
A Lenten Journey of Love

Introduction

We are a pilgrim people, and while Lent is time to look back on where we have been, more importantly, we look ahead toward where we are going. This Journey of Love may be an aid. It was originated several years ago by the pastor of the First Christian Church in Oklahoma City. For each of the six weeks of Lent, there are specific aspects of daily loving.

Six Weeks

First Week

The Hand of Love -- Write a letter a day to a friend near or far away and tell him or her how much you appreciate their friendship.



Second Week

The Voice of Love -- Phone two or three people just to say what they mean to you or to say "Thank you" or "I'm sorry." Call people you've intended to phone but somehow never have. Remember, love and gossip don't go together.

Third Week

The Deed of Love -- Take something you have made or bought to two or three friends who mean much to you, but for whom you rarely express your love -- a pie, a plant, a birdhouse, a small remembrance that has your love as a wrapping.

Fourth Week

The Heart of Love --

Make a list of ten people for whom you will pray daily. Include your friends, your enemies, those you don't like. Forgive them if they have wronged you, and ask forgiveness if you have wronged them.



Fifth Week

The Mind of Love -- Use this week to pray for yourself and look inward. Read the gospel of John. Plan during the week to do a little extra meditating and praying in a quiet place, such as a church.

Sixth Week

The Victory of Love -- This is the week of celebration. God's love for us is revealed in many ways. Get out of doors and breathe in the air of spring. Fly a kite. Have your friends in for dinner or a party. Let your joy be full with life, abundant in faith, hope, and love.

Closing

This little plan for Lent could well find us at Easter, a "new creation." And some, if not all, our faults could well turn to ashes and dust as we are reminded on Ash Wednesday. Then ash becomes a sign of victory through forgiveness. It is a journey of love which may entail some pain and difficulty -- but aren't these basic ingredients of loving?

Acknowledgments

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