

Lent Challenge 2015

Live a Difference

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Week 0 Weds 18th - Sat 21st Feb

You Choose

Welcome to the *Live a Difference* Lent Challenge. This series of leaflets offers you the verses, introductions, reflections and challenges that are sent out to some 5,000 people.

This first leaflet covers the start of Lent, which begins on Ash Wednesday.

We hope that the daily challenge helps you to reflect more deeply on the call of faith to live lives that are different because they are shaped and motivated by the radically generous and life changing love of God.

Take up the challenge to Live God's Love in such a way that others see God and discover the life he offers.

For more information

See www.livethechallenge.co.uk

Live a difference in Lent

An opportunity to explore the ways in which faith invites us to live differently and to reflect on the love of God which has a habit of turning things upside down.

Each day a bible verse invites you to reflect, pray and to act. A bible passage is also suggested for further reading.

For more information and to post pictures and videos visit
www.livethechallenge.co.uk

this Lent
live a difference



Ash Wednesday, 18th February

Turn

Yet even now, says the Lord, return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning. *Joel 2.12*

Today is Ash Wednesday. Lent begins with an invitation to turn or re-turn. The journey of Lent, and discipleship, is not one we drift into.

It's a choice. It's a deliberate decision. Ash Wednesday reminds us that a good way to begin, is to stop, turn around, & look the love of God in the face. As we do so we find ourselves known and loved. (*Joel 2.12-17*)

Pause

- *Take time today ...* to try to describe (to yourself) the direction your life is taking. What words best describe it? Is there an area of your life in which there is a need to return to God?
- *Pause to pray ...* in silence, let your heart, mind and your life turn to God.

Act

- *Live a difference today...* turn a good intention into action, stop long enough to be moved to do something.

Friday, 20th February

Live

I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly. *John 10.10*

The great paradox and the overwhelmingly wonderful gift of the Lent journey is this :

As we let go of ourselves to walk with Jesus, as we seek with God's help to live a difference, so we discover not an empty life but one absolutely brimming full of life and love and possibilities. (*see John 10.7-15*)

Pause

- *Take time today ...* What are the qualities, people and things that make your life abundant - not just busy? How do the words, life and companionship of Jesus enable your life to flourish?
- *Pause to pray ...* Thank God for all that makes your life thrive. Pray for all whose lives are starved or imprisoned.

Act

- *Live a difference today ...* surprise someone with uncalculated generosity.

Thursday, 19th February

Follow

Then he said to them all, 'If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me. *Luke 9.23*

The Lent journey begins, with an opportunity to pause, in turning round. It continues with a person. Lent is a journey of companionship and discovery.

To choose discipleship is to choose to listen and to watch. As we walk with Jesus we see and learn how life is lived truly and fully. It begins in letting go of ourselves. (*see Luke 9.22-25*)

Pause

- *Take time today ...* to think about what it means for you to follow Jesus - in practice not just in theory. What are the key differences it makes to your life?
- *Pause to pray ...* ask Jesus to be your companion through today, pray about any tricky situation that awaits you.

Act

- *Live a difference today ...* in a situation where your own needs or fears would usually dictate your actions, choose to let go and see what happens.

Saturday 21st February

Love

'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbour as yourself.' *Luke 10.27*

You choose ... to turn, to follow, to live and to love.

The more time we spend in the company of Jesus, the more we seek to shape our lives with his words and our hearts with his presence, the more we see that love is the heart of it; unconditional, barrier breaking, life changing love. (*see Luke 10.25-37*)

Pause

- *Take time today ...* at the end of the week, to reflect on the gift and the challenge that Jesus Christ brings to your life. Meditate on the great commandments to love God and neighbour.
- *Pause to pray ...* thank God for the love that is freely given to you and ask for strength to love where it is costly and needed.

Act

- *Live a difference today ...* break a barrier with a word, a gift or a handshake.