

Gospel Centered | Mission Focused

Come Along | Week of February 14

The season of Lent begins with our Ash Wednesday [ZOOM](#) Prayer service this Wednesday, February 17 @7pm. This year we will journey with the disciples as they accept Jesus' invitation to "Come along...". The sermon companion this week prepares us for this journey with Jesus to Jerusalem.

Gospel Centered

This past Sunday Laurie asked our new Sr. Director of Ministry, Chris Koch, "Where has accepting Jesus' invitation to 'Come along with me' taken you?" Share your own answers to this story. Have any of the life directions or places been a surprise? Have any been especially life giving or especially disappointing?

Read Luke 5:1-11 & 29-32 again this week – Jesus calls Simon and Levi

On Sunday Laurie spoke briefly about being on mission with Jesus in our everyday activities – pointing out how Peter used the equipment at hand in his fishing trade (and the place of his work!) to make it possible for others to hear God's word taught by Jesus. Levi immediately invited his co-workers and friends into his home to meet Jesus. Before either disciple hit the road with Jesus they were involved in making a way for others to meet and learn from him.

Do you see any opportunity in your daily work or life routines to make a way for others to hear from or encounter Jesus?

Readings

The readings this week conclude in Mark's gospel, reminding us of the events toward which we are walking during the season of Lent.

Monday, February 15 | Mark 12

Tuesday, February 16 | Mark 13

Wednesday, February 17 | Mark 14:1-31

Thursday, February 18 | Mark 14:32-72

Friday, February 19 | Mark 15

Saturday, February 20 | Mark 16

Mission Focused

- **Preparing for Lent** – Laurie suggested that Connect groups may want to participate together in the Ash Wednesday Zoom call on February 17 – talk about whether or not that will work for your group.
- **Connect Group / Spiritual Friendship Covenant**
It is helpful to talk through as a group, or a pair, the commitments you are able and willing to make to each other during the 6 weeks of Lent. The back page of this guide has some questions to help you make a covenant / promises together on this journey.

THE
BIG
STORY

Connect Group Covenant | Lent 2021

Connect groups are gospel centered – mission focused communities. This Connect Group covenant worksheet helps work out how we will live into this vision as we journey through Lent together.

Time

How often will we meet together? *The recommendation for Lent is every week*

Location

At present all of our Lent Connect Groups are meeting via Zoom. It is very likely that the declining numbers of COVID-19 cases in King County will allow for limited in-person meetings sometime in March.

When it is safe to do so, will we meet in person and/or create a hybrid online/in person meeting?

If the chance to meet in person opens up, will we gather in a room at the church facility, outdoors or in a home?

GROW: Following Jesus on his Journey to Jerusalem

During Lent there are both individual readings available daily and opportunities to reflect more deeply together on the Bible story used in Sunday's sermon

Will we each watch the Sunday sermon before our meeting?

Do we want to encourage one another in the daily readings as well?

Each week the Lenten guide will have a weekly spiritual practice. Will that factor into our group life?

CONNECT: Connecting as friends in Christ

What will encourage deep hearted friendships during Lent? Choose one practice that seems most fruitful for where your group is at in this journey together.

_____ Sharing our life/faith stories _____ Taking ___ minutes each week to check in

_____ Pairing off in prayer partners that connect each week _____ Confession & Accountability

Review your commitment to confidentiality – what can be shared outside the group?

SERVE: On Mission Together with Jesus

Each week the Lent Sermon guide will have a mission practice. The vitality and purpose of Connect groups really is evident in the extent to which we remain outwardly focused with Jesus on mission.

What will help to ensure that we dedicate a fitting amount of our time together on the mission practices each week?

COVID Considerations

If you are a group that meets in person it is essential that you agree on the safety measures you will take – details like physical distancing, masks, level of exposure to community transmission of the virus, etc.

Please adhere to the COVID-19 Guidelines that WSPC has provided. Before your group transitions to an in person or hybrid meeting this spring please be sure to use the **Contact Risk Assessment Tool** provided [HERE](#). It is a helpful tool to discuss together the level of risk to exposure in your group. Remember that vaccines require 2 weeks after the second dose for maximum effectiveness.