

Compendium of Local Church Exercises to Help us Grow in the Lord

Journey to Easter Video Series

What: This 47-Day video devotional series provided a way for our church family to dive into Scripture in the lead up to Easter. Following the Lectionary, each individual was given 5 Scripture passages to choose from (no repeats given to others to make sure every day was a new passage). They were asked to pray through them all and pick just one to highlight in their devotion. This could be the entire passage or just a verse or two from the passage. The individual was then asked to video themselves (or Pastor Jen could video them) sharing the passage and a short devotional thought: whatever they felt the Lord place on their hearts. Videos were to be between 2-4 min (some went a little under and some a little over). The devotion videos were then set up to “show” each day of Lent 2022 on our YouTube channel, our website (www.southsidenazarenechurch.ca/journey-to-easter) or via a daily email with a link to the YouTube video. This allowed people to access the video in a number of ways. The daily email reminder was great for those who like to wake up to a daily devotion.

Pictures:



Why: We have a desire as pastors for our people to go deeper into Scripture. This series is a way of not just giving someone a passage to read, but having them read through 5 and pray through them and choose for themselves what needs to be shared. Those who participated appreciated the challenge (for the most part!). We shaped this exercise to utilize video instead of audio. People engage better with a visual rather than solely through listening. This exercise was definitely out of people’s comfort zones, but as we have been challenging our people for years, it was the push some needed to take the dive! It was also great as our church family is now hearing from voices coming from all walks of life and ages...it helps in realising that God speaks through His Word to us all, not just through the pastors! We also encourage our church family to be encouragers and to make the effort to encourage those who have shared.

How: Daily lectionary readings formed the basis of Scripture given to each individual (although passages were only given to one person, so no duplicates could happen) - 5 passages each in total and they varied between OT, Psalm and NT. The videos were edited by Pastor Jen. She also added in the intro and outro themes. We needed 47 individuals to include every day of Lent plus the weekends. We thought it would also be fun to include faces from the past and asked former Southside pastors, and 1 district face, to participate. They led the Sunday devotions and these were shown in our live church service each Sunday during the Journey.

Testimonial: “I didn’t want to do it because it was so far out of my comfort zone, but Pastor Jen and Pastor Jonny keep focusing on how important it is to dive into Scripture and step out of our comfort zone in serving, so I had to say yes. I’m glad I did it!” – June / “I love waking up each morning to see who is sharing the devotion for the day.” - Debbie

Resources available: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCmlls70Yip1RRBsAMm-NbjQ> and click on the Journey to Easter Playlist or www.southsidenazarenechurch.ca/journey-to-easter .

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