

STRENGTH
in WEAKNESS



*a Devotional Guide
for the season of Lent*

February 17th - April 4th, 2021



Strength in Weakness

A Lenten Devotional Guide

The Season

Lent is a season of preparation. For centuries, Christians have set aside the 40 days between Ash Wednesday and Easter for self-reflection and repentance. In this way, we imitate the time that Jesus spent in the desert in prayer and fasting. Jesus was being prepared for a ministry of love and ultimate sacrifice. What might the Spirit preparing be you for in this season of life?

During this season we choose to remember that we are dust and will eventually return to dust. The reality of the “Image of God” covered in dust causes us to grieve our sin and limitation. This re-orientation is the work of preparation. Remembering our fragileness allows us to fully embrace the gift of the cross and the glory of resurrection.

You may also choose to fast during this time. If you are new to fasting, we have provided information and suggestions in the **Introduction to Fasting** section of this guide.

The Guide

This guide has been designed to provide structure for your thoughts, Scripture reading, and prayers throughout this season.

The Weekly Rhythm

On Monday thru Friday, your daily liturgy will include the following prompts:

Consider – Introduces each day’s theme and a question or observation to help you transition into a time of meditation and prayer.

Read – Staying in one Scripture passage for a few days at a time will give it time to get past the surface of your mind and sink into your soul.

Respond – Provides thoughts and questions for further reflection. Use these questions as writing prompts if you like to journal or thinking prompts if you prefer to ponder.

Pray – Offers a prompt to lead into a time of talking with and listening to God.

Wednesdays have been set aside for **Contemplative Bible Reading** or Lectio Divina, an ancient way of reading Scripture that allows space for meditation and conversation with God.

On Saturdays you will be invited to practice **the Prayer of Examen**. This is a review of your week in prayer, looking for where God was at work.

Sunday or Sabbath is a day set aside for resting in God's love and provision. We will celebrate with **Silent Prayer**.

Introduction to Fasting

Historically, the church has set aside the season of Lent to mirror the fast Jesus endured while in the desert for 40 days. Fasting is an opportunity to temporarily set aside pleasure to increase our focus on God. A traditional fast involves abstaining from food. Perhaps the Spirit is inviting you to give up a meal a day or a certain type of food during Lent?

You may want to choose a fast that does not include food. Ask the Spirit to show you what causes distraction in your daily life and consider abstaining from that during Lent. Common distractions include social media, TV, computer games, novels, etc.

Remember to fill the void left by your fast with prayer, meditation silence, worship, or service.

On Wednesdays, you will be prompted to consider your fast. Are you sensing the Spirit move in unusual ways? How have you been tempted? What are you learning about distractions? Use these prompts as a weekly check-in with God and make any adjustments necessary.

“Why You Should Fast”

Dr. Bill Bright, Campus Crusade for Christ - Founder

Fasting is one of the Spirit’s tools for strengthening and transforming grace in our lives. This spiritual practice is a gift from God meant to grow us and draw us into deepening relationship with Himself. Here are some insights drawn from God’s Word and personal experience to get you started:

- ❖ Fasting was an expected practice in both the Old and New Testament eras. For example, Moses fasted at least two recorded forty-day periods. Jesus fasted 40 days and reminded His followers to fast, “when you fast,” not if you fast.
- ❖ Fasting and prayer can restore the loss of your "first love" for the Lord and result in a more intimate relationship with Christ.
- ❖ Fasting is a biblical way to truly humble yourself in the sight of God (Psalm 35:13; Ezra 8:21). King David said, “I humble myself through fasting.”
- ❖ Fasting enables the Holy Spirit to reveal your true spiritual condition, resulting in brokenness, repentance, and a transformed life.
- ❖ The Holy Spirit will imprint God’s Word deeper on your heart, and His truth will become more meaningful to you.
- ❖ Fasting can transform your prayer life into a richer and more personal experience.
- ❖ Fasting can result in a dynamic personal revival and make you a channel of life change to others.

For more information about fasting as a spiritual practice, please go to www.cru.org/fasting.

The Invitation

As you journey through this Lenten season you are invited to join us for worship, fellowship, and outreach. Please confirm all details at vineyardaugusta.org.

Special Events:

- ❖ Ash Wednesday Service
Wednesday, February 17th, 6:30 – 7:15pm –
Vineyard Worship Center

- ❖ Private Prayer, Reflection & to Receive Ashes
Wednesday, February 17th, 7 – 9am and 11am –
1pm – Vineyard Worship Center

- ❖ Spiritual Formation Mini-Retreat – Strength in
Weakness
Saturday, February 27th, 9-noon – Online
To register please go to vineyardaugusta.org/events

- ❖ The Clearing: Making Space to Hear from God
A Contemplative Worship Experience
Saturday, March 13th, 9 – 10 am – Format TBD
Please go to vineyardaugusta.org to confirm.

- ❖ Easter Family Picnic
Sunday, March 28th, 3 – 5:30 pm – 1295 Freeland
Dr., North Augusta, SC 29860

- ❖ Maundy Thursday Service
Thursday, April 1st, 7 – 8 pm – Vineyard Worship
Center

- ❖ Good Friday Service
Friday, April 2nd, 7 – 8 pm – Vineyard Worship Center

- ❖ Easter Sunday Celebration
Sunday, April 4th, 10 am – Vineyard Worship Center or online at Facebook live – Vineyard Church Augusta

Weekly Events:

- ❖ Sunday Worship
Every Sunday, 10 am – Vineyard Worship Center or online at facebook live – Vineyard Church Augusta

- ❖ Vineyard Small Groups
A variety of groups meet each week in-person and online throughout the CSRA for fellowship and discipleship. Detailed information may be found at vineyardaugusta.org/groups

- ❖ Storehouse Food Pantry
Offering free groceries, prayer, and the Good News of Jesus Christ to those in financial crisis.

Mondays (closed on 5th Mondays) from 6-7:30 pm
Thursdays (2nd and 4th) from 11:30-1 pm

For more information about volunteering please contact Mary Margaret LeRoy, Outreach Pastor at 706.863.9766 or mm@vineyardaugusta.org

Preparing for Lent

Take a few moments in the days before the Lenten season begins to consider the following questions.

How Do I Come?

Before you begin this Lenten journey, take a few moments to answer the question, "How am I?" You may choose to consider your physical, mental, spiritual or emotional state. Notice your stress level and any life circumstance that is causing distress or joy.

What Do I Desire?

Imagine yourself 40 days from today. What do you hope has shifted because of your choice to walk this journey? What would you like God to do for you?

How will I fast?

Before choosing the focus of your fast, spend time with God listening for his invitation. Maybe he will draw your attention towards something out of the ordinary. Talk with him about any resistance or anxiety you may be experiencing.

Week One

Strength in the Desert

Ash Wednesday, February 17th

Consider

Forty days of fasting from food and existing in the harsh environment of the desert would have been a strain on Jesus' physical strength. Take a moment today to remember a time when your body's strength was challenged.

Read

Luke 4:1-13

Respond

Jesus allowed himself to be led into a time of deprivation and temptation. How do you feel about being led into a time of reflection and repentance during the Lenten season? Talk with God about any resistance you are noticing.

Pray

Lord, we offer ourselves into your care.

Fast

If you have chosen to fast during this season of Lent, begin today. Take a moment, if you haven't already, to read "Why Should You Fast?" (Included in the Introduction to Fasting section of this guide.) Which of the results of fasting do you desire?

Week One
Strength in the Desert

Thursday, February 18th

Consider

During his 40 days in the desert, Jesus experienced hunger, loneliness, poor sleeping and living conditions, wild animals, and little protection from the elements. Which of these would you find the most difficult to endure?

Read

Luke 4:1-13

Respond

What do you learn about spiritual warfare from Jesus' example? When are you the most likely to be vulnerable to temptation?

Pray

Father, lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil – for your glory.

Week One
Strength in the Desert

Friday, February 19th

Consider

Throughout his time in the desert, Jesus demonstrates unwavering strength of mind and spirit. What are you noticing about the source of this strength?

Read

Luke 4:1-13

Respond

Satan's temptations were thinly veiled efforts to get in between Jesus and his Father. What tactics has Satan used in your life to create division between you and God? Review these experiences with God and look for signs of his presence.

Pray

Jesus, we long to be close to you. Hear our prayer.

Week One

Strength in the Desert

Saturday, February 20th

The Prayer of Examen

- ❖ At the end of this week, find a few moments to be quiet.
- ❖ Review the past week with God by asking these questions.
 - Where did I feel connected to God?
 - Where did I feel disconnected from God?
- ❖ Give thanks for the moments of connection and ask God to help you in the places of disconnection.
- ❖ Think through the coming week. What will you need from God?
- ❖ Close with a simple prayer.

Week Two

Strength in Weakness

Sunday, February 21st

Silent Prayer

- ❖ Find a comfortable place where you can be alone with God.
- ❖ Ease into the quiet.
- ❖ Offer a simple prayer of surrender and desire.
- ❖ Pick a word or short phrase – a name of God, or desire like “still” or “be.”
- ❖ When you feel your mind wander, come back to this word or phrase.
- ❖ Start with a few minutes and build up to longer times. It’s ok to set a timer!
- ❖ Close with a prayer of thankfulness.

Week Two

Strength in Weakness

Monday, February 22nd

Consider

What do we tend to boast about? Why do we pick those types of things to remind others of?

Read

2 Corinthians 12: 9-10

Respond

What area(s) of weakness are you experiencing in this season of your life? Where do you feel the most vulnerable? What would you like to say to God about those places?

Pray

Father, meet us in the places where we are most tender and vulnerable.

Week Two

Strength in Weakness

Tuesday, February 23rd

Consider

Who do you think of as weak? In what way(s) are they weak? What feelings does thinking about that person and their weakness stir up in you?

Read

2 Corinthians 12: 9-10

Respond

Grace is unearned favor. Where are you feeling God's grace today? Where do you desire to experience more grace? What conversation would you like to have with God about his promise to send all the grace you will need?

Pray

Holy Spirit, make us aware of anything that stands between us and your grace.

Week Two

Strength in Weakness

Wednesday, February 24th

Contemplative Bible Reading

- ❖ **Read** 2 Corinthians 12: 9-10 slowly. Pause in silence and then read it again.
- ❖ **Listen** for a word or phrase that the Holy Spirit is highlighting for you.
- ❖ **Slowly Read** the passage again.
- ❖ **Ask** God what he would like to say to you about this word or phrase.
- ❖ **Slowly Read** the passage again.
- ❖ **Respond** in prayer to what you are hearing from God.
- ❖ **Rest** in God's presence.

Fast

Dr. Bright in his article "Why You Should Fast" tells us that fasting may result in a more intimate relationship with Jesus. How intimate is your relationship with Jesus currently? What, if any, shifts in the relationship have you sensed after a week of fasting?

Week Two

Strength in Weakness

Thursday, February 25th

Consider

If God would offer you one “zap!” to erase an area of weakness in your life, which one would you point him to? What would be different in your life if that area was dealt with?

Read

2 Corinthians 12: 9-10

Respond

How do you feel about God’s invitation to “delight” in your weakness? Sit with the word “delight” in God’s presence and invite him to respond.

Pray

Father, comfort us as we face our weakness and limitations.

Week Two

Strength in Weakness

Friday, February 26th

Consider

What do you wish these verses said about strength and weakness? You might even want to take a stab at rewriting them!

Read

2 Corinthians 12: 9-10

Respond

Christ is offering to bring his power to rest on you. Sit with that thought for a moment. Close your eyes and envision his power resting on you. Is it like a blanket? Or a firm hand on your shoulder?

Pray

Christ, help us to experience your power working on our behalf.

Week Two

Strength in Weakness

Saturday, February 27th

The Prayer of Examen

- ❖ At the end of this week, find a few moments to be quiet.
- ❖ Review the past week with God by asking these questions.
 - Where did I feel connected to God?
 - Where did I feel disconnected from God?
- ❖ Give thanks for the moments of connection and ask God to help you in the places of disconnection.
- ❖ Think through the coming week. What will you need from God?
- ❖ Close with a simple prayer.

Week Three
Strength in Suffering

Sunday, February 28th

Silent Prayer

- ❖ Find a comfortable place where you can be alone with God.
- ❖ Ease into the quiet.
- ❖ Offer a simple prayer of surrender and desire.
- ❖ Pick a word or short phrase – a name of God, or desire like “still” or “be.”
- ❖ When you feel your mind wander, come back to this word or phrase.
- ❖ Start with a few minutes and build up to longer times. It’s ok to set a timer!
- ❖ Close with a prayer of thankfulness.

Week Three

Strength in Suffering

Monday, March 1st

Consider

This time last year our lives were beginning to change in dramatic ways. In what ways have you suffered during this time of pandemic? What effects has that suffering had on you – body, mind, and spirit?

Read

2 Corinthians 4: 7-12

Respond

Hard pressed, perplexed, persecuted, struck down. We don't like feeling these ways. Our instinct is to quickly recover and move on. How does it change your perspective to know that God's power is being shown when we are suffering?

Pray

Father, give us grace to name our suffering and its effects.

Week Three
Strength in Suffering

Tuesday, March 2nd

Consider

Jars of clay can be cracked and broken. Us too. What feelings does that reality stir up in you?

Read

2 Corinthians 4: 7-12

Respond

This week's verses contrast our fragility and God's power. What are you tempted to believe about your body and how you live your life? What coping strategies do you use to cover over your areas of weakness?

Pray

Lord, reveal the systems we have set in place to hide our weakness.

Week Three

Strength in Suffering

Wednesday, March 3rd

Contemplative Bible Reading

- ❖ **Read** 2 Corinthians 4: 7-12 slowly. Pause in silence and then read it again.
- ❖ **Listen** for a word or phrase that the Holy Spirit is highlighting for you.
- ❖ **Slowly Read** the passage again.
- ❖ **Ask** God what he would like to say to you about this word or phrase.
- ❖ **Slowly Read** the passage again.
- ❖ **Respond** in prayer to what you are hearing from God.
- ❖ **Rest** in God's presence.

Fast

Dr. Bright in his article "Why You Should Fast" tells us that fasting works to humble us. In what ways are you being humbled by your fast?

Week Three
Strength in Suffering

Thursday, March 4th

Consider

Where are you seeing evidence of death at work in your body, mind, and spirit? What are the signs of life?

Read

2 Corinthians 4: 7-12

Respond

What aspects of who Jesus is do you desire to see at work in your life? Who around you will benefit from the overflow? Talk to God about your desire for life and wholeness.

Pray

Holy Spirit, grow your fruit in my life.

Week Three
Strength in Suffering

Friday, March 5th

Consider

Talk with God about a time in life when you were severely challenged but not defeated. What do you sense God inviting you to notice about that experience?

Read

2 Corinthians 4: 7-12

Respond

You will not be crushed. You will not be abandoned. You will not be destroyed. You need not despair. How true do those statements feel to you today? What do you need from God to believe their truth?

Pray

Lord, help us to experience the reality of your promises.

Week Three

Strength in Suffering

Saturday, March 6th

The Prayer of Examen

- ❖ At the end of this week, find a few moments to be quiet.
- ❖ Review the past week with God by asking these questions.
 - Where did I feel connected to God?
 - Where did I feel disconnected from God?
- ❖ Give thanks for the moments of connection and ask God to help you in the places of disconnection.
- ❖ Think through the coming week. What will you need from God?
- ❖ Close with a simple prayer.

Week Four Strength in Confession

Sunday, March 7th

Silent Prayer

- ❖ Find a comfortable place where you can be alone with God.
- ❖ Ease into the quiet.
- ❖ Offer a simple prayer of surrender and desire.
- ❖ Pick a word or short phrase – a name of God, or desire like “still” or “be.”
- ❖ When you feel your mind wander, come back to this word or phrase.
- ❖ Start with a few minutes and build up to longer times. It’s ok to set a timer!
- ❖ Close with a prayer of thankfulness.

Week Four
Strength in Confession

Monday, March 8th

Consider

What feelings does the word “confession” bring up for you? What were you taught about confession and how does that impact your current experience?

Read

Psalm 32: 1-7

Respond

What are you keeping silent about today? When did you begin keeping that silent? What could God say or do to help you release that secret?

Pray

Holy Spirit, shine your kind light on our sin and set us free.

Week Four Strength in Confession

Tuesday, March 9th

Consider

Confession is telling the truth about something – your love for someone, a struggle, your faith. What are you invited to tell the truth about today?

Read

Psalm 32: 1-7

Respond

What systems have you adopted to deal with sin? Avoidance, excuses, denial? Have an honest conversation with God about your situation. Avoid the instinct to talk and run. Wait for his loving response.

Pray

Father, give us a vision for living freely and openly.

Week Four Strength in Confession

Wednesday, March 10th

Contemplative Bible Reading

- ❖ **Read** Psalm 32:1-7 slowly. Pause in silence and then read it again.
- ❖ **Listen** for a word or phrase that the Holy Spirit is highlighting for you.
- ❖ **Slowly Read** the passage again.
- ❖ **Ask** God what he would like to say to you about this word or phrase.
- ❖ **Slowly Read** the passage again.
- ❖ **Respond** in prayer to what you are hearing from God.
- ❖ **Rest** in God's presence.

Fast

Dr. Bright in his article "Why You Should Fast" tells us that fasting reveals our true spiritual condition. What are you learning about your true spiritual condition? What desires does this realization stir up in you?

Week Four Strength in Confession

Thursday, March 11th

Consider

Flood waters often rise quickly and without warning. How does that translate into our experience with sin?

Read

Psalm 32: 1-7

Respond

When facing our sin, silence often feels like strength and confession weakness. This week's Psalm tells us the opposite. Blessing comes through forgiveness. Take a moment and envision the areas of your life now touched by guilt, covered instead by God's blessing.

Pray

Holy Spirit, teach us to trust in your desire to forgive.

Week Four
Strength in Confession

Friday, March 12th

Consider

Did you have a favorite hiding place as a child? Where do you go now for a sense of space and protection?

Read

Psalm 32: 1-7

Respond

In what ways would you like to be protected today?
What would you like to be delivered from?

Pray

Father, come to help me.

Week Four Strength in Confession

Saturday, March 13th

The Prayer of Examen

- ❖ At the end of this week, find a few moments to be quiet.
- ❖ Review the past week with God by asking these questions.
 - Where did I feel connected to God?
 - Where did I feel disconnected from God?
- ❖ Give thanks for the moments of connection and ask God to help you in the places of disconnection.
- ❖ Think through the coming week. What will you need from God?
- ❖ Close with a simple prayer.

Week Five

Strength in Exhaustion

Sunday, March 14th

Silent Prayer

- ❖ Find a comfortable place where you can be alone with God.
- ❖ Ease into the quiet.
- ❖ Offer a simple prayer of surrender and desire.
- ❖ Pick a word or short phrase – a name of God, or desire like “still” or “be.”
- ❖ When you feel your mind wander, come back to this word or phrase.
- ❖ Start with a few minutes and build up to longer times. It’s ok to set a timer!
- ❖ Close with a prayer of thankfulness.

Week Five

Strength in Exhaustion

Monday, March 15th

Consider

Exhaustion comes in several forms – physical, emotional, spiritual, and mental. Which of these types of exhaustion are you contending with today?

Read

Isaiah 40: 28-31

Respond

God never gets tired. In what ways do you find this comforting? What is God's offer when you are weary? Talk to him about the ways you are experiencing weariness and receive his strength.

Pray

Everlasting God, connect us to your strength.

Week Five
Strength in Exhaustion

Tuesday, March 16th

Consider

How does physical weariness tend to affect your state of mind and emotions?

Read

Isaiah 40: 28-31

Respond

What about who the Lord is or how he is working in your life cause you to hope? What other things or people are you tempted to hope in?

Pray

Lord, be our never ending source of hope.

Week Five

Strength in Exhaustion

Wednesday, March 17th

Contemplative Bible Reading

- ❖ **Read** Isaiah 40: 28-31 slowly. Pause in silence and then read it again.
- ❖ **Listen** for a word or phrase that the Holy Spirit is highlighting for you.
- ❖ **Slowly Read** the passage again.
- ❖ **Ask** God what he would like to say to you about this word or phrase.
- ❖ **Slowly Read** the passage again.
- ❖ **Respond** in prayer to what you are hearing from God.
- ❖ **Rest** in God's presence.

Fast

Dr. Bright in his article "Why You Should Fast" tells us that fasting invites God to imprint his Word more deeply on our hearts and causes his truth to become more meaningful to our everyday lives. How has God's Word strengthened you during your fast?

Week Five
Strength in Exhaustion

Thursday, March 18th

Consider

Why is it sometimes difficult to admit that we are tired?
In what ways do you try to deal with tiredness instead
of resting?

Read

Isaiah 40: 28-31

Respond

What are you tired of dealing with in this part of your
life? What will you need from God to keep moving
ahead?

Pray

Father, teach us to rest in your strength.

Week Five
Strength in Exhaustion

Friday, March 19th

Consider

How comfortable are you with asking for help? What would make you more and less likely to ask?

Read

Isaiah 40: 28-31

Respond

Isaiah reminds us that we can soar, run, and walk with God as our source of fuel. What are the benefits of utilizing God's strength as our fuel source? How do you feel about a God who offers?

Pray

Holy Spirit, we humbly accept your gift of strength.

Week Five

Strength in Exhaustion

Saturday, March 20th

The Prayer of Examen

- ❖ At the end of this week, find a few moments to be quiet.
- ❖ Review the past week with God by asking these questions.
 - Where did I feel connected to God?
 - Where did I feel disconnected from God?
- ❖ Give thanks for the moments of connection and ask God to help you in the places of disconnection.
- ❖ Think through the coming week. What will you need from God?
- ❖ Close with a simple prayer.

Week Six

Strength in Mourning

Sunday, March 21st

Silent Prayer

- ❖ Find a comfortable place where you can be alone with God.
- ❖ Ease into the quiet.
- ❖ Offer a simple prayer of surrender and desire.
- ❖ Pick a word or short phrase – a name of God, or desire like “still” or “be.”
- ❖ When you feel your mind wander, come back to this word or phrase.
- ❖ Start with a few minutes and build up to longer times. It’s ok to set a timer!
- ❖ Close with a prayer of thankfulness.

Week Six
Strength in Mourning

Monday, March 22nd

Consider

What or whom are you mourning today?

Read

Isaiah 61: 1-4

Respond

What have you found comforting as you mourn? What has added to the burden? How has God been present to you in your grief?

Pray

God of all comfort, thank you for your presence.

Week Six

Strength in Mourning

Tuesday, March 23rd

Consider

The first step in healing is acknowledging the wound. Is there a wound that you are hesitant to notice or uncover?

Read

Isaiah 61: 1-4

Respond

God binding up the brokenhearted is a very tender image. Close your eyes and picture it. What would you like to say to God?

Pray

Healer, give us courage to say where it hurts.

Week Six

Strength in Mourning

Wednesday, March 24th

Contemplative Bible Reading

- ❖ **Read** Isaiah 61: 1-4 slowly. Pause in silence and then read it again.
- ❖ **Listen** for a word or phrase that the Holy Spirit is highlighting for you.
- ❖ **Slowly Read** the passage again.
- ❖ **Ask** God what he would like to say to you about this word or phrase.
- ❖ **Slowly Read** the passage again.
- ❖ **Respond** in prayer to what you are hearing from God.
- ❖ **Rest** in God's presence.

Fast

Dr. Bright in his article "Why You Should Fast" tells us that fasting may cause your prayer life to become more rich and personal. What effect(s) has your fast had on your prayer life? What do you attribute those changes to?

Week Six
Strength in Mourning

Thursday, March 25th

Consider

Ashes are a visible sign of mourning. What is something beautiful that you would like to replace them with?

Read

Isaiah 61: 1-4

Respond

What could it look like to see mourning turn into joy? Are you seeing any signs of that in your story? Talk to God about how this transformation is possible.

Pray

Transforming God, show me the beauty that lies ahead.

Week Six
Strength in Mourning

Friday, March 26th

Consider

Google an image of ancient ruins and imagine what it would take to rebuild that structure.

Read

Isaiah 61: 1-4

Respond

What in your life are you longing to have rebuilt, restored and renewed? How long have you lived with the damage? Ask God to show you what part of that work is yours and what parts he is committed to.

Pray

Rebuilder, come and do your work in me.

Week Six

Strength in Mourning

Saturday, March 27th

The Prayer of Examen

- ❖ At the end of this week, find a few moments to be quiet.
- ❖ Review the past week with God by asking these questions.
 - Where did I feel connected to God?
 - Where did I feel disconnected from God?
- ❖ Give thanks for the moments of connection and ask God to help you in the places of disconnection.
- ❖ Think through the coming week. What will you need from God?
- ❖ Close with a simple prayer.

Week Seven Strength in Sacrifice

Sunday, March 28th

Silent Prayer

- ❖ Find a comfortable place where you can be alone with God.
- ❖ Ease into the quiet.
- ❖ Offer a simple prayer of surrender and desire.
- ❖ Pick a word or short phrase – a name of God, or desire like “still” or “be.”
- ❖ When you feel your mind wander, come back to this word or phrase.
- ❖ Start with a few minutes and build up to longer times. It’s ok to set a timer!
- ❖ Close with a prayer of thankfulness.

Week Seven
Strength in Sacrifice

Monday, March 29th

Consider

How has the Lenten season prepared you to observe the events of this Holy Week?

Read

Luke 22: 1-13

Respond

While the disciples are preparing to celebrate the Passover together, Jesus is preparing to go to the cross. What spiritual preparations do you feel invited to make this week in anticipation of the loss of Good Friday and the joy of Easter Sunday?

Pray

Jesus, give us courage to enter the darkness of this week.

Week Seven
Strength in Sacrifice

Tuesday, March 30th

Consider

What are some ways in which our culture depicts strength and power?

Read

John 13: 1-17

Respond

Jesus washing his friends' dirty, dusty feet is a striking image of strength. What did Jesus want his disciples to learn about sacrifice? What did he want them to notice about strength?

Pray

Holy Spirit, help us to reject definitions of strength that fail to include service and sacrifice.

Week Seven

Strength in Sacrifice

Wednesday, March 31st

Contemplative Bible Reading

- ❖ **Read** Isaiah 53: 1-6 slowly. Pause in silence and then read it again.
- ❖ **Listen** for a word or phrase that the Holy Spirit is highlighting for you.
- ❖ **Slowly Read** the passage again.
- ❖ **Ask** God what he would like to say to you about this word or phrase.
- ❖ **Slowly Read** the passage again.
- ❖ **Respond** in prayer to what you are hearing from God.
- ❖ **Rest** in God's presence.

Fast

What has this fasting experience been like for you? Do you sense an invitation to make fasting a part of your regular spiritual rhythm?

Week Seven
Strength in Sacrifice

Maundy Thursday, April 1st

Consider

What have you learned about strength over these weeks?

Read

Luke 22: 14-23 and 39-65

Respond

So much is happening in these verses – the Lord's Supper is served, Judas' treachery is brought to light, Jesus leads his disciples to the garden to pray, the arrest is made and Peter denies knowing Jesus. What part of the drama draws you in the most today?

Pray

Spirit, help us to remember our Lord's example in times of trouble.

Week Seven

Strength in Sacrifice

Good Friday, April 2nd

Consider

Today we witness the great feat of strength the world has ever seen. The Messiah laying down his life without complaint or hesitation.

Read

Luke 22: 66 - 23: 56

Respond

As you consider the crucifixion, what aspect do you feel required the most strength? Where did you notice Jesus drawing his strength from? What do you learn from Jesus' example?

Pray

Jesus, teach us how to die.

Week Seven

Waiting for Resurrection

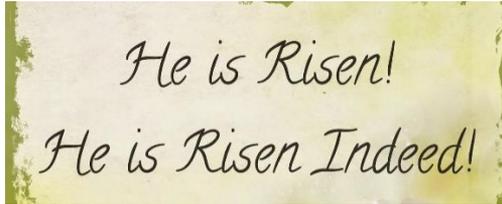
Saturday, April 3^d

The Prayer of Examen

- ❖ At the end of this week, find a few moments to be quiet.
- ❖ Review the past week with God by asking these questions.
 - Where did I feel connected to God?
 - Where did I feel disconnected from God?
- ❖ Give thanks for the moments of connection and ask God to help you in the places of disconnection.
- ❖ Think through the coming week. What will you need from God?
- ❖ Close with a simple prayer.

EASTER SUNDAY

April 4th



Consider

You have journeyed with Jesus from the upper room to the cross and now to the empty tomb! We knew resurrection was coming. What would it have been like to be surprised by this good news?

Read

Matthew 28: 1-10 and Ephesians 1: 18-20

Respond

The same power that raised Jesus from the dead is at work in you. Take a moment to let that truth sink in. Where do you long for resurrection? How do you feel God responding to your desire?

Pray

Father, Son and Holy Spirit, we celebrate with you today!



Looking for a place to call home?

Join us Sundays @ 10 AM
In person or online at Facebook Live
Vineyard Church of Augusta

Nursery through middle school ministry
at each celebration.

Small group opportunities
throughout the week.

For more information, please call 706.863.9766
or go online: vineyardaugusta.org

3126 Parrish Rd., Augusta, GA

God Loves You



It's simple but true. You are loved by God – no matter who you are, what you've done, who you've disappointed, or what you have suffered.

Unlike others who may say they love you and fail to show it, God demonstrated his love for you by sending his son, Jesus, to earth to give his life as a ransom for yours.

Jesus died and was raised to life by his loving Father not as a one-time, show-off move but as an example of what God wants to do in *your* life. He wants to give you new life.

The invitation has been offered. How will you respond?

Maybe you are ready to tell Jesus that you want him to be your Savior and Lord? Maybe you want to begin a conversation with God?

Whatever your next step is, you will find God ready and waiting to listen and respond to you.

If you have questions or would like to talk about your next step with someone, please email us at prayer@vineyardaugusta.org.