycles; the seasons, life begins ends and starts again with the next generation. Challenge yourself to take a close look at your life, whether you are in the later years or the early years. Look closely and give the Lord your best using whatever gift He has given you.

Today's Bible Reading: Ecclesiastes 1-6

<u>Today's Prayer</u>: "Dear Father, let us see clearly so we may seek You with open and honest hearts."

<u>Today's Devotional</u>: Solomon was one of the wisest men who ever lived, yet he was lured into sin later in his life. His wives led him to sin against the Lord. Journal your thoughts on some things today that can lead us into sin if we aren't careful.

Journal:

Day 112 – Sunday January 1

<u>Today's Challenge</u>: The Lord has told us that He will never forsake us but will always be with us. Today's challenge is to really accept that the Lord is right there with you all day long. Whatever you do or wherever you go, realize God is standing beside you.

Today's Bible Reading: Ecclesiastes 7-12

<u>Today's Prayer</u>: "Dear Father, we thank You for Your presence in our lives."

<u>Today's Devotional</u>: In the old westerns the good guys almost always had a side-kick. They were good friends who were always there for the hero. We have a hero in our lives. Can we become the person that is always thinking and working for our Father in heaven? Journal your thoughts on the best way you can be closer to the Lord and to follow His will and not our own.

Journal:

Day 113 – Monday January 2

<u>Today's Challenge</u>: Beauty is said to be in the eye of the beholder. True beauty comes from within and can be seen in many forms. Today's challenge is to look at people and see their true inner beauty.

Today's Bible Reading: Song of Songs 1-4

<u>Today's Prayer</u>: Pray for eyes that see beyond the surface and can discern true beauty.

<u>Today's Devotional</u>: Do you ever stop and look at the sunset? Take the time to look around and see the true beauty around you and try to see the beauty of people, especially the ones closest to you. Journal your thoughts about how "true beauty" should be defined.

Journal:

DAY 114 – Tuesday January 3

<u>Today's Challenge</u>: Today is a BIG day! Praise His Holy Name! You woke up today with an opportunity to praise the Lord. It doesn't matter what day it is it is the Lord's day! Take advantage of God's blessings!

Today's Bible Reading: Song of Songs 5-8

Today's Prayer: Ask God to lead us to those in our neighborhoods who need Jesus.

<u>Today's Devotional</u>: Use the space below to journal your thoughts about the power of prayer. Is it hard for you pray? Do you pray as much as you should? What will it take for you to draw closer to God?

Journal:

DAY 115 – Wednesday January 4

<u>Today's Challenge</u>: As a collective body we have given this time to devotion and spiritual renewal. Since it is a congregational challenge, we urge you today to spend some time with someone else engaged in this study. Personal visits would be great, but if time does not permit, calling or messaging would suffice. Encourage each other to keep on keeping on! Discuss how you are both growing through this experience.

Today's Bible Reading: Isaiah 1-5

<u>Today's Prayer</u>: Ask God to be our voice as we boldly share our testimony with those who need Jesus.

<u>Today's Devotional</u>: Use the space below to journal your thoughts about God's vision for the church family. What do you see God doing? What do you think He has planned for us?

Journal:

Day 116 – Thursday January 5

<u>Today's Challenge</u>: Isaiah told the Lord "Here am I send me". This is the kind of spirit that the Lord looks for in His people. Your challenge today is not to have a spirit of "why me?" but to stand up and tell the Lord with full confidence "Here am I send me".

Today's Bible Reading: Isaiah 6-11

<u>Today's Prayer</u>: "Dear Heavenly Father, give me the opportunity to serve You in whatever capacity I am able."

<u>Today's Devotional</u>: One of the saddest things you will see is someone with a lot of ability wasting that ability due to weakness or addiction or fear. Think about yourself, what ability do you have? Write the things you do well then ask the Father for the strength and courage to put them to use.

Journal:

Day 117 – Friday January 6

<u>Today's Challenge</u>: To be the servant of God is to know true joy. Do you have joy in your life? Joy will come to those who trust their God and have total faith in Him. Today will be a day of total trust in the Lord. Don't worry! Be happy for the Lord has given you a Savior.

Today's Bible Reading: Isaiah 12-17

<u>Today's Prayer</u>: "Dear Father, let us be joyful because we have believed in You and know all things work for the good of those that love the Lord."

<u>Today's Devotional</u>: Journal your thoughts about the idea that "all will be ok with you as long as you serve the Lord". God has told us that we will have all that we need. That doesn't mean we will have all we want or that life will be easy for us, but that He will take care of us and give us an eternal home if we are truly his people.

Journal:

DAY 118 – Saturday January 7

<u>Today's Challenge</u>: Look back over some of the people we have prayed over together. Consider some that are still need our prayers. Take a glance at the prayer list in the bulletin. Then, take some time out of your day to send one of them an encouraging message. Say something

meaningful and let God use your words to be a blessing.

Today's Bible Reading: Isaiah 18-23

<u>Today's Prayer</u>: Ask God for spiritual protection for our leaders and congregation.

<u>Today's Devotional</u>: The Bible teaches us to arm ourselves with God's armor. We are spiritual warriors; soldiers of the cross. Use the space below to journal your thoughts about what it means to be a soldier of Christ.

Journal:

Day 119 – Sunday January 8

<u>Today's Challenge</u>: The Lord will punish those who do not do His will in this world. Today's challenge is to take some time and assure yourself that you are truly doing His will. Think of it as a life review using the Bible as your operator's manual.

Today's Bible Reading: Isaiah 24-29

<u>Today's Prayer</u>: "Dear Father, help me to seek You above all things."

<u>Today's Devotional</u>: The Lord is a mighty and jealous God who will have no other gods before Him. He is the creator of all things and His will is our duty. Journal your thoughts on the punishment that God will bring down on those who do not follow His will and on how He is always ready to accept any person who is willing to repent.

Journal:

Day 120 – Monday January 9

<u>Today's Challenge:</u> Have you heard it said, "I have all the time in the world?" Well, God has all the time in the world but we don't. So today's challenge is to make good use of the time you have. Now to make good use of your time does not mean to work every second of the day, but to use your time wisely and to separate the urgent from the necessary.

Today's Bible Reading: Isaiah 30-35

<u>Today's Prayer</u>: "Dear Father, help us to be wise in our lives and to spend our time in ways that will help us to be better, stronger Christians."

<u>Today's Devotional</u>: How sad it is to see someone who is thinking about becoming a Christian but they never take that final step. Then their time on this earth comes to a close. To be so close but yet so far from heaven is a terrible tragedy. Journal your thoughts on what heaven will be like. Then spend some time thinking about what it would be like to be almost persuaded but lost. How terrible and sad to spend eternity knowing how close you were to heaven.

Journal:

Day 121 – Tuesday January 10

<u>Today's Challenge</u>: When the nation of Judah turned from God and worshipped other gods they were given to an invading country. God loves us, but He wants us to be His alone. Today's challenge is to give to God the first fruits of your life, not the leftovers.

Today's Bible Reading: Isaiah 36-40

Today's Prayer: Pray for clarity of mind and spirit so as to withstand the attacks of the evil one.

<u>Today's Devotional</u>: As humans we all have moments of weakness, but there is a difference in stepping in a mud puddle and lying down in one. Journal your thoughts on ways that you can avoid sin and keep your mind on the things of God and not this world.

Journal:

Day 122 – Wednesday January 11

<u>Today's Challenge</u>: Honor is a trait that all Christians should seek. The Lord requires us to honor His name and to never use His name in vain. Your challenge today is to make a mental note of how many times you hear the Lord's name taken in vain and use this as a reminder not to follow others' bad habits.

Today's Bible Reading: Isaiah 41-46

<u>Today's Prayer</u>: Pray for those who serve the Lord in distant lands and have given so much to take the gospel to all people.

<u>Today's Devotional</u>: We honor those who have done service to our country and rightly so. Some have paid with their lives to keep our country free. Jesus paid with His life to keep us free from sin. How much honor does he deserve for His sacrifice for us? Journal your thoughts about ways we can honor Jesus in our everyday lives.

Journal:

Day 123 – Thursday January 12

<u>Today's Challenge</u>: Plan your week with God on top, put Him first. Commit to spending at least 10 minutes in prayer when you start each day this week. Find a quiet spot and talk to God. Then see if that makes a difference in your day. If you are in a relationship, or have a family, take at least one day to pray with them as well.

Today's Bible Verse: Isaiah 47-52

<u>Today's Prayer</u>: Pray for spiritual growth in our church.

<u>Today's Devotional</u>: Use the space below to add some people to your personal prayer list. Who are you concerned about? Why? How would you like to see God working in their lives?

Journal:

Day 124 – Friday January 13

<u>Today's Challenge</u>: The Jewish people were able to return to Jerusalem after 70 years of captivity. During their time in captivity they kept praying to God and He finally let them return to their home country. The challenge for today is to determine to never give up on a good cause. It may take time and many prayers, but have faith that if it is in your best interest then God will give it to you at the right time.

Today's Bible Reading: Isaiah 53-57

<u>Today's Prayer</u>: Pray for the determination to keep on seeking your goals in life no matter what the obstacle is that confronts you.

<u>Today's Devotional</u>: Many people really want to live Godly lives but have habits or addictions that cause them to stumble over and over again. Journal your thoughts on what you can do as a fellow Christian to help those who are struggling. Don't be afraid to get involved and to go the extra mile and maybe help a struggling brother one more time.

Journal:

Day 125 – Saturday January 14

<u>Today's Challenge</u>: The Lord loves a humble spirit. Today's challenge is to have a humble spirit all day and think of others before yourself.

Today's Bible Reading: Isaiah 58-61

<u>Today's Prayer</u>: "Lord, give me the strength to put others' welfare before my own."

<u>Today's Devotional</u>: The person that gives his life for others and loves the Lord more than his own life will find a great reward at the end of his days. Journal your thoughts about how we "honor God."

Journal:

Day 126 – Sunday January 15

<u>Today's Challenge</u>: If a person is really hungry they grow weak and seek food above all other things. So it is with those that have a spiritual hunger, they seek God's word as their spiritual food

and gain insight into what the Lord wants for us. Today's challenge is to seek that spiritual food from God above all else.

Today's Bible Reading: Isaiah 62-66

<u>Today's Prayer</u>: Pray for a never ending desire to know and serve your Heavenly Father.

<u>Today's Devotional</u>: It is hard to love someone you don't know. In reality it is nearly impossible. To know God is to love Him for all the good things He has given us. Journal your thoughts on all your blessings and how those blessings can be shared with those who are weak and poor both physically and spiritually.

Journal:

Day 127 – Monday January 16

<u>Today's Challenge</u>: The Jewish people did not follow God's teachings, so they were made captives. We also can become captives of sin. It can sneak into our lives through the smallest of cracks and destroy our lives. Today's challenge is to seek out those cracks in your life and to close them with the help of the Lord.

Today's Bible Reading: Jeremiah 1-5

Today's Prayer: "Dear Father, help us to look at our lives and to turn away from sin in any form."

<u>Today's Devotional</u>: The world would have us to conform to it, but the Lord wants us to conform to His will and turn away from the world. Journal your thoughts about what it requires for us to turn from worldly things and be totally committed to the Lord.

Journal:

Day 128 – Tuesday January 17

<u>Today's Challenge</u>: Do you hurry and worry your way through the day? The Lord wants you to be at peace as much as is possible in this world. Today's challenge is to slow down and put things in their proper place. Hurry and worry only cloud your vision and destroy your physical and spiritual

health.

Today's Bible Reading: Jeremiah 6-11

<u>Today's Prayer</u>: "Father, help me to slow down, breathe deeply and know You, my God, will never be far away."

<u>Today's Devotional</u>: When distance runners start a race, you don't see them running as hard as they can, but you see them pacing themselves. We as Christians need to pace ourselves in the race of life and give our energies to the things that are most important. Write down the five things that are most important in your life.

Journal:

Day 129 – Wednesday January 18

<u>Today's Challenge</u>: Ignorance of the law is no excuse; so also the ignorance of God's law is no excuse. The challenge today is to look inward and if you have any doubts about your faith in God then look to the Bible and study so you can be assured in the faith you have.

Today's Bible Reading: Jeremiah 12-17

<u>Today's Prayer</u>: "Dear Father, help us to take an honest look at our lives to ensure we are serving You as You would have us to."

<u>Today's Devotional</u>: If you lack wisdom, pray for it. If you lack faith, pray for it. If you lack strength, pray for it. If you have all these things, give thanks in prayer. Journal what you feel are some areas of your spiritual life that you can improve on and if you don't have any, pray for your eyes to be opened.

Journal:

Day 130 – Thursday January 19

Today's Challenge: "This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine, let it shine all the time, let it

shine." Today's challenge is to let your light shine all the time. The world holds no power over us and our light is given to us from above.

Today's Bible Reading: Jeremiah 18-23

<u>Today's Prayer</u>: "Father, thank You for the light of Jesus' life that lights our path through this world to You."

<u>Today's Devotional</u>: Write your thoughts on what it means to let your light shine. If your light isn't plain for all to see, maybe it is time for a fuel stop so you can top off your tank with the love of the Lord and then you can shine like the Son.

Journal:

Day 131 – Friday January 20

<u>Today's Challenge</u>: This world would throw away the things we once held so dear. Today's challenge is to write a letter to the one you love the most on this earth. Write the letter and mail it, no tweet, e-mail, text, snap or whatever is new. You must take the time to write your words down and then make the effort to actually mail this letter.

Today's Bible Reading: Jeremiah 24-29

<u>Today's Prayer</u>: "Dear Father, thank you for the loved ones You have put in my life to help me through this walk of life."

<u>Today's Devotional</u>: "This world is not my home I'm just a passing through," but I have to live in it until my time here is complete. Write down the things that help you the most when times get hard then offer up a prayer of thanks for those blessings.

Journal:

Day 132 – Saturday January 21

Today's Challenge: "There is no place like home" and for those of us lucky enough to have a nice

home it is truly a place of peace and rest. We have a second home waiting for us if we will live according to the Lord's will. Today's challenge is to spend 5 minutes just thinking about how great that second home will be and let these good thoughts carry you through the day.

Today's Bible Reading: Jeremiah 30-34

<u>Today's Prayer</u>: "Thank You, Father, for the place of eternal rest You have made for your meek and humble servants."

<u>Today's Devotional</u>: Heaven is a place often talked about, but we as humans can't really understand the beauty that awaits us there. Journal your thoughts on the most beautiful places you have ever seen and then think about how much more beautiful heaven must be.

Journal:

Day 133 – Sunday January 22

<u>Today's Challenge</u>: "Oh be careful little eyes what you see." There is a one eyed monster sitting in your house this very moment. It tells you what to think, what to feel and how you should live. This monster tells you that sin is ok. It tells you that it's just a different way of living and those who love God are just ignorant and not in tune with the real world. Your challenge today is to unplug this monster (yes, your TV) for 24 hours and steal its life before it can steal yours.

Today's Bible Reading: Jeremiah 35-39

<u>Today's Prayer</u>: Pray for help against the evil one who seeks your destruction through many veiled threats.

<u>Today's Devotional</u>: You, as a Christian, are a target for the people of this world who love the world and its pleasures above all else. Journal your thoughts on ways the world can cause you to slip into spiritual slumber and steal away your relationship with God.

Day 134 – Monday January 23

<u>Today's Challenge</u>: How high have you been? Have you climbed a mountain? Flown high into the heavens? Rarely do we remember the deepest we have been. Unless you are into diving, it's just not something we consider often. God wants us to dive deep with Him. May God bless our day!

Today's Bible Reading: Jeremiah 40-45

<u>Today's Prayer</u>: Pray that we would experience deeper relationships and changed lives.

<u>Today's Devotional</u>: We have been blessed. We are MORE blessed to have such a great family of believers. Use the space below to write down some ways you can be blessing to your church family. Then, consider how the people, THE TRUE CHURCH, can be a blessing to the community.

Journal:

Day 135 – Tuesday January 24

<u>Today's Challenge</u>: Those who do not learn from the mistakes that history shows us are bound to repeat those mistakes. We, as God's people need to understand that all people will sin but the Christian will learn from that mistake and turn away from it. Today's challenge is to think about your mistakes then make every effort not to repeat them.

Today's Bible Reading: Jeremiah 46-49

<u>Today's Prayer</u>: "Dear Father, help us to learn and to endeavor to constantly change our lives to be more Christ-like."

<u>Today's Devotional</u>: Change can be good and it can be bad but the only true constant in our lives is God and the truth He has shared with us through His word. List two things in your life that you would like to change, then ask for God's help in making those changes.

Day 136 – Wednesday January 25

<u>Today's Challenge</u>: The race we run can be long and at times very difficult but the Lord uses these hard times as a chance for us to learn to lean on Him and not rely on our own strength. Today's challenge is to seek the strength of the Lord and to not try to handle all our problems ourselves but to take them to the Lord in prayer.

Today's Bible Reading: Jeremiah 50-52

<u>Today's Prayer</u>: "Father, be with us. Help us and guide us through today."

<u>Today's Devotional</u>: A distance racer values endurance over all things. A fast runner can win a short race but speed alone can never win a long race. Journal your thoughts on what spiritual endurance means in your life.

Journal:

Day 137 – Thursday January 26

<u>Today's Challenge</u>: When Jerusalem was destroyed and its people killed or taken into bondage, there was great sadness for its people. They had sinned over and over again and would not repent. The challenge for today is to spend some time thinking about how our own country continues to pile up sin upon sin and there seems to be no remorse for most people. Could we be on the verge of the Lord's wrath?

Today's Bible Reading: Lamentations 1-5

Today's Prayer: Pray for our nation as it seems to dive deeper and deeper into sin.

<u>Today's Devotional</u>: "It's time to pay the piper" is an old expression which means you have been doing something and the time has come to pay for the things you have done. If it was evil things that you have done, then the price may be quite high. We all must realize that if we are doing things contrary to God's will there will be a day of reckoning. Write down your thoughts on our country's current state and what our day of reckoning may be like.

Day 138 – Friday January 27

<u>Today's Challenge</u>: "Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding: in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make your paths straight." (Proverbs 3: 5-6). Today's challenge is to simply trust in the Lord and let Him guide you through your day.

Today's Bible Reading: Ezekiel 1-5

<u>Today's Prayer</u>: "Dear Father, give us the trusting mind of a child for You are our Father in heaven."

<u>Today's Devotional</u>: As an old song says "he ain't heavy, he's my brother"; We need our brothers and sisters to help us. Our pride can make us weak and vulnerable to the evil one. Never be afraid to lean on a brother in a time of need. Journal your thoughts on ways we can come closer together as a church family.

Journal:

Day 139 – Saturday January 28

<u>Today's Challenge</u>: "Oh, the wise man built his house upon the rock, the wise man built his house upon the rock, the wise man built his house upon the rock and the rains came a tumbling down." Your challenge is to build your house upon the rock which is our Lord and Savior Jesus the Christ.

Today's Bible Reading: Ezekiel 6-11

<u>Today's Prayer</u>: Pray for wisdom so you can lay the foundations of your life on the truth of God's word.

<u>Today's Devotional</u>: When you see men building a house, they do their best work when the weather is fair. But, if it is stormy or hot they don't get as much done. When we are building our spiritual foundations, we also should try to work as hard as we can when we have the best opportunity, for good days and bad are both a part of our lives. Journal your thoughts on how you are building your house upon the rock.

Day 140 – Sunday January 29

<u>Today's Challenge</u>: "Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path" (Psalm 119:105). Those who can't see physically don't make very good guides and so it goes that those who are blinded spiritually will lead those that follow them astray. The challenge for today is to think about your path and to be sure in your heart that your path is the path that Jesus walked.

Today's Bible Reading: Ezekiel 12-17

<u>Today's Prayer</u>: "Help us, dear Father, to follow in Jesus' footsteps wherever they may lead us."

<u>Today's Devotional</u>: There are always forks in the paths of life, the right choices we make can make our lives easier while the wrong choices can make out lives more difficult. Write down your thoughts on some choices that you have made in life that have led you in the right direction, then thank God for helping you to make those good choices.

Journal:

Day 141 – Monday January 30

<u>Today's Challenge</u>: Israel rejected God. They took idols and worshipped them before Him. This made God very angry, but He tried over and over to get His special people to repent. They refused because they listened to false prophets that told them everything was going to be alright. Today's challenge is to check all words of men against what the Bible tells us and reject all that is not according to His word.

Today's Bible Reading: Ezekiel 18-23

<u>Today's Prayer</u>: Pray for a heart that seeks the truth.

<u>Today's Devotional</u>: The world would have us believe that the truth is a variable that depends on the situation you are in, but God tells us the truth is constant and that it will set us free from the power of sin. Journal your thoughts about what the truth setting us free means to you.

Day 142 – Tuesday January 31

<u>Today's Challenge</u>: In today's world it is all about the winner. To win is to be good and to lose is to be bad. But, the Bible tells us there is strength in weakness and greatness in humility. Today's challenge is to seek a humble spirit within that doesn't have to win all the time and finds strength through submission to God.

Today's Bible Reading: Ezekiel 24-29

Today's Prayer: Pray for gift of humility.

<u>Today's Devotional</u>: Have you ever felt like the whole world was against you? Well if you are human you have. But, even if the whole world were really against you, then you have One greater than the world that is for you. Journal your thoughts about what it takes for someone to be "a great person" in the kingdom of God.

Journal:

Day 143 – Wednesday February 1

<u>Today's Challenge</u>: Justice is what most people say they want, but the Lord has told us that He will grant us mercy, which is much better. If we received justice from the Lord, we would all be lost, for we all are sinners. But the Father in heaven would wish that His obedient children would be saved. Today's challenge is to show mercy to those about you and to love them despite their flaws.

Today's Bible Reading: Ezekiel 30-34

<u>Today's Prayer</u>: Pray for the terminally ill that they may seek peace through the Lord.

<u>Today's Devotional</u>: Mercy is kind and gentle and seeks not to have all wrongs righted but to forgive those who are unforgivable and to love those who are unlovable. Write your thoughts on having mercy on those who have done wrong to you in the past.

Day 144 – Thursday February 2

<u>Today's Challenge</u>: An average person can live a week without water, but a person who has no water will get sick and weak before they die. Jesus has told us the He is a living stream of water and if we don't seek Him in prayer we will get spiritually sick and weak and then eventually die a spiritual death. Today's challenge is so easy. Find a quiet place with no distractions and go to the Lord in prayer for five minutes that is 1/288th of your day.

Today's Bible Reading: Ezekiel 35-38

<u>Today's Prayer</u>: Pray for the love and peace of Jesus to fill our lives to the point that it spills over into other lives.

<u>Today's Devotional</u>: The Bible mentions how trees that have streams of water flowing through their roots are able to grow strong and tall. Journal your thoughts on what you think these streams of water are to us in our everyday lives.

Journal:

Day 145 – Friday February 3

<u>Today's Challenge</u>: Before you get up today, or before you pillow your head tonight, try doing these things: praise God for His greatness and consider the death of Jesus on the cross. Praise the Lord for this day!

Today's Bible Reading: Ezekiel 39-43

<u>Today's Prayer</u>: Ask God for wisdom as we apply His story to our own life story.

<u>Today's Devotional</u>: How "wise" do you feel? How do you use your words to inspire or encourage? Jesus was called "The Word of God" or the "mouthpiece" of God. Use the space below to journal your thoughts about how you can change your thoughts and words to be the mouth of God to others.

Day 146 – Saturday February 4

<u>Today's Challenge</u>: A random act of kindness can go a long way to make someone's day better. Today's challenge is to perform three random acts of kindness and even more if the opportunity presents itself.

Today's Bible Reading: Ezekiel 44-48

Today's Prayer: Pray for us all to have a spirit that is meek and humble.

<u>Today's Devotional</u>: Sometimes it is hard to be kind to a person who seems to hate the world and everyone in it, but there is usually a reason that they have become as they are. Some of the hardest substances in the world can be worn down by a constant force. Write down your thoughts on kindness and how we can use it as a source of change in ourselves and others.

Journal:

Day 147 – Sunday February 5

<u>Today's Challenge</u>: As the old saying goes "I don't know what the future holds but I know who holds the future." As Christians, we need to put our faith for tomorrow in the hands of our Creator and take care of His work today. Today's challenge is to find a quiet place and go to God in prayer for 10 minutes and ask Him to take care of us.

Today's Bible Reading: Daniel 1-6

Today's Prayer: Pray for God's mercy and grace and the peace that passeth all understanding.

<u>Today's Devotional</u>: Prayer is what connects us with God and keeps us strong! Journal your thoughts on how long and how often you think you should go to God every day in prayer.

Day 148 – Monday February 6

<u>Today's Challenge</u>: You don't know how much you need something until you are forced to do without it. Sometimes people wander away from God and then if they are lucky they realize that something terribly important is missing in their lives. Today's challenge is to send a hand written note to someone you know that has fallen away and just tell them you miss them and would like to see them in church again.

Today's Bible Reading: Daniel 7-12

<u>Today's Prayer</u>: Pray for the sheep who have wandered from their master.

<u>Today's Devotional</u>: Loss can affect different people in different ways. Some people hold their feelings in and others make a great show of what they are feeling. A brother or sister that has left the fellowship of God should cause a feeling of loss to all of us. Write your thoughts on ways to reconnect with those who no longer attend worship services.

Journal:

Day 149 – Tuesday February 7

<u>Today's Challenge</u>: Spend time with the ones you love. Don't let this busy world take you away from your family and friends. Your challenge is to spend one hour just talking with a member of your family or a close friend and let them know how special they are to you.

Today's Bible Reading: Hosea 1-5

<u>Today's Prayer</u>: "Dear Father, help us to understand Your will for us and help us to do Your will when we understand it."

<u>Today's Devotional</u>: No man is an island. We all need and want others in our lives. If these friends and family are members of the Lord's Church, so much the better for then you will have a special bond of love. Write down three close friend's names then thank the Lord for putting them in your life.

Day 150 – Wednesday February 8

<u>Today's Challenge</u>: The Lord wants us to love Him. He has made the first move toward reconciliation by giving us His son so that our sins will be remembered no more. But many have not accepted this gift of love and remain enemies of God. Your challenge today is to be at peace with God. If you already are, then thank Him for His gift to you; If you are not, then look at your life and make the changes necessary to be so.

Today's Bible Reading: Hosea 6-10

<u>Today's Prayer</u>: Pray for the will and energy to be totally committed to the Lord.

<u>Today's Devotional</u>: A singer once sang that "freedom is just another word for nothing left to lose" but on the contrary our freedom is just another word for everything to gain. Journal your thoughts on what freedom in Christ means to you.

Journal:

Day 151 – Thursday February 9

<u>Today's Challenge</u>: The end of this life is not the end of our existence, for we know that we will live again, either in the presence of the Lord or in His absence. Today's challenge is to seek the Lord's presence in all the facets of our lives.

Today's Bible Reading: Hosea 11-14

Today's Prayer: Pray for God to bless us and keep us in His Holy Presence.

<u>Today's Devotional</u>: I heard a man say once that he was sick and tired of being sick and tired. Our life can, at times, be wearing on our souls. But if we approach worship in the right way we can find renewal and refreshment in the gathering of His people. Journal your thoughts on what you like best about our church services.

Day 152 – Friday February 10

<u>Today's Challenge</u>: A lamp is used to chase away the darkness and to let us see what is about us on a dark night. Today's challenge is for us to be living lamps to our friends, relatives, and neighbors so they can see the truth that is guiding our lives.

Today's Bible Reading: Joel 1-3

<u>Today's Prayer</u>: "Help us, Lord, not to fear the evil one for with You at my side, I need have no fear."

<u>Today's Devotional</u>: On a cold dark night it is very easy to lose our way, but if we are on a road that has a lamppost it is much easier to find our way. Write down some things or people that act as lampposts in your walk of life.

Journal:

Day 153 – Saturday February 11

<u>Today's Challenge</u>: How many times must you forgive your brother for sinning against you? Jesus tells us if he repents and is truly sorry then our forgiveness must mirror that of our Savior and forgive him over and over again. Today's challenge is to cleanse your heart of all grudges that you may hold against a brother or sister and be at peace with them and yourself.

Today's Bible Reading: Amos 1-9

<u>Today's Prayer</u>: Pray for a clear mind and a forgiving heart.

<u>Today's Devotional</u>: To forgive someone that has wronged you can be a very hard thing to do. But, if we look at Jesus example, He forgave those who killed Him even though He did no wrong against them. To live a life of hatred and vengeance is to die a little every day and can make a person bitter and angry with all people. Write your thoughts on forgiveness and the example that

Christ set for us.

Journal:

Day 154 – Sunday February 12

<u>Today's Challenge</u>: Our Christian life is like a farmer who plants the seed and waters it and cares for it. Then he relies on his faith that his good work will produce a healthy plant that will return to him many fold what he has put into it. Today's challenge is to plant at least one seed today, more would be even better.

Today's Bible Reading: Obadiah & Jonah

<u>Today's Prayer</u>: Pray for the opportunity to further God's kingdom by sharing the gospel with those who are in need.

<u>Today's Devotional</u>: When the farmer plants a crop he knows that not all seed will produce a healthy plant. Some plants will wither, some will be diseased, and some will grow but never be strong enough to bear fruit. The plant that does grow strong and true will produce an abundance of new seed to feed the farmer and provide for future crops. Journal your thoughts about what is necessary for a person to become a healthy, productive member of the Lord's Church.

Journal:

Day 155 – Monday February 13

<u>Today's Challenge</u>: We need to be in constant contact with God, pray at every opportunity and keep the evil one as far away from your heart as you can. Today's challenge is to spend 15 minutes in a quiet peaceful place in prayer to God.

Today's Bible Reading: Micah & Nahum

<u>Today's Prayer</u>: Pray for peace of mind and a spirit that seeks the Lord.

<u>Today's Devotional</u>: Getting close to the Lord requires us to put effort into our spiritual lives. Good things rarely just happen, it takes time and effort. A good way to start your day is to find a quiet place and clear your mind of all the pressures of the day and seek solitude with just you and the Lord in prayer. Write your thoughts about the power of prayer and how you gain strength and peace

through prayer.

Journal:

Day 156 – Tuesday February 14

<u>Today's Challenge</u>: In our weakness, we can find strength through Christ our Lord. We can't all be strong all the time but we have a Savior that is strong all the time. He is there for us whenever we need Him. Today's challenge is to admit your flaws and weaknesses and seek the Lord's help in all things that are too big for us.

Today's Bible Reading: Habakkuk & Zephaniah & Haggai

<u>Today's Prayer</u>: Pray for your brothers and sisters that are struggling with sin and sadness.

<u>Today's Devotional</u>: We all need a steadying force in our lives, but at times such a thing is hard to find. Jesus is our rock in the storm. People can and will fail you. Things on this earth break down and decay. Jesus is forever and always our hope and salvation. Journal your thoughts about the strength you find in Jesus and how you can share this strength with others who are not as strong.

Journal:

Day 157 – Wednesday February 15

<u>Today's Challenge</u>: The church is made up of many different types of people and some people are better at one thing and others another. All of us can be encouragers and help our brothers and sisters through the hard times that will come on all of us. The challenge for today is to be encourager. See your glass as half full and spread cheerfulness to all around you.

Today's Bible Reading: Zechariah 1-5

Today's Prayer: Pray for a cheerful heart that seeks the silver lining in all things.

<u>Today's Devotional</u>: Barnabas's name meant "son of exhortation or encouragement". He was one who helped Paul in his journeys and was a great early church leader. Greatness does not always

mean a person has to be a powerful speaker or a great leader. Often the most influential people are those who work in the background. Journal your thoughts about what defines "an encourager."

Journal:

Day 158 – Thursday February 16

<u>Today's Challenge</u>: How are things with your family? It would be a great day to spend quality time with your family. There are plenty of places to go and things to do in our community. Go out to eat. Go for a walk. Play a board game together. Make it a day to remember, but don't leave God out of it. Give Him the glory!

Today's Bible Reading: Zechariah 6-10

Today's Prayer: Pray for our families.

<u>Today's Devotional</u>: Where did you go today? What did you do? Did you make time for your family? If not, why not? What can you plan for another day? Use the space below to journal your thoughts about the need for quality family time.

Journal:

Day 159 – Friday February 17

<u>Today's Challenge</u>: The Bible often compares our journey through this life to a race. We have to complete our race in life in order to win the prize. To fall one step short of the finish line is to lose the race for salvation. Today's challenge is to determine to win the race of life no matter what obstacles you must overcome.

Today's Bible Reading: Zechariah 11-14

<u>Today's Prayer</u>: Pray for the physically and spiritually sick.

<u>Today's Devotional</u>: The devil is a real being that seeks our destruction. He walks about as a roaring lion that uses all the tricks he can muster to cause us to fall away from the path of

righteousness. The evil one hates us and doesn't want us to spend eternity with the Lord. Write down your thoughts on what may be some of the ways the devil seeks to lure you away from God.

Journal:

Day 160 – Saturday February 18

<u>Today's Challenge</u>: You made it! You should feel like you have accomplished an amazing goal today! God must be smiling down on you and the entire church family for being engaged in this spiritual journey. The final challenge of this 160 Days of Prayer is to NOT forget what you have learned. God's will is for you to draw near to Him every day and in every moment. Remember the song, "Sweet Hour of Prayer"? Could you plan that today? If not, could you schedule it tomorrow or this weekend? Make the time to spend one full hour in prayer. Use this booklet as a guide. You have plenty of names and things to pray about. We can almost guarantee it will be the most fulfilling hour of your day, but it may be the best hour of the year. Give it to God!

Today's Bible Reading: Malachi

<u>Today's Prayer</u>: Pray that these 160 days will be a defining experience in your life's journey.

<u>Today's Devotional</u>: Use the space below to journal your thoughts about this entire 160-day journey. What have you benefited from the most? What will you do to keep up your spiritual growth?