



REDROCKSCHURCH



WELCOME

We are so excited you are joining our 28-Day Love Your Neighbor Challenge!

This 28-day challenge is designed to encourage your spirit, deepen your faith, and mobilize your giftings as you discover new ways to live on mission by turning ordinary, everyday moments into extraordinary opportunities to love those around you by putting your faith into action. 1 John 3:16-18 reminds us that God's love abides in us, not through our words alone, but through how we serve and love one another with our actions. "By this we know love, that he laid down his life for us, and we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers. But if anyone has the world's goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God's love abide in him? Little children, let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth."

Our hope during this challenge is that your life and the lives of those around you will be transformed by this experience. We pray as you serve and love your neighbor that your heart is softened and you begin to see the image of God reflected in the faces of those around you. Perhaps most importantly, we pray that being the hands and feet of Jesus for the next 28 days will stir up your spirit to live lives marked by service, generosity, community, and love towards those around you for the rest of your life. Remember, this is not a task on your to-do list that you're obliged to check off, it's an invitation to lean in, partner with the Holy Spirit, trust the process, and let your life be an act of worship through how you love those around you.

"May my words and works allure others to the highest walks of faith and love." VALLEY OF VISION (CHRISTLIKENESS)

GETTING STARTED

What is the 28-Day Love Your Neighbor Challenge?

It's very simple: Be the hands and feet of Jesus by doing one simple act of kindness each day. That's it!

READ

Read the daily verse on how we're called to be the hands and feet of Jesus, and our thoughts on why it's important.

PRAY

Spend 5-10 minutes each day praying for an opportunity to serve or bless someone in your life. This could be a family member, a friend, a classmate or co-worker, a stranger, or even someone you consider an enemy.

ACT

Do one loving act of kindness for someone in your life. It can be a large and extraordinary act of kindness, or a small and simple expression of love. No act of kindness is too small - let the Holy Spirit lead you. Each day includes one idea. Feel free to use it, check the back of this devotional for more ideas, or come up with your own!

REFLECT

Use the reflection space at the end of each week to write down how you've seen God show up in and through you during this experience.

Week One:

Small Beginnings

“Do not despise these small beginnings, for the Lord rejoices to see the work begin.” ZECHARIAH 4:10

STORY: YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

A young girl was walking along a beach upon which thousands of starfish had been washed up during a terrible storm. With great joy she walked up and down the beach, picking up one starfish at a time, gently throwing each one into the ocean. People watched her with amusement. She had been doing this for some time when an old man approached her and said, “Young lady, what are you doing?” “The sun is up, and the tide is going out, and these starfish will dry up and die if I do not help them,” she said. “But young lady, the beach goes on for miles, and there are too many starfish to count. You can’t possibly make a difference.” Discouraged momentarily, the young girl looked around to collect her thoughts. Then she bent down, picked up a starfish, and handed it to the man. With a gentle smile she looked up at him and said, “It will make a difference to this one.” The old man looked at the girl inquisitively and thought about what she had done and said. Inspired, he tossed the starfish into the ocean, looked back at the girl with a great big smile, and said, “Let’s go help a few more.” ADAPTED FROM “THE STAR THROWER” BY LOREN C. EISELEY

There are so many people in need and causes to support that it can be overwhelming to figure out where to get involved. You don’t have to change the world, but you can change someone’s world. This week, start small. No expression of love is too small for Jesus to use to change a life.

DAY 1

“Let everything you say be good and helpful, so that your words will be an encouragement to those who hear them.”

EPHESIANS 4:29

THOUGHT

In a world fixated on judging, criticizing, and putting others down, never underestimate the power of an encouraging word. Amidst the constant barrage of negativity, a single positive word can lift spirits and offer hope, transforming someone's entire day.

CHALLENGE: HYPE 'EM UP

Today, speak a word of encouragement into the life of someone around you. Do you see a talent or gift in them that they have not recognized in themselves? Tell them what you see. Tell a family member all the reasons you appreciate them. Make a phone call, send a text, write a letter, leave a note, or tell someone in person. Whatever you decide, use your words to fill someone up today.

DAY 2

“The people rejoiced over the offerings, for they had given freely and wholeheartedly to the Lord.” 1 CHRONICLES 29:9

THOUGHT

“Do all the good you can,
By all the means you can,
In all the ways you can,
In all the places you can,

At all the times you can,
To all the people you can,
As long as ever you can.”

JOHN WESLEY

CHALLENGE: RING AND RUN BLESSING

Create a care package for a friend or family member. Place it on their porch and text them to “Check their porch :)” Want to be anonymous? Ring and run! Examples: 1. Soup, Gatorade, a cute mug, and a note for someone who’s sick 2. Chick-fil-A and a loving note to a friend 3. A gift basket with a note, a candle, and some of their favorite candy.

DAY 3

“Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn.”

ROMANS 12:15

THOUGHT

Jesus was always on mission but never in a hurry. He met people where they were and gave them the gift of His presence and attention, regardless of what they were carrying. Our time and attention are our most valuable resources; giving them to others is one of the rarest and purest expressions of love we can express.

CHALLENGE: QUALITY TIME

Spending intentional time with someone is one of the most loving things we can do. God has given you people to pour time and love into. Who might need your time and love most right now? Maybe it’s a close friend, your children, your spouse, a parent, or someone else. Spend today giving them the gift of your love, time, and attention.

DAY 4

“I will refresh the weary and satisfy the faint.” JEREMIAH 31:25

THOUGHT

When we go out of our way to take something off someone’s plate and give them a break, we embody the spirit of Jesus’ easy yoke, offering relief and rejuvenation. Just as these words promise renewal to the tired, our actions can bring much-needed respite to those overwhelmed by life’s demands. In providing a moment of rest, we not only lighten their load but also offer them strength and encouragement.

CHALLENGE: I WILL GIVE YOU REST

Do you know someone who needs a break? Maybe it’s a close friend, a child, your parents, or a caregiver. Reach out to them and set up a time for you to give them a break. Help them with a task, take them for a break, or take care of something for them so they don’t have to.

DAY 5

“I urge, then, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for all people.” 1 TIMOTHY 2:1

THOUGHT

There is not a single image-bearer on earth who isn’t worthy of our careful attention. When we pray on behalf of others (intercession), we begin to see them the way Christ sees them—as God’s most prized possessions who are loved beyond measure. Prayer for others is one of the most powerful ways to love those around us.

□ CHALLENGE: PRAYER WARRIOR

Intercession is one of the most powerful ways to come alongside people. Pick 3-5 people to text or call, and ask if they need prayer for anything. Then, spend 10 minutes (or more!) per person praying on their behalf. If reaching out to people feels intimidating, just pray for them privately.

DAY 6

“For you were called to freedom, brothers. Only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another. For the whole law is fulfilled in one word: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’” GALATIANS 5:13-14

THOUGHT

“The only way we will love our neighbors as ourselves is by getting to know our neighbors, even in the midst of our differences. The only way to truly know someone is by being with them, by conversation.” ERIC OVERBY

□ CHALLENGE: HEY NEIGHBOR

We all have a neighbor we don't know. This is your sign to get to know them! Bake cookies, build a tiny care package, or just go say hi. Not sure what to say? Here's a suggestion: “Hi! My name is ___ and I live ___. I'm doing a 28-day Love Your Neighbor Challenge with my church, and I realized I haven't had the opportunity to meet you yet...” Want a challenge? Meet 3-5 new neighbors.

DAY 7

“What should we do then?” the crowd asked. John answered, “Anyone who has two shirts should share with the one who has none, and anyone who has food should do the same.” LUKE 3:10-11

THOUGHT

“Is it possible that Jesus is inviting you to meet someone’s human need so that He can move through your faithfulness to meet their eternal need?”

PASTOR JAMES POWELL

CHALLENGE: SPONTANEOUS GENEROSITY

When you’re out and about, pray for an opportunity to bless someone unexpectedly. The next time you’re at the grocery store, consider quietly purchasing someone else’s groceries, buying gas for someone at the pump, or paying for someone’s coffee/meal at the drive-through.

WEEK ONE REFLECTION

“I have never met a person whose greatest need was anything other than real, unconditional love. You can find it in a simple act of kindness toward someone who needs help. There is no mistaking love, it is the common fiber of life, the flame that heats our soul, energizes our spirit and supplies passion to our lives.”

ELISABETH KUBLER ROSS

Week Two:

Starting A Movement

“Let us think of ways to motivate one another to acts of love and good works. And let us not neglect meeting together, as some people do, but encourage one another.” **HEBREWS 10:24-25**

THOUGHT

“Jesus talked to His friends a lot about how we should identify ourselves. He said it wouldn’t be what we said we believed or all the good we hoped to do someday. Nope, He said we would identify ourselves simply by how we loved people. It’s tempting to think there is more to it, but there’s not. Love isn’t something we fall into; love is something we become.” **BOB GOFF**

This week, lean into community. As you continue serving, think of ways that you can build and bless your community. Additionally, invite the people in your life to join you as you serve together.

DAY 8

“Cheerfully share your home with those who need a meal or a place to stay.” **1 PETER 4:9**

THOUGHT

“The reason we are hospitable is to open our hearts to others in the way that God has opened His heart to us...Hospitality is not to change people, but to offer them space where change can take place.” **HENRI NOUWEN**

□ CHALLENGE: BUILD A LONGER TABLE

Do you view your home as a possession or a resource? Are you building a higher fence or a longer table? Jesus spent tons of time around dinner tables with people, and we should too. Invite any neighbor into your home for dinner sometime this week. Consider picking a neighbor you don't know very well or one you have difficulty getting along with.

DAY 9

“You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.”

MATTHEW 5:14-15

THOUGHT

A small act of service can bring hope and joy to others. When you reach out to help those in need, you embody the tangible love of Jesus that cannot be hidden. This inspires others and glorifies God through your good deeds.

□ CHALLENGE: A HELPING HAND

Is there a widow, a single parent, an elderly couple, or someone with a disability in your neighborhood who could use some help? Reach out to them and ask if they need help with any errands or chores/maintenance around their house, then take care of it for them.

DAY 10

“Is anyone among you suffering? Let him pray. Is anyone cheerful? Let him sing praise. Is anyone among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord. And the prayer of faith will save the one who is sick, and the Lord will raise him up.” JAMES 5:13-15

THOUGHT

God shows up in miraculous ways when we pour out our prayers and praise. Through prayer, we communicate our hopes, fears, gratitude for what God has done, and expectation for what He will do, finding peace and direction through our relationship with Him. So what would happen if our prayer and praise spilled out onto our streets and throughout our communities?

CHALLENGE: PRAYER WALK

Pick a time to walk around your neighborhood and pray for your neighbors/neighborhood. Invite someone to go with you and pray for blessings, families in need, aspects of your neighborhood you hope will change, etc.

DAY 11

“But don’t just listen to God’s word. You must do what it says. Otherwise, you are only fooling yourselves.” JAMES 1:22

THOUGHT

Have you ever felt like your soul was being nudged to extend a helping hand to someone in need but you hesitated? Sometimes it’s fear, sometimes it’s insecurity, and sometimes it could even be uncertainty in our mind that we

were hearing from God correctly. The next time you feel a nudge in your heart to go out of your way to be the tangible love of Jesus, will you say yes? Reach out to that friend, pray over that stranger, or help out that single mother trying to pay for groceries at the store. Whatever it is, say “Yes!” next time and trust that God will move through your faithfulness.

□ CHALLENGE: TAKE A HINT

Think about the last time you might have missed an opportunity to be there for someone. If it’s not too late, go back and do the thing that God put on your heart. If you can’t remember, Pray that God gives you an opportunity to love someone today, and for the faith to say “Yes!” when He does—then go do it!

DAY 12

“If you pour yourself out for the hungry and satisfy the desire of the afflicted, then shall your light rise in the darkness and your gloom be as the noonday.” ISAIAH 58:10

THOUGHT

Acts of compassion not only lift up those in need but also bring joy, fulfillment, and a sense of purpose to our own lives when we answer Jesus’ command to love our neighbor. By reaching out to help others, we become beacons of hope, experiencing the profound impact of living in alignment with God’s love.

□ CHALLENGE: HOMELESS CARE PACKS

Bless someone experiencing homelessness. Create a small care pack with a note of encouragement and basic essentials. Ex:(One-gallon ziplock bag, a pair of large socks, toothbrush and toothpaste, small tissues, chapstick, bottle of water or sports drink, sunscreen or lotion, pack of crackers or cookies, a granola bar, and hand wipes). Include a card or a note of

encouragement. Ex: “Your situation does not determine your value. Jesus loves you and has good plans for you...” Learn their name and ask to pray for them.

DAY 13

“Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

MATTHEW 28:19-20

THOUGHT

Think back to a moment in life when you longed for a sense of community and belonging, and someone extended an invitation. Inviting others into what we have is so simple that we often overlook how powerful it can be. You have the power to change someone’s life through something as simple as inviting someone to church.

CHALLENGE: EXTEND AN INVITATION

Reach out to someone (or a few people!) in your life and invite them to come to church with you tomorrow.

DAY 14

“God has given each of you a gift from his great variety of spiritual gifts. Use them well to serve one another.” 1 PETER 4:10

THOUGHT

Genuine, heartfelt service starts with embracing how God has designed us to love others. It's easy to feel overwhelmed by the things outside our control when trying to help, but by focusing on our God-given strengths and using them with intentionality and faithfulness, we allow God to work through us. In doing so, He not only enhances our gifts but also fills in the gaps where we fall short.

CHALLENGE: STEWARD YOUR GIFTS

We were all blessed with gifts, passions, and resources according to our calling. Today, use your gifts or passion to pour into someone. Do you like to teach/coach others? Find someone to mentor/pour into today. Are you a handyman or problem solver? Use your gifts and skills to meet someone's needs. Are you super talented at something? Find someone who is a beginner and show them the ropes.

WEEK TWO REFLECTION

“Love is never wasted, for its value does not rest upon reciprocity.”

C.S. LEWIS

REFLECTION

How did you see God show up in your life and in the lives of those you served through your obedience this week?

Is there something you did for someone else this week that you can incorporate into your faith and life on a daily/weekly basis? What is it?

Week Three:

Living On Purpose

“Imitate God, therefore, in everything you do, because you are his dear children. Live a life filled with love, following the example of Christ.” **EPHESIANS 5:1-2**

THOUGHT

“Through all the highs and lows of leadership, in times of great certainty and crippling uncertainty, those who have led in rebuilding broken-down walls and bringing God’s message of light and life into dark places have not been men and women of great status, experience, or natural talent, but those whose souls have never ceased to say “Yes” to Jesus’ invitation, “Follow Me.”

J. OSWALD SANDERS

As you navigate this week’s daily challenges, consider how God might be asking you to incorporate some of these rhythms into your daily life. What challenges stretched your faith and comfort? Which one’s helped you lean into your gifts? Which one’s got you excited? Which ones were frustrating? What would happen if you continued saying “Yes!” to Jesus when he calls you to love people where they’re at long after this challenge ends?

DAY 15

“Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one’s life for one’s friends.” JOHN 15:13

THOUGHT

Every day, brave men and women leave the comfort of their homes and the warmth of their loved ones to protect, serve, and heal us at a moment’s notice in our greatest time of need, often risking their own health and safety. We are so blessed to have such people in our lives.

CHALLENGE: FOR THOSE WHO SACRIFICE

Today, find a way to bless a police officer, firefighter, EMT or paramedic, 911 dispatcher, doctor, nurse, or anyone who shows up daily to keep us all safe and healthy. Pick up a few gift cards to some restaurants (subway, Chick-fil-A, Tokyo Joes, etc..) to have available so when you have the opportunity to bless someone you can. Feel free to include a thank you note. *VERY IMPORTANT: For obvious reasons, please never approach a public safety worker while they are in the middle of a service call (traffic stop, active fire, medical emergency).*

DAY 16

“Remember your leaders who taught you the word of God. Think of all the good that has come from their lives, and follow the example of their faith.” HEBREWS 13:7

THOUGHT

“Beyond the horizon of time there is a changed world—a world different from today’s world. Some people see across this boundary of experience and into

the future. They believe that dreams can become realities. They open our eyes and lift our spirits. They build our trust and strengthen our relationships. They stand firm against the winds of resistance and give us courage to continue the quest. We call these people leaders. They take us to places we have never been before. We are fortunate that they do.” **JAMES KOUZES AND BARRY POSNER**

□ CHALLENGE: RETURN THE FAVOR

Think of a time someone outside your inner circle made your day or positively impacted your life in some way. Maybe they acknowledged your effort, turned your mood around by being unexpectedly kind, or poured into you in a way you didn't know you needed. Return the favor today. Write a note or tell them face to face how what they did impacted you, and bless them with a word of encouragement, a nice note, or a small gift of appreciation.

DAY 17

“Moses’ arms soon became so tired he could no longer hold them up. So Aaron and Hur found a stone for him to sit on. Then they stood on each side of Moses, holding up his hands. So his hands held steady until sunset.” **EXODUS 17:12**

THOUGHT

Extraordinary opportunities to help someone seldom come, but small opportunities surround us every day. Extending a helping hand may sometimes feel small and insignificant, but it could be the difference between someone giving up or experiencing breakthrough. Never dismiss an opportunity to love someone.

☐ CHALLENGE: BLESSED WITH A BREAK

Who do you know that needs a break? Maybe it's a new or single parent, coworker, classmate, or acquaintance. Reach out to them and set up a time for you to give them a break. Watch their kids for the day, give them some movie tickets for a night out, take them out to dinner, or bring dinner to them. Be creative!

DAY 18

“Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.” **EPHESIANS 4:32**

THOUGHT

In a world where kindness can be scarce, we are called to emulate the boundless compassion and forgiveness that Christ showed us. By extending grace to others, even when it's undeserved, we reflect the love and mercy that we have received from God.

☐ CHALLENGE: OLIVE BRANCH

Today, challenge yourself to extend kindness to someone who might not deserve it. Remember, none of us deserve the gift Christ gave us, but he gave it freely anyway - we are called to extend the same kindness to those around us. You could send them a note, give them a genuine compliment, or buy them a coffee. Find a way to bless someone who you have a hard time with.

DAY 19

“Kind words are like honey-sweet to the soul and healthy for the body.” **PROVERBS 16:24**

THOUGHT

“Words are, in my not-so-humble opinion, our most inexhaustible source of magic. Capable of both inflicting injury, and remedying it.” **ALBUS DUMBLEDORE (J. K. ROWLING)**

□ CHALLENGE: HERE'S YOUR SIGN

Let your words bring life to those who need them. Pray about a verse or note of encouragement, then scatter as many around as you want. Use sidewalk chalk, post a sign on a mailbox or a park bench, leave a note at someone's door, or stand on the corner of an intersection with a sign of love/encouragement. Examples: “Even though things are difficult, your life matters and Jesus has good plans for you. Don't give up.” “You are enough.” “You are loved.” “You are not alone.” “The world is better with you in it.”

DAY 20

“I was hungry, and you fed me. I was thirsty, and you gave me a drink. I was a stranger, and you invited me into your home.”

MATTHEW 25:35

THOUGHT

The simple act of breaking bread and gathering for a meal is powerful in creating an environment where people can encounter Jesus in transformative ways. Sharing food fosters genuine connection, openness, and community, mirroring the fellowship Jesus shared with His disciples. In these moments of togetherness, hearts can be touched, lives can be changed, and the love of Christ can be experienced in a tangible and life-changing manner.

□ CHALLENGE: BBQ BLOCK PARTY

Grab your friends, family, and neighbors and host a block party this week where people can come together, share a meal, and find community. Recruit

help and make it a potluck, or go above and beyond and provide all of the food yourself.

DAY 21

“Pray in the Spirit at all times and on every occasion. Stay alert and be persistent in your prayers for all believers everywhere.”

EPHESIANS 6:18

THOUGHT

Combining the physical act of walking with the spiritual practice of prayer creates a unique opportunity to connect with God and intercede for the community. As you walk through your neighborhood, you become more aware of the needs and concerns of those around you, allowing you to pray specifically and intentionally. When we invite God’s presence and blessings into the places we pass through, it transforms ordinary spaces into sacred ones.

CHALLENGE: PRAYER WALK

Pick a place within your community to go on a prayer walk. This could be a park, community center, neighborhood, favorite hiking trail, or elsewhere. Spend 20-30 minutes praying for the people you see on your walk. If this seems scary, pray for people from a distance by yourself. If you’re feeling bold, pray for God to point out people who might need prayer, and then go introduce yourself and ask to pray for them. Consider using this as an opportunity to invite them to church!

WEEK THREE REFLECTION

“Too often we underestimate the power of a touch, a smile, a kind word, a listening ear, an honest compliment, or the smallest act of caring, all of which have the potential to turn life around.”

LEO BUSCAGLIA

REFLECTION

How did you see God show up in your life and in the lives of those you served through your obedience this week?

Is there something you did for someone else this week that you can incorporate into your faith and life on a daily/weekly basis? What is it?

Week Four: Go Change The World

"...But as for me and my family, we will serve the Lord."

JOSHUA 25:15

STORY: THE BRIDGE BUILDER

An old man going a lone highway,
Came, at the evening cold and gray,
To a chasm vast and deep and wide.
Through which was flowing a sullen tide
The old man crossed in the twilight dim,
The sullen stream had no fear for him;
But he turned when safe on the other side
And built a bridge to span the tide.

"Old man," said a fellow pilgrim near,
"You are wasting your strength with building here;
Your journey will end with the ending day,
You never again will pass this way;
You've crossed the chasm, deep and wide,
Why build this bridge at evening tide?"

The builder lifted his old gray head;
"Good friend, in the path I have come," he said,
"There followed after me to-day
A youth whose feet must pass this way.
This chasm that has been as naught to me
To that fair-haired youth may a pitfall be;
He, too, must cross in the twilight dim;
Good friend, I am building this bridge for him!"

WILL ALLEN DROMGOOLE

When we slow down, surrender our preference for His, and choose to make ourselves available for the Lord to move through, ordinary, everyday moments turn into extraordinary opportunities to change someone's world by becoming the tangible love of Jesus. We move from simply "doing church" to "becoming the church," and suddenly, "Go change the world" is no longer our motto, but the reality we helped bring to life. This week, go be the change.

DAY 22

"As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another."

PROVERBS 27:17

THOUGHT

Oftentimes, we overlook the significance of a simple "Hey, I was thinking about you. How are you doing?" We get so caught up in our day-to-day lives that we go days, weeks, or even months without hearing the voices of our closest friends. Yet, Jesus designed us for companionship, so we don't have to bear our burdens alone. You might not realize the difference a quick phone call could make.

CHALLENGE: PHONE A FRIEND

Take some time today to call a friend or family member and have a genuine conversation with them. Check in and ask how their heart is doing, and if there's anything you could be praying for.

DAY 23

"He comforts us in all our troubles so that we can comfort others. When they are troubled, we will be able to give them the same

comfort God has given us. For the more we suffer for Christ, the more God will shower us with his comfort through Christ.”

2 CORINTHIANS 1:4-5

THOUGHT

“If you ask me if I need something, I’m going to tell you “no, I’m fine. No big deal,” because I didn’t want to burden anyone. But I had a lot of people just show up regardless and bring groceries, or bring coffee, or just come over and ask to go for a walk. And it’s the people who just showed up that really understood. I just wouldn’t ask for help, so the people who would just do it helped immensely. It felt good. I didn’t have to ask, they were just there.” **JORDAN ROSKELLY (AFTER LOSING HER BROTHER, JESS, IN AN AVALANCHE DURING AN ALPINE CLIMBING TRIP)**

CHALLENGE: I’LL COME RUNNING

Think of someone you know who is walking through a difficult season, and find a tangible way to “just show up” and meet their needs instead of saying “Let me know if you need anything.”

DAY 24

“What good is it, dear brothers and sisters, if you say you have faith but don’t show it by your actions? Can that kind of faith save anyone? Suppose you see a brother or sister who has no food or clothing, and you say, “Good-bye and have a good day; stay warm and eat well” —but then you don’t give that person any food or clothing. What good does that do?” **JAMES 2:14-16**

THOUGHT

We live in a busy, performance-driven world where schedules and checklists

dominate our lives. We often become so focused on checking off tasks (like getting to church on time) that we forget to “be the church” when we encounter someone in need. Jesus was unshakably on mission, And He did so by never turning down an opportunity to love someone along the way.

CHALLENGE: PRIORITIZE LOVE

Today, don't get so caught up in getting somewhere fast or getting something done that you miss an opportunity to love someone. When an opportunity presents itself, lay down what you think you have to get done and take a few moments to love someone.

DAY 25

“In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.” JOHN 1:4-5

THOUGHT

“A single act of kindness throws out roots in all directions, and the roots spring up and make new trees.” AMELIA EARHART

CHALLENGE: TOGETHER IS BETTER

In the midst of a dark world, there are still good people who show up every day to do what is right. Today, when you see someone doing what is right, kind, selfless, and just, let them know that you see them and appreciate them for being a light in the dark. Go above and beyond by blessing them with a small gift or note, or better yet, come alongside them and help them finish doing what's right.

DAY 26

“But love your enemies, and do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return, and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High...” LUKE 6:36

THOUGHT

To sacrifice is to give up something of value for the sake of someone or something else. Throughout the Bible, we encounter numerous instances of Christ’s selfless and sacrificial love, leading to the ultimate sacrifice which was shown through Jesus’ decision to lay down his life for us, knowing not everyone would choose to believe in him in return.

CHALLENGE: SACRIFICIAL GIVING

Today, seek out a tangible opportunity to give selflessly, without expecting anything in return. This could include offering money to someone in need on the street, donating to a cause close to your heart, or investing your time and effort into doing something kind for another person.

DAY 27

“Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.”

PSALM 119:105

THOUGHT

As believers, we have personally experienced the power of God’s word and the support of our church community. However, those who are wrestling with life’s greatest questions may need to encounter Jesus through us before they are willing to open a Bible or attend church. When we draw people in and emulate the tangible love of Jesus, we make space for God to do what only He can do in their lives.

□ CHALLENGE: BE A LIGHT

Today, think of someone close to you who may be wrestling with their faith or trying to find their place in the world. Allow God to use you as a light, and ask Him to give you a specific verse or passage for this person. Arrange to get coffee, share a meal, or simply hang out with them, and share the word you feel the Lord has given you for them. Use this conversation as an opportunity to meet them where they're at, ask and answer questions, provide encouragement, and offer support. This might involve doing a Bible study together, buying them a Bible if they don't have one, or encouraging them to memorize the verse you shared.

DAY 28

“For God is working in you, giving you the desire and the power to do what pleases him.” PHILIPPIANS 2:13

THOUGHT

You did it! Day 28! Our prayer at the beginning of this challenge was that being the hands and feet of Jesus once a day would stir up your spirit to live a life marked by service, generosity, community, and love towards those around you as your faith comes alive during ordinary, everyday moments of your life. While the challenge may be over, our prayer is that God continues to move in and through you, as you live out your faith.

□ CHALLENGE: GO CHANGE THE WORLD

Today, choose your own adventure! Do any act of service you feel led to engage in. Pray for an opportunity to bless someone and then go do it with confidence, joy, and love. Remember, no expression of love is too small to change someone's life forever.

WEEK FOUR REFLECTION

“The Holy Spirit doesn’t need to equip you for what you’re not going to do, so if you’re in rebellion against Jesus and refusing His right to be Lord, He doesn’t need to send the Holy Spirit to equip you for service. And, tragically, you miss out on the joy that He brings. So let the Holy Spirit deal with anything that’s keeping you from obeying Christ.” HENRY AND MELVIN BLACKABY

REFLECTION

How did you see God show up in your life and in the lives of those you served through your obedience this week/month?

Is there something you did for someone else this week that you can incorporate into your faith and life on a daily/weekly basis? What is it?



