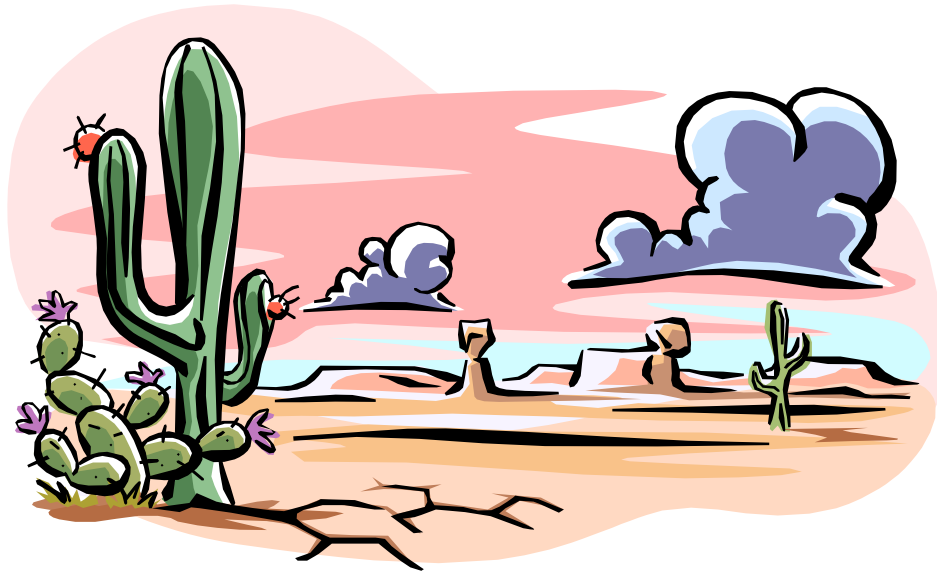


The Next Steps Series
Forty Days in the Wilderness
A 40-day Quiet Time for New Disciples



long island
CHURCH OF CHRIST

P.O. Box 607M
Bayshore, New York 11706
631/348-7322
www.licoc.org

Teaching them to obey all things I have commanded you...Matthew 28:20 NKJV

Day 1: "Saved Completely"

Forty Days in the Wilderness - A 40 Day Quiet Time Series

What God has done for you through your baptism into Christ is truly amazing! As you enter the first day of this series, take time to begin and end each lesson with prayer. Ask God to help you understand what you are about to read and ask Him for insight. Also, give Him thanks and praise for all He has done for you! ☺

I. Colossians 2:11-13

1. According to verse 12, at what point did Jesus circumcise (cut away) your sins?
2. From verse 13, what has God done for you?
3. Read Colossians 1:21-23
 - a. What was your relationship with God before your baptism?
 - b. What had you done to make God your enemy?
 - c. What does it mean to be holy, without blemish, free from accusation?
 - d. What condition is there to staying saved (see verse 23)?

II. Hebrews 9:27-28

1. What has Jesus' sacrifice done for you?
2. When Christ returns, what will He bring to you?

III. Jude 1:24-25

1. List the things that God, through Christ, is able to do for you?

IV. Psalm 103:1-5

1. This passage encourages us to never forget God's benefits.
 - a. From this passage, what are the benefits that God has given you?
 - b. What other "benefits" has God given you that are not listed in this passage?

For Your Encouragement:

1. Write a thank you prayer to God. Keep it in a special place to re-read later.
2. Never forget His benefits!
3. Learn this song and sing it often:

*Deeper than the ocean and wider than the sea
Is the grace of the Savior for sinners like me
Sent from the Father and it thrills my soul
Just to feel and to know that His blood makes me whole!*

*His grace reaches me, yes, His grace reaches me
And 'twill last through eternity
Now I'm under His control and I'm happy in my soul
Just to know that His grace reaches me!*

Day 2: “The Grace of God”

Forty Days in the Wilderness - A 40 Day Quiet Time Series

I. Ephesians 2:8-10

1. From verse 8, how is “grace” defined?
2. Did you earn your salvation or is it a gift of God?
3. From verse 10, what does God’s grace lead you to do?
4. Read Romans 6:23.
 - a. As a sinner, what did you earn?
 - b. As a disciple, what gift did God give you through Jesus Christ?

II. Romans 5:6-11

1. How did God prove His incredible love for you?
2. From this passage, list the things Christ’s death has done for you.

III. Titus 2:11-14

1. Has God’s saving grace been teaching you to say “No!” to what is ungodly?
2. Read Jude 1:4. What does false “grace” lead to?

IV. 1Corinthians 15:9-10

1. How did Paul show his gratitude towards the grace given him?
2. How are you showing your gratitude towards the grace given you?

For Your Encouragement:

1. Write down (and do) three things that will express your gratitude towards God’s grace.
2. Each day, show your appreciation of God’s grace by doing what is good and pleasing in His sight.
3. Remember these three definitions:
 - a. Justice = Getting what we deserve
 - b. Mercy = Not getting what we deserve
 - c. Grace = Getting what we don’t deserve

Day 3: “Tested and Tempted”

Forty Days in the Wilderness - A 40 Day Quiet Time Series

I. Matthew 3:16-4:11

1. What happened to Jesus after his baptism?
2. What should you expect after your baptism?
3. List the ways Satan has tempted you since your baptism?
4. What did Jesus use to fight Satan’s temptations?
5. Read Psalm 119:11
 - a. Satan’s goal is to get you to fall into sin. Satan tried to get Jesus to sin, but Jesus kept quoting Scripture to him. What is Psalm 119:11 instructing you to do and why?

II. Ephesians 6:10-17

1. List some ways Satan may scheme against you?
2. Many will persecute you because of your faith. Judging from verse 12, who is the battle really against? People or Satan’s spiritual forces?
3. From verse 17, what is our “defense weapon” against Satan?

III. 1Timothy 4:1

1. Another way Satan tempts us is by seducing us to accept things taught by demons. How can you protect yourself from falling into false teachings?

For Your Encouragement:

1. Expect to be tempted and decide to be open about it. Talk with your mentor or a mature Christian today about your temptations and pray together.
2. Study your Bible daily and store the word of God in your heart so that you will be able to recognize and expose Satan’s schemes. For starters, memorize Psalm 119:11.

Day 4: “Learning To Pray”

Forty Days in the Wilderness - A 40 Day Quiet Time Series

I. Luke 11:1-13

1. Why do you think prayer needs to be learned?
2. From verse 2, to whom should we be addressing our prayers?
3. From verses 2-4, what four things should we include in our prayers?
4. From verses 5-13, what else does Jesus want us to understand about prayer?

II. Philippians 4:6-7

1. When you are stressed and worried, what ought you to do?
2. And from verse 7, what will be the outcome?
3. Do you feel at peace after you pray?

III. 1John 5:14

1. If your prayer request is in accordance to God’s will, will He grant you your request?
2. Read 2 Corinthians 12:7-10
 - a. Paul made a request to the Lord but the Lord answered “No.”
 - b. Sometimes God answers with a “Yes,” “No,” or a “Wait awhile.” Remember, Father knows best. His answers are always right! So do not get discouraged if He answers with a “No” or a “Wait awhile.” ☺

IV. Ephesians 6:18-20

1. The opposite of “spirit” is “flesh”. The works of the flesh are sinful (Galatians 5:19-21). So what does it mean to pray in the Spirit?
2. Who and what should we be praying for?
3. Do you pray for yourself (and for others in the kingdom) to be bold and effective in the sharing the Gospel?

A simple outline for prayer is: **A.C.T.S.** – Adoration (praise), Confession, Thanksgiving, Supplication (requests).

For Your Encouragement:

1. Pray following the pattern set by Jesus in Luke 11:2-4 or using the A.C.T.S. format.
2. Make a prayer journal and write down your prayer requests. See how God answers them.
3. Pray for the saints of God, that they be effective soul-winners and pray for those who are lost and are being studied with, that they come to know the grace of God.
4. Read the Psalms to learn how to really praise God in prayer.

Day 5: "Growing Roots"

Forty Days in the Wilderness - A 40 Day Quiet Time Series

I. Luke 8:13

1. What happens to disciples who don't grow roots?

II. Acts 2:41-47

1. What did these disciples do to develop strong roots with the Lord and His Church?
2. From verse 42, to what four things did they devote themselves?
3. Are you devoting yourself to the same things they did?
4. Write down ways you can deepen your relationship with God and His people.

III. 1Thessalonians 1:2-10

1. From verse 5, what does it mean to have "deep conviction"?
2. How can you develop deep conviction?
3. Who should you imitate? In what ways?
4. Are you becoming a "model" to others? If so, in what way?

For Your Encouragement:

1. Spend time this week with Christians you can imitate and learn from.
2. If you have the means, invite a few Christians over for dinner and/or fellowship. Get to know other disciples and develop strong relationships in the church.
3. Devote yourself to the word of God. Study the Word of God on a daily basis as the Bereans did in Acts 17:11.
4. Pray often to the Lord. You may want to follow Daniel's example in Daniel 6:10.

Day 6: “Too Good to Keep”

Forty Days in the Wilderness - A 40 Day Quiet Time Series

I. 2Kings 7:3-11

1. These four lepers were starving and had no hope. Before you were baptized, how were you like these four lepers?
2. How is the kingdom of God like an unlimited feast?
3. In verse 9, these men thought it wrong to withhold this good news to themselves. Do you tend to keep the good news of salvation to yourself? See Mark 16:15.

II. Romans 10:1-4, 14-21

1. Do you feel like Paul does about the lost?
2. Who does God send to preach?
3. Why is it essential to share the good news of Jesus to others?
4. Will everyone accept the good news? If not, why not?
5. Why is it important to preach no matter what response you receive?

III. Acts 4:23-29

1. These disciples prayed to God for boldness in sharing the message of salvation. Do you ask God to enable you to speak with boldness the gospel of Jesus Christ?

IV. 2Timothy 2:24-26

1. In what manner should you share the message of truth to the lost?
2. Is it right to argue or lose patience with those who reject the truth?
3. From verses 25-26, after you shared the truth, what should you be hoping for?

For Your Encouragement:

1. Share your faith with your family, friends and coworkers. Be determined to not allow yourself to be discouraged by people’s poor reaction to the Gospel!
2. Pray to the Father for boldness and effectiveness in sharing your faith.
3. If you are new to street evangelism, ask your mentor or another mature disciple to go evangelizing with you.
4. If you get a person who is interested in learning more about the Bible, get their phone number and set up a study date with them. Take a mature Christian with you to the study.

Day 7: "The Family of God"

Forty Days in the Wilderness - A 40 Day Quiet Time Series

The relationships in God's Family are unlike the world's relationships. The relationships within the Kingdom are based on purity, respect and honor. Relationships within the Church encourage us to remain faithful to the Christian calling, help us correct our wrongs when correction is needed, challenge us to grow when a challenge is needed, and provide support when things get tough. The bible is the standard for great relationships. Man's relationship with God and Man's relationship with his fellow man are themes that run deep within the pages of the Bible.

I. Mark 3:31-35

1. Who did Jesus consider His true relatives?
2. Do you see God's Church as your spiritual family?

II. Romans 12:10-15

1. What does the word "honor" mean?
2. Do people in your life feel honored and respected by you?
3. How do you feel when somebody treats you with dishonor? Or with disrespect?
4. How can you express honor and devotion to your brothers and sisters in the Lord?
5. What does "practice hospitality" mean?
6. Can you rejoice with those who rejoice and weep with those who weep if you don't get to know them and spend time with them?

III. 1Peter 1:22-23

1. What is "sincere love"?
2. How can you love your brother or sister in Christ deeply from the heart?

For Your Encouragement:

1. Make it your goal this week to spend time with two or more Christians that you haven't fellowshiped with.
2. Honor the Family of God and be devoted to the brotherhood of believers through phone calls, visits, Emails, and fellowships.
3. Learn this song and sing it often to the Lord:

*We're part of the Family that's been born again
Part of the Family whose love knows no end
For Jesus has saved us and made us His own
Now we're part of the Family that's on its way home!*

*And sometimes we laugh together, sometimes we cry
Sometimes we share together heartaches and sighs
Sometimes we dream together of how it will be
When we all get to Heaven
God's Family!*

Day 8: “The Hope of Glory”

Forty Days in the Wilderness - A 40 Day Quiet Time Series

I. 1Corinthians 15:51-58

1. What is the mystery Paul tells us?
2. Why do people normally fear death?
3. Why should we, as disciples, no longer fear death?
4. Why should we devote ourselves fully to the work of the Lord?

II. Colossians 3:1-4

1. Since you have been raised with Christ in baptism, what should you be thinking about from now on?
2. What things should you stop thinking about so much?

III. Hebrews 10:32-35

1. Did these early disciples put their trust in the things of this world?
2. Why did they joyfully accept the confiscation of their earthly possessions?

For Your Encouragement:

1. Think for a while about what heaven will be like. And don't forget to thank God every day for the opportunity to go to Heaven!

Day 9: “Trials of Many Kinds”

Forty Days in the Wilderness - A 40 Day Quiet Time Series

I. James 1:2-4

1. List the reasons why God allows us to go through trials.
2. What should your attitude be towards the trials that come your way?
3. What trials do you have in your life right now?

II. James 1:12-15

1. How can you persevere through trials and stand the test?
2. Where do temptations come from?
3. What things tempt you?
4. Have you talked about your temptations with God? If you need prayers and encouragement, share your temptations with your mentor or with a mature Christian.

III. 1Peter 1:3-9

1. Why should we rejoice in trials?
2. How can you know if your faith is genuine or not?
3. How can you prepare today for trials you may face later?

For Your Encouragement:

1. Talk about the trials and temptations you face with your mentor or with a mature disciple. Feel free to discuss your attitude about the trials you face.
2. Have a positive mindset towards the trials you face. Put your faith in God, for He will see you through all your trials!
3. Learn to pray to the Lord in this manner, saying: “Father, do not take away my trials, rather, help me through them. May my life glorify Your name. Amen.”

Day 10: “Pray Like Jesus”

Forty Days in the Wilderness - A 40 Day Quiet Time Series

I. Mark 1:32-39

1. Despite a busy evening of helping others, Jesus got up early to pray. What excuses could He have made to not pray?
2. Do you ever make excuses not to pray?
3. How has your prayer time been the past 10 days?

II. Mark 14:32-36

1. When Jesus was in distress, what did He do?
2. Did Jesus pray for His own will to be done or for His Father’s will to be done?
3. When you pray, should you be praying for your will to be done or the Father’s will to be done?

III. Hebrews 5:7-9

1. What kind of prayer life did Jesus have?
2. Why were His prayers heard?
3. Besides dying for our sins, what things would have been difficult for Jesus to obey?
4. What things are difficult for you to do as a disciple?
5. Have you been praying with loud cries and tears for God to help you be obedient?
6. What situations in your life do you need to pray more about? Make a list and be specific.

For Your Encouragement:

1. Spend time today praying about the things you wrote about on your list. Be specific in your prayers.
2. Try praying out loud and talking to God as if you could see him. Tell him how you feel about these things and what is difficult and why it is difficult. Be real and open with God.

Day 11: "Holding On to the Truth"

Forty Days in the Wilderness - A 40 Day Quiet Time Series

I. 2Timothy 2:14-21

1. What value is there in quarreling about words and what does it do to those who listen?
2. Do you ever quarrel about words? If so, what should you do about it?
3. How can you train yourself to be an approved workman of God?
4. How can you avoid godless chatter?

II. 1Timothy 1:18-20

1. How can you fight the good fight?
2. How can a disciple "shipwreck" their faith?
3. Read about Hymenaeus (2Timothy 2:17-18) and Alexander (2Timothy 4:14-15).
 - a. What is the outcome of people who turn away from the faith?
 - b. What are some ways false brothers may harm others?

III. 1Timothy 4:15-16

1. Have people been noticing positive and progressive changes in you?
2. Are you watching your life and doctrine? In other words, are you practicing what you preach?

IV. 2Timothy 2:23-26

1. How should you treat someone who opposes your teaching?
2. What is your hope for those you gently instruct (vs. 25)?

For Your Encouragement:

1. Discuss with your mentor any questions about doctrine or the church that you do not understand.
2. Study the Word of God on a daily basis and never let go of the truth you learn from the Holy Scriptures. As Jude 1:3 says, "*contend for the faith that was once for all entrusted to the saints!*"

Day 12: “Doing Good Things”

Forty Days in the Wilderness - A 40 Day Quiet Time Series

I. Ephesians 2:10

1. What has God created us for?
2. Make a list of some good works that you could do.

II. 1Peter 4:8-11

1. What does loving each other do for us?
2. Have you been offering hospitality to other disciples?
3. How can you improve in this?
4. Why do you think God wants you to be giving to others?

III. Galatians 6:9-10

1. Who does God want us to help?
2. Who in your mentorship group (or in the Church) has special needs right now that you could help?

For Your Encouragement:

1. If you see needs you can meet, meet those needs this week. If you don't know how you can help, seek advice from your mentor or a mature Christian. Always keep this in mind – we are family; we need each other!

Day 13: "Saved to Serve"

Forty Days in the Wilderness - A 40 Day Quiet Time Series

I. Matthew 25:31-46

1. When we serve those who are hurting in the Kingdom, who are we really serving?
2. Which of the six things listed in verses 35-36 have you done recently?

II. Deuteronomy 15:7-10

1. What does it mean to be "hard-hearted" or "tight-fisted"?
2. What kind of giving does God expect from you?
3. Who are some of the poor and needy around you - and how are you going to help them?

III. Matthew 10:40-42

1. God rewards a simple act of kindness like offering a cup of cold water to a weary soul. What are some ways you can help the needy, even if you have little money?

IV. Hebrews 6:10

1. From this passage, how is your love for God expressed?

V. 1Corinthians 15:58; 2Thessalonians 3:13

1. Sometimes, it is a challenge to continue doing what is right, especially when it appears that nothing positive is resulting from it. However, why should you never tire from doing what is right?

For Your Encouragement:

1. Who can you help today? Why not help them now?
2. Make plans with other disciples to help those who are in need this week.

Day 14: “The Pursuit of Holiness”

Forty Days in the Wilderness - A 40 Day Quiet Time Series

I. 1Peter 1:13-23

1. Now that you are a child of God, from verse 15, what are you called to be?
2. Why does God call you to be this way?
3. From verse 14, what does Peter contrast “holiness” to?

II. 1Peter 4:1-5

1. Define each item listed in verse 3.
2. How will people in the world react to your choosing to live a holy life?

III. Acts 19:18-19

1. From verse 19, how did these new disciples express their desire to be holy?
2. Do you have any books, CDs, tapes, videos, clothing or any other paraphernalia that is offensive to God that needs to be thrown away? If so, get rid of them now and pray to God, thanking Him for salvation and freedom from sin.

IV. Psalm 119:9-16

1. How can you keep your way pure?
2. From verse 11, what encouragement does God’s Word offer you and why?
3. Do you – on a daily basis – study and meditate on the Word of God?

V. Romans 8:13-14

1. God’s children are led by whom?
2. As a child of God, by what power are you able to put to death the evil deeds of the flesh?

For Your Encouragement:

1. Ask your mentor – or a mature Christian who knows you well – if they see any worldly attitudes or habits in your life that you need to change.
2. Be receptive towards their critiques and thank them for their desire to help you become more like Jesus.

Day 15: “The Hope of Heaven”

Forty Days in the Wilderness - A 40 Day Quiet Time Series

I. Revelation 20:11-15

1. Take time to imagine what Judgment Day will be like! Who will be there?
2. How will everyone be feeling?

II. Revelation 21:1-8

1. Who is the Bride of Christ?
2. Describe heaven.
3. Who will suffer the second death?

III. Revelation 22:1-6

1. What other eternal joys will be in heaven?
2. Why does God want us to know these words are trustworthy and true?

IV. Revelation 22:14-15

1. Why are you such a blessed person?
2. Who will be shut out from the presence of God?

For Your Encouragement:

1. Pray about what God promises in heaven and be thankful for salvation!
2. When you're asked, “How are you?” tell that person: “I am blessed!”

Day 16: “Saved to Save”

Forty Days in the Wilderness - A 40 Day Quiet Time Series

I. Mark 16:15; 1Corinthians 15:1-4; 1Peter 2:9-10

1. God calls all His disciples to share the Gospel (good news) of Jesus Christ:
 - a. What does it mean to be a royal priesthood?
 - b. What message are you called to declare?
 - c. Are you declaring God's praises with the lost or just giving out an invitation?

II. 2Corinthians 5:14-21

1. How can you tell if you're living for yourself or living for Jesus?
2. Go to the dictionary and look up the word “ambassador.”
3. What does it mean to be Christ's ambassador?
4. What does MAKE AN APPEAL and IMPLORE mean?
5. What attitude should you have toward the lost?

III. Acts 17:16-34

1. Why was Paul distressed?
2. What are some sights around your city that distress you?
3. Why did Paul begin his message by commending the Athenians for being very religious?

IV. 1Corinthians 9:19-27

1. How did Paul use his freedom in Christ?
2. How are you using your freedom? Are you impacting others for Jesus Christ?

For Your Encouragement:

1. Write at least 4 things you have learned today about evangelism from this study.
2. Make a spiritual “hit list” of those whom you are in contact with. Pray to God to use you to help them come to know Him. Try to set up a Bible study with those on your spiritual “hit list”.

Day 17: “Distracted or Devoted”

Forty Days in the Wilderness - A 40 Day Quiet Time Series

I. Luke 10:38-42

1. Why was Martha distracted?
2. How was she feeling?
3. What things have you allowed to distract you this week?
4. Which of these two are you like the most?
5. What did Mary choose and why was it better?

II. Luke 8:14

1. What does it mean to be "choked"?
2. What will being “choked” produce?
3. Are there any worries that are hindering your growth at the moment? If so, what are they?

III. Luke 12:35-40

1. Why do we need to stay alert and ready for Jesus?
2. How does Jesus feel when we get distracted from our purpose?

IV. Acts 2:42-47

1. Why were these disciples effective?
2. List the things they were devoted to.
3. The Scriptures encourage us to imitate that which is good (3John 1:11). Have you been imitating that which is good?

For Your Encouragement:

1. If you have been distracted or wasting time, try writing a personal schedule every day. Use a planner or other media, such as a palm pilot, as an aid. If you need assistance, ask your mentor or another mature disciple to help you.

Day 18: “Learning from Others”

Forty Days in the Wilderness - A 40 Day Quiet Time Series

I. Matthew 18:1-4

1. What kind of heart does God want us to have?
2. What qualities of children do we need to imitate?

II. Matthew 28:18-20

1. From verse 20, what are disciples called to do with younger disciples?
2. Read 1 Timothy 4:12.
 - a. Can a Christian be young in age yet be mature in the Lord?
 - b. What should your attitude be when you are being taught, mentored or corrected by a mature Christian who is younger in age?

III. Ephesians 4:11-13

1. From verse 11, from whom do others disciples learn?
2. Where do we find the teachings of the apostles and prophets? In what book?
3. Evangelists are preachers, pastors are elders, and teachers those who instruct, counsel or mentor others. From verses 12-13, list the reason(s) why we are to learn from such persons?

IV. Hebrews 13:7, 17

1. Do you submit to the authority of those who lead and teach you?
2. Do you imitate the faith of those who lead and teach you?
3. Are you a pleasure to teach?

V. Psalm 32:8-10

1. Why does God’s Word encourage us not to be as horses and mules when it comes to learning what is right?

For Your Encouragement:

1. Seek mature disciples out and ask them questions.
2. If you are a mature disciple, yet, younger in age, be a great example to all believers!
3. If you are a young disciple, yet, older in age, do not look down on anyone because of their physical age. Rather, learn from those whom God has given insight.

Day 19: “Powerful Prayers”

Forty Days in the Wilderness - A 40 Day Quiet Time Series

I. 1Chronicles 17:16-22

1. What was David feeling as he prayed to God? Why?
2. How has the Lord blessed you with undeserved honor and blessings?
3. What attitude toward God does this prayer express?

II. Genesis 24:10-27

1. Why do you think the Lord answered this prayer so quickly?
2. The servant's prayer was simple, but he had great faith. How can you tell?
3. What was the servant's first response to the answered prayer?
4. Are you remembering to thank God for every answered prayer?

III. James 5:15-18

1. What makes prayer powerful and effective?
2. Do you pray eagerly and earnestly?
3. Do you pray with great faith?

IV. Luke 18:1-8

1. What is Jesus teaching you here in regards to prayer?
2. What should your prayer life be like?

For Your Encouragement:

1. Make your prayer very special today. Pray with faith and gratitude!

Day 20: "Tempted by the World"

Forty Days in the Wilderness - A 40 Day Quiet Time Series

I. Psalm 73:1-14

1. What was the psalmist feeling as he looked at the wealth and prosperity of the unsaved around him?
2. Why did life seem unfair to him?
3. Have you been envying the lost around you? If so, have you confessed this to God?

II. Psalm 73:15-22

1. What did he realize about their final destiny?
2. How is the "good life" like a dream that will end on judgment day?
3. How was the writer thinking when he was envying them?

III. Psalm 73:23-28

1. What did the psalmist realize about his relationship with God?
2. Memorize verses 25-26.

IV. 1John 2:15-17

1. What things in the world are you supposed to hate?
2. Are there any worldly things still attracting you? If so, be determined to hate them.

For Your Encouragement:

1. Talk with your mentor or a mature Christian about your feelings about the world. Discuss with that person what temptations you have been having and pray about those temptations.
2. When temptation attacks you from within, always remember to go to God in prayer!

Day 21: “Rejoice in Persecutions”

Forty Days in the Wilderness - A 40 Day Quiet Time Series

I. Matthew 5:10-12

1. What should make us rejoice in persecutions?
2. Have people insulted or spoken evil of you because of Jesus?
3. How did you feel?
4. Who else was treated this way?

II. John 15:18-23

1. How should you expect to be treated?
2. Why does the world hate true Christians?

III. Acts 4:13-22

1. What made Peter and John so bold?
2. Has anyone tried to stop you from teaching, speaking or worshipping Jesus?
3. If so, how did you respond?

IV. Acts 5:17-29

1. Jesus was persecuted out of envy (see Mark 15:10); the apostles were arrested out of jealousy. Why will you be persecuted or slandered?
2. What was the apostles' reply when they were told to stop?

V. Acts 5:40-42

1. What made the apostles happy?

VI. Romans 12:12-21

1. What is the Lord telling you here as to how to respond to those who persecute and mistreat you for your faith?

For Your Encouragement:

1. Let Acts 5:42 be your theme for today and every day.

Day 22: "Giving Living"

Forty Days in the Wilderness - A 40 Day Quiet Time Series

I. John 13:1-17

1. How did Jesus show the full extent of his love?
2. What was he trying to teach his disciples?
3. How can you and I obey verse 17 today? Give specific examples.

II. Acts 9:36-42

1. Why was Tabitha so well loved by many?
2. If you were to die today, what would you be remembered for?
3. What can you learn from Tabitha's life?

III. Philippians 2:19-24

1. What made Timothy different from the other disciples?
2. How is a genuine interest in the welfare of others shown?
3. How can you be more like Timothy?

For Your Encouragement:

1. Think of a practical way to show another disciple that you truly care. Why not do it today?
 - a. Here are some suggestions:
 - i. Send them a card or an Email of encouragement
 - ii. If they are sick or going through trials, call them and pray with them.
 - iii. Call them and let them know how appreciative you are of them.
 - iv. If they are in need of food or clothing, go to the store and get what they need and leave it at their doorstep. Do this anonymously!

Day 23: “Confessing Sin”

Forty Days in the Wilderness - A 40 Day Quiet Time Series

I. Psalm 32:1-7

1. How did the Psalmist feel when he was hiding his sin and not confessing them to God?
2. When he confessed them, what happened?
3. Are there any sins you have been afraid to confess? If so, why not follow the example of the Psalmist? See 1John 1:9.

II. Proverbs 28:13; James 5:16

1. Can we conceal our sins from God?
2. What effect will concealed sin have in our life?
3. Who do we need to confess our sins to besides God?

III. Psalm 66:18-19

1. The word “cherish” according to Webster’s means to hold dear, feel or show affection for. A second definition is to entertain or harbor in the mind deeply and resolutely. What happens if we conceal or cherish sin?

IV. Luke 8:17; 1Corinthians 4:5

1. Why is it foolish to try to keep sins hidden?

For Your Encouragement:

1. Take some time to think about any sins – whether attitudes, action, or thoughts – that are troubling you and confess them to God and renounce them today.
2. Feel free to confess these sins to either your mentor or to another mature Christian and pray with that disciple. For our brother, James, in James 5:16 encourages us to confess our sins to one another and to pray for one another that we may be healed. The prayers of righteous men are powerful and effective! Amen!

Day 24: "Family Pressures"

Forty Days in the Wilderness - A 40 Day Quiet Time Series

I. Mark 3:20-21

1. Why do you think Jesus' family was upset with him?
2. What would have happened if Jesus had agreed with them?
3. Has anyone in your family ever tried to stop you from serving God because they thought you were becoming too fanatical?

II. John 7:1-9

1. What did Jesus' own brothers think about him?
2. Why didn't Jesus do what his family wanted?

III. Matthew 10:34-39

1. List some examples of ways we can "love" our families more than Jesus.

For Your Encouragement:

1. Pray for your family and continue to show them the love of God. If need be, discuss any family pressures you are experiencing with your mentor or with a mature disciple.

Day 25: “Being Open and Honest”

Forty Days in the Wilderness - A 40 Day Quiet Time Series

I. Psalm 32:2

1. What does it mean to have a “deceitful spirit”?

II. John 1:47

1. What type of man was Nathaniel?
2. Write down the characteristics that Nathaniel must have possessed.
3. Would Jesus say the same things of you?

III. John 15:15

1. What did Jesus share with His disciples?
2. Are you this kind of a friend to other disciples?
3. Do you share your life with those whom you are closest to in the Church?

IV. 2Corinthians 6:11-13

1. What was Paul trying to encourage the Corinthians to do?
2. What does Paul mean when he said, “We have spoken freely to you” and we “opened wide our hearts to you”?
3. Are you “speaking freely” and “opening your heart” to others, especially in your mentorship group?

For Your Encouragement:

1. Spend some time today writing down some feelings, plans, or struggles that you haven't been sharing with others. Discuss these things with those in your mentorship group or with a mature Christian whom you are close to.

Day 26: “Dealing with Doubts”

Forty Days in the Wilderness - A 40 Day Quiet Time Series

I. 1Corinthians 15:1-4, 11-14

1. Paul preached the Gospel to these Corinthians. At first, they believed what Paul taught them but later on, they started to doubt what they once believed. What were they beginning to doubt?
2. Do you doubt on any doctrinal issues that you once believed in after your response to the Gospel? If so, write them down.

II. Galatians 1:6-9; Galatians 2:4; Galatians 5:2-10

1. The Galatians, like the Corinthians, believed the Gospel preached to them. However, later on they started to doubt what they were taught at first. Who was responsible for creating these doubts?
2. How did Paul help restore these Christians back to the true Gospel?

For Your Encouragement:

1. If you have any questions or doubts regarding doctrinal issues, discuss them with your mentor or a mature Christian who is seasoned in the Word of God.

Day 27: “True Humble Obedience”

Forty Days in the Wilderness - A 40 Day Quiet Time Series

The mark of a true disciple is obedience to the teachings of God (John 8:31).

I. Matthew 7:21; Luke 6:46; John 14:15; John 15:14

1. These four passages give us insight as to what it means to make Jesus Lord and Friend of our lives. How is our friendship, love and service to Christ expressed?

II. Deuteronomy 26:16

1. What does it mean to “carefully observe” His commands?
2. How does one “carefully observe” them with their heart and soul?
3. Read 2Chronicles 25:1-2, 14-15, 26-27
 - a. Did King Amaziah observe the Word of the Lord at first?
 - b. What caused him to eventually go after other gods and compromise the Word of the Lord?
 - c. A heart that is not fully devoted to God’s Word is a heart that is not fully devoted to who?

III. Joshua 1:8

1. What does the word “meditate” mean?
2. Do you find yourself merely reading the Word of God or do you meditate on it?

IV. 1Samuel 15:1-24

1. King Saul gave into the crowd and disobeyed the word of the Lord. Why did King Saul suffer displeasure from the Lord?
2. Why is obedience to the Lord better than sacrifices made to Him?
3. Disobedience is a form of rebellion and arrogance towards God. According to verse 23, what is rebellion and arrogance compared to?

V. 2Timothy 4:3-4

1. What must we be careful of never doing?
2. What does it mean to have “itching ears?”

VI. James 1:21-25

1. How is the Word of God to be accepted?
2. What is God teaching you in this passage?

For Your Encouragement:

1. Respect the Word of God with all your heart and soul. Meditate on it on a daily basis. Never turn from it; never compromise it! Strive to humbly obey it!

Day 28: “Disputable Matters”

Forty Days in the Wilderness - A 40 Day Quiet Time Series

I. Romans 14:1-8

1. What are some disputable matters among Christians today?
2. Apart from the clear doctrinal truths the Bible teaches, what should your attitude be toward those who see these things differently than you?

II. Romans 14:16-23

1. Are you doing anything that could cause others to stumble?
2. What is the Kingdom of God about?
3. What is God teaching you in verse 19?
4. Is God being glorified with the way you are living now?
5. Write down your insights on the meaning of verse 23.

III. 1Peter 3:3-4

1. What makes a woman beautiful to God?
2. Although this passage is addressing the women in the Kingdom, the principle applies to men as well— especially the way today’s society is. In your own words, write down what you think these passages are teaching you about clothing and godliness.

For Your Encouragement:

1. Do you have questions about what is right and wrong for a Christian? Find out from your mentor or from a mature disciple whether these are disputable matters and come to your own decisions.

Day 29: "Jesus Is Coming Soon"

Forty Days in the Wilderness - A 40 Day Quiet Time Series

I. 2Peter 3:3-14

1. Look up the word "scoffer" in the dictionary.
2. Why do some people scoff at the promise of Christ's return?
3. What will the "day of the Lord" be like?
4. Are you living as though Jesus could come back today?

II. 1Thessalonians 4:13-18

1. Compare this passage to 2Peter 3:7-10. Will there be any "second chance" for those who are not ready to meet the Lord?
2. Why will this day be like "a thief in the night"?
3. What does it mean to be alert and self-controlled?

III. 2Thessalonians 1:5-10

1. When the Lord returns, will there be a "second chance" for those who weren't ready to meet the Lord?
2. What will Jesus do to those who were not ready?

IV. 2Timothy 4:6-8

1. How does Paul feel about facing the Lord on Judgment Day?
2. Why is living for Jesus like fighting the good fight, finishing the race and keeping the faith?

For Your Encouragement:

1. Live each day like it is your last.

Day 30: “United We Stand”

Forty Days in the Wilderness - A 40 Day Quiet Time Series

I. Psalm 133:1-3

1. What is unity and why is it so important to have it in the church?

II. Ephesians 4:1-3

1. Explain the meaning of each virtue mentioned in verse 2.
2. If we do not possess these virtues, what will happen?
3. Why does it take every effort to keep unity?

III. Philippians 2:1-5

1. What does it mean to be one in spirit and purpose?
2. How can you consider others better than yourself?
3. What was Jesus' attitude? Is your attitude the same as His?

IV. Matthew 5:23-24; Matthew 18:15-17

1. According to Jesus, how are you to resolve conflicts and disagreements with one another?
2. To whom should you go first?
3. Is there anyone in the church with whom you need to go and settle a problem?

For Your Encouragement:

1. Think about your relationships. Pray to be unified with all your brothers and sisters.

Day 31: “Dealing with Discouragement”

Forty Days in the Wilderness - A 40 Day Quiet Time Series

The prophet Elijah had just experienced some tremendous victories from God: The destruction of 450 false prophets and the first rainfall in 3 ½ years because of his earnest prayer (See 1Kings 18:1-40 and James 5:17-18). But then he became afraid and discouraged.

I. 1Kings 19:1-8

1. Why did Elijah feel so overwhelmed?
2. What are some things that have made you feel like giving up?
3. How did the angel of the Lord encourage Elijah?
4. What does this lesson teach you? How can you overcome discouragement?

II. Ecclesiastes 4:9-10

1. There is a saying that says “there is strength in numbers.” How would the teaching of this passage benefit you when you are discouraged?

III. Psalm 103:2-12

1. When you are discouraged, remember His benefits! As an old hymn says, “Count your many blessings! Count them one by one! Count your many blessings see what God has done!”

For Your Encouragement:

1. When you feel discouraged, do the following:
 - a. Pray. 1Peter 5:7 says, “*Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you.*”
 - b. Counting your blessings and ...
 - c. Keep busy in the work of the Lord. Galatians 6:9 says, “*Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.*”
2. And above all, remember the words of Jesus in John 14:1, “*Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God...*”

Day 32: "Walking As Jesus Did"

Forty Days in the Wilderness - A 40 Day Quiet Time Series

I. 1John 2:5-6

1. Think back over the past several days since you started this series. Are you walking like Jesus?

II. Mark 1:21-28

1. What was different about the way Jesus taught?

III. Mark 1:29-34

1. How late do you think Jesus worked that night?
2. Do you think He felt tired?
3. Why did He work so hard?

IV. Mark 1:35-39

1. Jesus got up very early the next day. Why?

V. Mark 2:13-17

1. What kinds of people did Jesus make friends with and why?
2. How do you treat 'sinners'?
3. Are you making new friends to share the gospel with?

For Your Encouragement:

1. Write down the things you've learned from today's study and apply them to your life today.
2. Learn this song and sing it often to the Lord:

*Lord I want to be a Christian in my heart, in my heart
Lord, I want to be a Christian in my heart
In my heart, in my heart, Lord, I want to be a Christian in my heart*

*Lord I want to be more loving in my heart, in my heart
Lord, I want to be more loving in my heart
In my heart, in my heart, Lord, I want to be more loving in my heart*

*Lord I want to be more holy in my heart, in my heart
Lord, I want to be more holy in my heart
In my heart, in my heart, Lord, I want to be more holy in my heart*

*Lord I want to be like Jesus in my heart, in my heart
Lord, I want to be like Jesus in my heart
In my heart, in my heart, Lord, I want to be a Christian in my heart*

Day 33: “Shining Like Stars”

Forty Days in the Wilderness - A 40 Day Quiet Time Series

I. Philippians 2:14-16

1. How does a disciple "hold out the word of life" to others?
2. What kind of example do you need to show those around you?
3. Have you had a complaining or argumentative spirit lately?

II. 1Corinthians 9:19-23

1. How can you be a slave to everyone? Give examples.

III. Matthew 5:13-16

1. What is the purpose of salt?
2. What is the purpose of light?
3. What did Jesus mean when He said you are the “salt” of the earth and the “light” of the world?

For Your Encouragement:

1. Ask the Lord to use your life to impact those around you to His glory!

Day 34: “Taking Correction”

Forty Days in the Wilderness - A 40 Day Quiet Time Series

I. Galatians 2:11-16

1. What was Peter's sin?
2. How did his bad example affect others?
3. Why did Paul correct him publicly and not privately? (See 1 Timothy 5:20 & Matthew 18:15)

II. 2 Corinthians 7:8-13

1. How did the Corinthians respond to Paul's loving correction?
2. What is the difference between worldly sorrow and godly sorrow?
3. How does God want you to respond to correction?
4. Has anyone corrected you lately? If so, how did you respond?
5. Were they encouraged by your response?

III. Proverbs 15:31-32

1. What does correction bring?

IV. Proverbs 10:17

1. Those who receive correction have the potential to what?
2. Those who hate correction have the potential to what?

V. Psalm 141:5; Proverbs 9:8; Proverbs 27:6

1. Why is a righteous person's correction a kindness?
2. How do you respond to those who correct you? Does your love for them increase?
3. Who are your true friends?
4. What will an enemy do?

For Your Encouragement:

1. Correction is designed to help your walk in Jesus. Do not allow yourself to feel “unloved” when you are corrected. It's for your benefit. When you are being corrected, you are actually being loved and cared for.

Day 35: “Worthy of the Name”

Forty Days in the Wilderness - A 40 Day Quiet Time Series

I. 1Peter 4:12-19

1. What kinds of insults and sufferings have you endured for Jesus?
2. What should your attitude be towards suffering?
3. What does Satan want you to think and do when you are being persecuted?

II. Hebrews 10:32-34

1. Have you gone through suffering like this?
2. What are you doing to encourage other Christians who are going through insults and persecutions?

III. Hebrews 11:32-40

1. These disciples suffered tremendous persecutions of the Lord’s sake. Have you ever experienced harsh persecutions for Jesus' sake?
2. How did God regard these people?

IV. 2Corinthians 11:24-27; Romans 8:18

1. What kind of life did Paul live for Christ?
2. How did he feel about his sufferings?
3. Have you been rejoicing or complaining as a Christian?

For Your Encouragement:

1. Would Jesus say you are worthy of the name "Christian"?

Day 36: “The Grace of Giving” – Part 1

Forty Days in the Wilderness - A 40 Day Quiet Time Series

I. 1Corinthians 16:1-2

1. An important element of Christian service is that of “giving”. Disciples are instructed to set aside a sum of money in keeping with his or her income. Our contributions provide for needy saints and support the work of the church. Have you been setting aside a sum of money each week?

II. 1Kings 17:1-16; Luke 21:1-4

1. These poor widows gave all they had, regardless of their circumstances. How did God bless them and why?
2. Do you depend on God to meet all your needs? Do you fully trust God to meet all your needs?
3. What lessons is the Lord teaching you here in these two stories?

III. 2Corinthians 8:1-5

1. The Macedonian Churches gave sacrificially. List at least 4 other characteristics of their giving?

IV. 2Corinthians 9:6-7

1. The Greek word for “cheerful” is “hilaros”, by which we get the word “hilarious” from, which denotes a “joyous time!” Have you been giving in this manner?

For Your Encouragement:

1. Make a decision to what you will give on a weekly basis and honor that promise to God.
2. Be consistent and joyful in your giving. Trust in God to provide all your needs (Philippians 4:19).
3. Learn this song and sing it often to the Lord:

*It is in giving that we receive,
It is in pardoning that we are pardoned
And it is in dying that we are born to eternal life
Make me an instrument of Your peace
I want to know what it's like to follow You
When men look at me I want them to see
The Light of the World inside!*

Day 37: “The Grace of Giving” – Part 2

Forty Days in the Wilderness - A 40 Day Quiet Time Series

I. Job 29:11-17; Job 31:16-22

1. What type of a man was Jöb?
2. What lessons can you learn from his example?

II. Luke 3:10-11

1. Do you, on a personal level, use your finances and/or resources to meet the needs of those who are hurting around you?

III. James 2:14-17

1. How does true, saving faith express itself?

IV. 1Chronicles 29:11-14

1. Where do all good things come from? To whom does it really belong?

For Your Encouragement:

1. It is good to be aware of your surroundings. If you know people who are in need, and if you have the resources to help them out, do so.
2. Everything you possess comes from God and belongs to God. Your resources are given to you as a loan from God. Manage His gifts well and glorify God with them!
3. If you see a need in the church, meet that need with what God has given you.
4. Learn this song and sing it often to the Lord:

*Would you be poured out like wine upon the altar for Me?
Would you be broken like bread to feed the hungry?
Would you be so one with Me that you would do just as I will?
Would you be light, and life, and love, My word fulfilled?*

*Yes, I'll be poured out like wine upon the altar for You!
Yes, I'll be broken like bread to feed the hungry!
Yes, I'll be so one with You that I would do just as You will?
Yes, I'll be light, and life, and love, Your word fulfilled?*

Day 38: “Go and Make Disciples”

Forty Days in the Wilderness - A 40 Day Quiet Time Series

I. Mark 16:15; Matthew 28:19-20

1. Christ calls you to make disciples. Disciple-making starts with the preaching of the Gospel. Should a person respond to the call of repentance and baptism, what responsibility does Christ give you in terms of this newly baptized believer?

II. 2Timothy 2:1-7

1. How are you to follow the example of a soldier, an athlete and a farmer? Be specific.
2. Are you reliable in terms of keeping appointments, being punctual, and taking direction?
3. Would Timothy or Paul have chosen you to teach others? Why?

III. Daniel 12:3; Proverbs 11:30

1. Who are the wise?

IV. 1Corinthians 9:19-27

1. How is being a disciple-maker like running a race?
2. What happens if an athlete does not train or “beat” his or her body?
3. What happens if you do not train and discipline yourself as a disciple?

For Your Encouragement:

1. Ask the Lord to stir within you a deep, burning love for the lost. Ask Him to enable you to speak the Gospel effectively and boldly. Ask Him to use you to bring others to Him!
2. List ways you can be more disciplined in the area of discipleship, especially in the area of evangelism. Share it with your mentor or with a mature, evangelistic Christian.
3. Learn this song and sing it often to the Lord:

*I'm a hard fighting soldier on the battle field (3x)
I keep on bringing souls to Jesus by the service that I yield*

*I've got a helmet on my head and in my hand a sword and shield (3x)
I keep on bringing souls to Jesus by the service that I yield*

*You've got to walk right and talk right and sing right and pray right
on the battle field (3x)
I keep on bringing souls to Jesus by the service that I yield*

Day 39: “Faith is the Victory”

Forty Days in the Wilderness - A 40 Day Quiet Time Series

I. Mark 2:1-12

1. Why was this man so determined to see Jesus?
2. List at least 3 reasons the man could have given to not try to see Jesus.
3. What impressed Jesus about this man?
4. How can you be more like this man?

II. Mark 5:21-43

1. What did Jairus and the bleeding woman have in common?
2. Why did Jesus help both of them?
3. Why is it important for us to completely depend on Jesus?
4. Have you been depending on God for all things?

III. Mark 6:1-6

1. What was different in this place? Why?
2. Is Jesus amazed at your faith? Why or why not?

IV. Luke 18:1-8

1. A few days ago, we looked at two widows and their example of giving to the Lord. What lesson or lessons can you learn from this widow?

V. Hebrews 11:6

1. Why do you think faith is so important when it comes to pleasing God?

For Your Encouragement:

1. Are there some things in your life (or in someone else's life) that really need God's help? If so, keep a prayer list and P.U.S.H. (**P**ray **U**ntil **S**omething **H**appens)

Day 40: “Good Heart, Good Deeds, Good Things”

Forty Days in the Wilderness - A 40 Day Quiet Time Series

I. Luke 8:15

1. Do you have a heart like this?
2. What is your life producing?

II. Philemon 1:4-7

1. What are 3 things Philemon did that showed a good heart?
2. Read 2Peter 1:5-11
 - a. What do you need to do to keep growing as a Christian?
 - b. Define goodness, perseverance, brotherly kindness.
 - c. What happens if you stop growing?
 - d. What does verse 10 mean?

III. 3John 2-6

1. If a disciple came to visit you, what kind of report would they give about your life?
2. How do you feel about your life in Christ up until today?
3. Are you growing?
4. In what areas do you need help?

For Your Encouragement:

1. Now that you have finished your 40-days study, decide what you are going to study next and have a plan.
2. If you have not done the 30-day study called “An Intimate Walk With Jesus”, ask your mentor for a copy or go to our web site and print a copy of the series.
3. Share your notes with the people you are mentoring or leading to the Lord.
4. Keep growing and never give up! ☺