

# CITY CHURCH LENT CHALLENGE 2022

Lent is the 40 days before Easter, starting with Ash Wednesday. Lent is a beautiful season to remember the 40 days Jesus spent in the desert being tempted. The City Church, Family Ministry Committee wants to CHALLENGE and help prepare our hearts during this time.

**ASH WEDNESDAY CHALLENGE (March 2<sup>nd</sup>):** Ash Wednesday marks the Lent season and helps to focus our hearts on repentance and prayer. The ashes on our foreheads remind us of our own mortality. Your first challenge is to attend the Ash Wednesday service at City Church at 5:30 pm. This week, go the extra mile and gather with friends or family for dinner. Create a simple meal (perhaps meatless) by candlelight, and before dinner recite the following confession as your prayer before you eat:

*Merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart and mind and strength. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. In Your mercy forgive our sins, and grow us in Your grace as Your covenant people, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways, to the glory of Your holy name. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.*

**EXTRA CHALLENGE:** Say this confession every night before dinner and commit it to memory this Lent.

**CHALLENGE 1-MEMORIZE (March 6<sup>th</sup>):** Throughout the whole Lenten season commit the Apostles' Creed to memory. If you like music, check out The Apostles' Creed by The Village Church on [Spotify](#) or [YouTube Music](#).

**CHALLENGE 2-GIVE (March 13<sup>th</sup>):** During this time of Lent, we invite you to give! One Heart Family Ministries ([ohfm.org](#)) is an organization that recruits, assists in training, and supports Christian families for children in Missouri State foster care. This March, we will be collecting items on Sunday morning for their Foster Closet, which provides items to children impacted by the foster care system. They request donations of NEW items that include pajamas (2T+), bottles, diapers (any size), sandals (with straps), and swimsuits (7-16). Other requested items can be found on the [website](#).

**CHALLENGE 3-FAST (March 20<sup>th</sup>):** Take one day each week (starting now and through the end of Lent) and fast from something you love. Fasting is a spiritual practice that helps us discipline our flesh in order to focus on God. We discipline our bodies to eliminate distractions and to make time to connect with God in the Scriptures and prayer. Typically, fasting involves abstaining from food, but not always! You can fast from watching TV, playing video games, coffee or even the snooze button!

**CHALLENGE 4-SERVE (March 27<sup>th</sup>):** Mathew 20:28 says, "The Son of God did not come to be served, but to serve, and give His life as a ransom for many." Think and pray for opportunities in the next several weeks to serve a member of your family, a friend, a neighbor, or a classmate. Bring a meal, clean the house for someone who is ill or pregnant, clean up trash at a park, or encourage your local service people with a note or gift. Be intentional to serve beyond what is comfortable.

**CHALLENGE 5-SHARE (April 3<sup>rd</sup>):** The good news of Jesus' death and resurrection must be shared. In Christ, we all are called to be evangelists. Pick one person (family, friend, classmate, co-worker, etc.) with whom you will either share the Gospel personally or invite to the Easter Sunday service at City Church on April 17.

**CHALLENGE 6-PRAY (April 10<sup>th</sup>):** After a long winter of cold days and piercing wind, we HOPE for new life. Hope in Christ is what grounds us when our souls experience seasons of cold/darkness. Take a moment - rain or shine - and go outside to observe and celebrate signs of new life. As you do, pray for those you love, your neighbors, and our city. Pray that God would breathe new life into lost souls and broken hearts. All of creation cries out to him! Easter is coming!