

40 DAYS of FOCUS

February 22 - April 8, 2023

THEME: "LET US GO INTO THE HOUSE OF THE LORD" PSALM 122:1

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Praise & Worship Playlist

Sisters and Brothers,

Welcome to yet another season of personal reflection, personal development, and personal achievement that is all fueled by our personal dedication to draw closer to God through prayer, fasting, study, and motion. Every year, in this that we call **40 Days of Focus**, we make it our intention as a faith community and as individuals to make it our mission to become more of a reflection of God than a reflection of the systems and structures of this world.

Allow me to encourage each of us to make this a period that is not just about dropping bad habits. It is about developing those habits that lead to a lifestyle that causes people to see who we are and that for which we stand; and will cause them to glorify God. In other words, this is about making necessary adjustments so that your light/our light will shine brighter than it ever has.

So far in this calendar year we have been studying and praying about spiritual gifts, with an objective of realizing that we all have gifts that we should share. As we move forward together during the next 40 days, let us be mindful and prayerful about understanding how valuable we are and that what we have to offer is priceless. Also, let's remember that we are powerful alone, but we are an unstoppable force when we are together. Our hope and prayer is that God will "stir up the gifts" within us.

I look forward to sharing the testimonies and the praise reports as we journey in these 40 days together.

Yours in love, Errol Domingue, Ph.D. When we fast, we make the personal decision to deny ourselves some form of physical pleasure to heighten spiritual awareness. Most often, fasting is associated with going without eating for a specified period. However, one can also fast from listening to music, watching television, social media or any number of pleasurable things. It's about sacrifice. Please note that there is no magic associated with such activity, it is our way of humiliating our flesh and increasing our sensibility to God. Most often Christians accompany their prayer with fasting as a sign of worship, repentance, or intensely seeking God's guidance. According to Wayne Grudem fasting:

- Increases our sense of humility and dependence on God
- Allows us to spend more time in prayer
- Increases our ability for self-discipline
- Heightens our sense of spiritual and mental alertness to the presence of God

9 BASIC STEPS TO SUCCESSFUL FASTING & PRAYER

STEP 1: Build a team...connect with "encouragement partners" so that you won't go at it alone

STEP 2: Set aside a specified time every day to spend with God

STEP 3: Read the prescribed passage of Scripture for the day

STEP 4: Take time to meditate/think about what you have just read. You might seek answers to questions such as (but not limited to)

- 1) What is God's role in this passage?
- 2) What is my role in this passage?

STEP 5: Journal/write your thoughts of thanksgiving for that day concerning that Scripture

STEP 6: Participate in the specified corporate prayer times (when/where applicable)

STEP 7: Choose a specified time and way you will fast and pray

STEP 8: Don't count Sundays in your 40-day count

STEP 9: Watch God reveal Himself to you.

SELF-AWARENESS RESOURCES

Beloved, I pray that you may prosper in all things and be in health, just as your soul prospers.

III John 1:2 (NKJV)

According to the Collaborative for Academic Social, and Emotional, Learning (CASEL), **SELF-AWARENESS** is simply the ability to be aware of one's inner life - one's emotions, thoughts, behaviors, values, preferences, goals and strengths.

We have provided you with a variety of resources to utilize during the next 40 days as you self-reflect and enhance your spiritual and physical being.

Resource Tools:

- Self-Awareness Assessment
 - Complete this document during the first week of the 40 DOF.
 - Focus on yourself
- S.M.A.R.T. Goals
 - Set realistic and achievable goals
 - Use this in your everyday life
- Self-Care Planner and Mood Tracker
 - Optional to use
 - Allows you to identify how you feel
- Monthly Budget and Savings Plan
 - Complete this document for the month of March and April
 - Join us by setting a savings goal of \$500 by the end of 40 DOF. Feel free to modify your savings goal as you see fit. (The goal is to change your spending habits and improve your financial wealth.)

Disclaimer: Before modifying your diet or participating in exercise, seek guidance from your medical professional.

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READ THE PROMTS BELOW AND THINK ABOUT THE FIRST THING THAT COMES TO MIND. FILL YOUR ANSWERS OUT IN THE BLANK BOXES.

I AM A HUMAN BEING THAT...

LOVES	
WANTS TO	
IS DRIVEN BY	
IS INSPIRED BY	
HAS A HABIT OF	
IS HAPPIEST WHEN	
BELIEVES IN	
WOULD GIVE	
WILL ONE DAY	
HAS THE GOAL OF	
WHO NOTICES	
IS AFRAID OF	

SMART GOALS

WHEN SETTING GOALS, MAKE SURE IT FOLLOWS THE SMART STRUCTURE. USE THE QUESTIONS BELOW TO CREATE YOUR GOALS.

S	<u>SPECIFIC</u> what do i want to accomplish?	
Μ	MEASURABLE HOW WILL I KNOW WHEN IT IS ACCOMPLISHED?	
A	ACHIEVABLE how can the goal be accomplished?	
R	<u>RELEVANT</u> does this seem worthwhile?	
Τ	<u>TIME BOUND</u> when can i accomplish this goal?	

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LIFE GOALS

FOR EACH OF THE CATEGORIES BELOW, WRITE DOWN THINGS YOU ARE DOING WELL AND WHERE YOU NEED IMPROVEMENT. TAKE THE TIME TO REFLECT ON THESE, AND WRITE A GOAL FOR EACH CATEGORY.

CATEGORY	WHAT I'M DOING WELL	WHERE I NEED IMPROVEMENT	MY GOALS
FAMILY			
FRIENDS			
WORK/ SCHOOL			
BODY			
MENTAL HEALTH			
SPIRITUALITY			

SELF-CARE PLANNER

PRIORITISING SELF-CARE IS A VERY IMPORTANT STEP IN LIVING A BALANCED AND STRESS-FREE LIFE. FILL OUT THE BOXES BELOW DURING THE WEEK TO GIVE YOURSELF TIME TO REFLECT.

I'M GRATEFUL FOR

EXERCISE AND NUTRITION

MY BIGGEST SELF-CARE GOAL THIS WEEK

HABITS	(S) (M) (T) (W) (T) (F) (S)
01	$\bigcirc \bigcirc $
02	$\bigcirc \bigcirc $
03	$\bigcirc \bigcirc $
04	$\bigcirc \bigcirc $
05	$\bigcirc \bigcirc $
05	$\bigcirc \bigcirc $

X

	J	F	М	Α	М	J	J	Α	S	0	Ν	D	MANTRA OF THE YEAR
1													
2													
3													
4													
5													
6													K E Y S
7													AMAZING
8													GOOD
9													PRODUCTIVE
10													
11													AVERAGE
12													RELAXED
13													EXHAUSTED
14													DEPRESSED
15													BORED
16													
17													
18													
19													NOTEC
20													NOTES
21													
22													
23													
24													
25													
26													
27													
28													
29													
30													
31													

MONTHLY BUDGET

MONTH OF

INCOME							
DATE	SOURCE	CATEGORY	AMOUNT				

BILI	.S & FIXED EX	PENSES	VA	ARIABLE EXPE	INSES
DATE	SOURCE	AMOUNT	DATE	SOURCE	AMOUNT

SUMMARY	
SOURCE	AMOUNT
INCOME	
BILLS & FIXED EXPENSES	
VARIABLE EXPENSES	
BALANCE	

SAVINGS TRACKER

YEAR OF

SAVING FOR

AMOUNT NEEDED

MONTH	WEEK 1	WEEK 2	WEEK 3	WEEK 4	TOTAL
JANUARY					
FEBRUARY					
MARCH					
APRIL					
MAY					
JUNE					
JULY					
AUGUST					
SEPTEMBER					
OCTOBER					
NOVEMBER					
DECEMBER					

DAY READ 1 PSALM 120 (VV. 6-7)

Spiritual Wellness

Scripture Reading: The foundation of our fast is the Word of God. To deepen our understanding of the Word, let's move through the following four steps each day that we read. Keep in mind that it may be easier to read the text multiple times and you may need to read the passage before or after the selection to understand what is happening in the text.

Step 1: Read the passage slowly,

Step 2: Think about the meaning of the passage,

Step 3: Enter into prayer to receive God's message for you,

Step 4: Rest in God's revelation to you for 10 to 15 minutes.

Physical Wellness

Decide which aspect of your physical being you would like to improve (e.g., lose weight, drink more water, walk more frequently, eat more vegetables, etc.).

Mental & Emotional Wellness

Self-awareness:

1. Complete the Self-Awareness Assessment (see Wellness Resources).

2. Describe what you discovered about yourself.

Financial Wellness

Define your view of personal financial wellness.

READ

PSALM 120 (VV. 6-7)

Spiritual Wellness

DAY

2

Scripture Reading: The foundation of our fast is the Word of God. To deepen our understanding of the Word, let's move through the following four steps each day that we read. Keep in mind that it may be easier to read the text multiple times and you may need to read the passage before or after the selection to understand what is happening the text.

Step 1: Read the passage slowly,

Step 2: Think about the meaning of the passage,

Step 3: Enter into prayer to receive God's message for you,

Step 4: Rest in God's revelation to you for 10 to 15 minutes.

Physical Wellness

- Collaborate with another person to assist you with your physical journey. Become encouragement partners.
- Identify your roles and expectations of each other.
- Determine when you will meet.

Mental & Emotional Wellness

Call a friend or relative, and ask them how they are doing. How did this interaction make you feel?

Financial Wellness

Complete the Monthly Budget form (see Wellness Resources). 1. Are your overspending, saving, or living your best life? 2. What would like to change about your spending habits?

READ

PSALM 121 (VV. 1-2; 5-6)

Spiritual Wellness

DAY

3

Scripture Reading: The foundation of our fast is the Word of God. To deepen our understanding of the Word, let's move through the following four steps each day that we read. Keep in mind that it may be easier to read the text multiple times and you may need to read the passage before or after the selection to understand what is happening the text.

Step 1: Read the passage slowly,

Step 2: Think about the meaning of the passage,

Step 3: Enter into prayer to receive God's message for you,

Step 4: Rest in God's revelation to you for 10 to 15 minutes.

Physical Wellness

Self-Reflection:

- 1. How do you rate your overall health (excellent, good, fair, poor)?
- 2. What are you willing to remove from your diet?

Mental & Emotional Wellness

It is the end of the week.

- Meet a friend or family member for conversation.
- Relax. A hot bubble bath/shower may be soothing and calming.

Financial Wellness

Participate in the \$500 in 40 Days Savings Challenge

- Evaluate your budget.
- Are you able to save **\$83 per week**, beginning the week of 02/27/2023? If not, set your own savings goal.

2023 40 DAYS OF FOCUS	14

DAY READ 4 PSALM 122 (VV.1; 6-9)

Spiritual Wellness

Individual Prayer: This week, let's focus on our individual prayer practice. Please continue to focus on each spiritual discipline as we grow deeper in knowledge. Choose a space for our daily prayers where you can keep your bible, notebook, pen, etc. It could be your bedside, a favorite chair or sofa, you may have a spare closet, etc. Choose a time at the beginning of your day and at the end of your day, especially during the 40 Days. It may help to use a calendar to mark the time and help center your thoughts.

Physical Wellness

With your encouragement partner, determine which 2-3 days per week you will meet (in-person/virtual) to develop the following plans: exercise, meal planning, praying, and water intake.

Mental & Emotional Wellness

- Turn on some music! Do a 30-minute Housework Workout. Sweep, mop, and water your plants.
- Journal about your week. State you feel. What worked well? Describe your best achievement for the week?

Financial Wellness

Review your spending for the week. What could you have saved money on? Set a weekly budget for the upcoming week. How much will you save?

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Date:

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DAY READ 5 PSALM 122 (VV.1; 6-9)

Spiritual Wellness

Individual Prayer: This week, let's focus on our individual prayer practice. Please continue to focus on each spiritual discipline as we grow deeper in knowledge. Choose a space for our daily prayers where you can keep your bible, notebook, pen, etc. It could be your bedside, a favorite chair or sofa, you may have a spare closet, etc. Choose a time at the beginning of your day and at the end of your day, especially during the 40 Days. It may help to use a calendar to mark the time and help center your thoughts.

Physical Wellness

This week we will focus on changing our mindset and incorporate physical activities.

- Moving forward we will remove sodas from our diet. Drink water and 100% fruit juice. Try JUICING.
- Walk for 15-minutes each day.

Mental & Emotional Wellness

Plan your week:

- What are 3 goals you want to accomplish?
- Start a new activity (e.g., read a book, home repairs, etc.)
- Track your mood (see Wellness Resources).

Financial Wellness

- What have you learned about your spending habits?
- Today begins our Savings Challenge (\$83/week or \$12/day)
- Bring your lunch to work or prepare your own meal.

2023 40 DAYS OF FOCUS

READ PSALM 122 (VV.1; 6-9)

Spiritual Wellness

DAY

Individual Prayer: This week, let's focus on our individual prayer practice. Please continue to focus on each spiritual discipline as we grow deeper in knowledge. Choose a space for our daily prayers where you can keep your bible, notebook, pen, etc. It could be your bedside, a favorite chair or sofa, you may have a spare closet, etc. Choose a time at the beginning of your day and at the end of your day, especially during the 40 Days. It may help to use a candle to mark the time and help center your thoughts.

Physical Wellness

- Drink water or 100% fruit juice
- Walk for 15 minutes
- Remove fried foods from your meals.
- Use olive oil instead of vegetable oil when preparing your meal.

Mental & Emotional Wellness

- Spend 30 minutes removing physical clutter from a small space (i.e., organize your closet, countertops, or workspace).
- Track your mood. Describe why you feel this way.

Financial Wellness

- Create a budget for the month of March.
- Remember to pay yourself too.

2023 40 DAYS OF FOCUS

READ

PSALM 122 (VV.1; 6-9)

Spiritual Wellness

Individual Prayer: This week, let's focus on our individual prayer practice. Please continue to focus on each spiritual discipline as we grow deeper in knowledge. Choose a space for our daily prayers where you can keep your bible, notebook, pen, etc. It could be your bedside, a favorite chair or sofa, you may have a spare closet, etc. Choose a time at the beginning of your day and at the end of your day, especially during the 40 Days. It may help to use a candle to mark the time and help center your thoughts.



DAY

Physical Wellness

- Continue the food and drink modification
- Practice good sleep hygiene. Allow yourself 1 hour to unwind slowly before bed.

Mental & Emotional Wellness

- Try not to speak negatively about another person or situation today (such as gossiping and criticizing).
- Disconnect from social media one-hour before going to bed.
- Invite someone to SMARTCHURCH at Noon and SMARTCHURCH AMPLIFIED.

- Leave your credit cards at home. Today is a NO -SPEND day.
- Don't cheat and buy extra the day before.

DAY READ PSALM 123 (VV.1-2)

Spiritual Wellness

Individual Prayer: This week, let's focus on our individual prayer practice. Please continue to focus on each spiritual discipline as we grow deeper in knowledge. Choose a space for our daily prayers where you can keep your bible, notebook, pen, etc. It could be your bedside, a favorite chair or sofa, you may have a spare closet, etc. Choose a time at the beginning of your day and at the end of your day, especially during the 40 Days. It may help to use a calendar to mark the time and help center your thoughts.

Physical Wellness

8

Self-check:

- Have you checked on your encouraging partner?
- Describe how your partnership is evolving during this time of FOCUS.

Mental & Emotional Wellness

- Use a positive "No" today!! Say no confidently to unwanted requests.
- Recall a concept you learned during SMARTCHURCH. How has it impacted your way of thinking, living, and/or meditating?

- Define your long-term financial goals. Write them down and let them take roots in your brain.
- Adjust your financial mindset. Identify barriers you have encountered with your finances.

DAY READ 9 psalm 123 (VV.1-2)

Spiritual Wellness

Individual Prayer: This week, let's focus on our individual prayer practice. Please continue to focus on each spiritual discipline as we grow deeper in knowledge. Choose a space for our daily prayers where you can keep your Bible, notebook, pen, etc. It could be your bedside, a favorite chair or sofa, you may have a spare closet, etc. Choose a time at the beginning of your day and at the end of your day, especially during the 40 Days. It may help to use a calendar to mark the time and help center your thoughts.

Physical Wellness

Friday Wind Down, but keep pushing!

- Walk for 15-minutes outdoors
- Check on your encouraging partner
- Enjoy a low-calorie dessert.

Mental & Emotional Wellness

- Sit back and relax
- Listen to your favorite tunes
- Reflect on your week. Be proud of your accomplishments.

- List 3 attributes of this week's financial success.
- Prepare to transfer funds to your savings or store it safely.

DAY READ 10 psalm 123 (vv.1-2)

Spiritual Wellness

Individual Prayer: This week, let's focus on our individual prayer practice. Please continue to focus on each spiritual discipline as we grow deeper in knowledge. Choose a space for our daily prayers where you can keep your bible, notebook, pen, etc. It could be your bedside, a favorite chair or sofa, you may have a spare closet, etc. Choose a time at the beginning of your day and at the end of your day, especially during the 40 Days. It may help to use a calendar to mark the time and help center your thoughts.

Physical Wellness

- Introduce a new activity into your lifestyle (e.g., lift weights, step aerobics, yoga, etc.)
- Enjoy the outdoors (e.g., fishing, hunting, gardening, etc.)

Mental & Emotional Wellness

- Create a zen space in your home (candles, weighted blanket, comforting reads)
- "GROW SOMETHING"
 - Plant vegetables and herbs
 - Send a picture to information@elmgrovebc.org
- Journal about your week.

Financial Wellness

- Week 1 Savings Challenge Goal: \$83.00
- What are you planning to do with the funds you are saving?

2023 40 DAYS OF FOCUS

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DAY READ 11 PSALM 124 (VV. 1-5)

Spiritual Wellness

Meditation: This week we will focus on the spiritual practice of meditation. As Christians, our goal for mediation is to clear our minds and prepare our hearts to hear from God. To deepen your practice, choose a place that is free from clutter, bring a candle and find a space where you may relax your body. It may be a chair, bed or the floor. If you choose the floor, please use a soft mat or blanket and a pillow for your head. You may also use soft instrumental music to help deepen your focus. Begin by focusing on your breathing. Notice how you breathe in and out. Then, relax your body, each part from head to toe. Then, clear your mind. Be patient with yourself and your body. (15 Minutes)

Physical Wellness

- Increase your walking duration to 30-minutes per day
- Moving forward remove red meat from your diet

Mental & Emotional Wellness

- Boost your mood with food (i.e., eat some fresh fruits, nuts, a piece of dark chocolate, and/or fatty fish rich in Omega-3)
- It's the beginning of your week. Journal about what you would like to accomplish.

Financial Wellness

Use your weekly cash envelope to determine how much you will spend this week

DAY READ 12 PSALM 124 (VV. 1-5)

Spiritual Wellness

Meditation: This week we will focus on the spiritual practice of meditation. As Christians, our goal for mediation is to clear our minds and prepare our hearts to hear from God. To deepen your practice, choose a place that is free from clutter, bring a candle and find a space where you may relax your body. It may be a chair, bed or the floor. If you choose the floor, please use a soft mat or blanket and a pillow for your head. You may also use soft instrumental music to help deepen your focus. Begin by focusing on your breathing. Notice how you breathe in and out. Then, relax your body, each part from head to toe. Then, clear your mind. Be patient with yourself and your body. (15 Minutes)

Physical Wellness

- Walk 30-minutes, indoor and outdoor
- Decrease your portion size
- Use honey instead of sugar

Mental & Emotional Wellness

Practice Loving-Kindness Meditation! Think, "May you be happy, healthy, and safe" to a loved one, someone who is challenging, and finally to yourself.

Financial Wellness

- Determine which low balance debt you can pay-off soon.
- Create a plan to pay-off the debt.

2023 40 DAYS OF FOCUS

DAY READ 13 PSALM 124 (VV. 1-5)

Spiritual Wellness

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Physical Wellness

- Walk for 30-minutes
- Invite a friend or co-worker to join you during your walk
- Decrease your sodium intake

Mental & Emotional Wellness

- Reduce stress through breathwork!
 - Inhale to a count of 4; Hold for 4
 - Exhale for 4; and repeat
- Invite someone to SMARTCHURCH at Noon and SMARTCHURCH AMPLIFIED.

Financial Wellness

What are your credit scores for each of the credit reporting agencies?

DAY READ 14 PSALM 125 (VV. 1-2)

Spiritual Wellness

Meditation: This week we will focus on the spiritual practice of meditation. As Christians, our goal for mediation is to clear our minds and prepare our hearts to hear from God. To deepen your practice, choose a place that is free from clutter, bring a candle and find a space where you may relax your body. It may be a chair, bed or the floor. If you choose the floor, please use a soft mat or blanket and a pillow for your head. You may also use soft instrumental music to help deepen your focus. Begin by focusing on your breathing. Notice how you breathe in and out. Then, relax your body, each part from head to toe. Then, clear your mind. Be patient with yourself and your body. (15 Minutes)

Physical Wellness

- Walk for 30-minutes
- Try a new low-salt herbal recipe
- Send your recipe to information@elmgrovebc.org

Mental & Emotional Wellness

- List what you can control versus what you can't.
- Do one thing you can control to feel more empowered.

- Review your credit report for accuracy.
- Reduce your grocery spending by creating a list BEFORE you grocery shop.

DAY READ 15 PSALM 125 (VV. 1-2)

Spiritual Wellness

Meditation: This week we will focus on the spiritual practice of meditation. As Christians, our goal for mediation is to clear our minds and prepare our hearts to hear from God. To deepen your practice, choose a place that is free from clutter, bring a candle and find a space where you may relax your body. It may be a chair, bed or the floor. If you choose the floor, please use a soft mat or blanket and a pillow for your head. You may also use soft instrumental music to help deepen your focus. Begin by focusing on your breathing. Notice how you breathe in and out. Then, relax your body, each part from head to toe. Then, clear your mind. Be patient with yourself and your body. (15 Minutes)

Physical Wellness

- Invite friends to dine with you, in-person/virtual
- Prepare a heart-healthy meal

Mental & Emotional Wellness

- Find a reason to smile or laugh!
- Read jokes, watch a stand up comedy, or talk to a humorous friend.

Financial Wellness

Did you meet your end-of-week financial goal? Add an additional \$10-20 to your savings plan goal.

DAY READ 16 PSALM 125 (VV. 1-2)

Spiritual Wellness

Meditation: This week we will focus on the spiritual practice of meditation. As Christians, our goal for mediation is to clear our minds and prepare our hearts to hear from God. To deepen your practice, choose a place that is free from clutter, bring a candle and find a space where you may relax your body. It may be a chair, bed or the floor. If you choose the floor, please use a soft mat or blanket and a pillow for your head. You may also use soft instrumental music to help deepen your focus. Begin by focusing on your breathing. Notice how you breathe in and out. Then, relax your body, each part from head to toe. Then, clear your mind. Be patient with yourself and your body. (15 Minutes)

Physical Wellness

- Eat grilled foods
- Meal prep for the following week
- Continue drinking water

Mental & Emotional Wellness

- Pamper yourself today!
- Create your own relaxation
 - Stay in your robe
 - Bake a sweet treat for yourself

Financial Wellness

Week 2 - Savings Challenge Goal: \$166

2023 40 DAYS OF FOCUS

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Date:

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DAY READ PSALM 126 (VV.1-3)

Spiritual Wellness

17

Fasting: Let's focus on our practice of fasting. One of the most integral parts of our fasting practice is sacrifice. Although the most traditional method of sacrifice for us today is by denying our bodies the satisfaction of food, it is important to remember that sacrifice can also be made of our time. Reflect on the sacrifices you've had so far through the 40 Days of Focus. Identify areas of growth, acknowledge the challenges you may be experiencing. You may need to reset and recommit. Remember to build and deepen as we grow together.

Physical Wellness

- Moving forward remove sweets and breads from your diet
- Eat grilled foods
- Drink water and 100% fruit juice
- Be sure to incorporate snacks into your regimen

Mental & Emotional Wellness

- Set your alarm for 3 times today (9am, 12pm, and 3pm)
- When the alarm alerts, jot down your thoughts and ideas.
- Consider Pastor Domingue's sermon while reflecting. What message impacted you about the sermon?

Financial Wellness

- List 3 future financial goals.
- What are your retirement plans?

2023 40 DAYS OF FOCUS

DAY READ 18 PSALM 126 (VV.1-3)

Spiritual Wellness

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Physical Wellness

- Check on your encouraging partner
- Determine your health goals for the week
- What do you want to accomplish?

Mental & Emotional Wellness

• Write down the adaptive coping skills you've used to overcome a recent adversity.

- Determine where your money is leaking. On what valueless things are you spending that you could eliminate.
- Refrain from impulse or online shopping.

DAY READ PSALM 126 (VV.1-3)

Spiritual Wellness

19

Fasting: Let's focus on our practice of fasting. One of the most integral parts of our fasting practice is sacrifice. Although the most traditional method of sacrifice for us today is by denying our bodies the satisfaction of food, it is important to remember that sacrifice can also be made of our time. Reflect on the sacrifices you've had so far through the 40 Days of Focus. Identify areas of growth, acknowledge the challenges you may be experiencing. You may need to reset and recommit. Remember to build and deepen as we grow together.

Physical Wellness

- Continue the healthy eating regimen
- How is your fast strengthening you?
- Continue to "keep pushing", even if you are not experiencing the outcomes you expected.

Mental & Emotional Wellness

- Invite a guest to SmartChurch Noon and SmartChurch Amplified.
- Respond, in the social media chat, about something you learned during SmartChurch.

- Discuss your retirement plans with a certified financial counselor.
- Explore possibilities of earning extra income.

DAY READ 20 psalm 127 (VV. 3-4)

Spiritual Wellness

Fasting: Let's focus on our practice of fasting. One of the most integral parts of our fasting practice is sacrifice. Although the most traditional method of sacrifice for us today is by denying our bodies the satisfaction of food, it is important to remember that sacrifice can also be made of our time. Reflect on the sacrifices you've had so far through the 40 Days of Focus. Identify areas of growth, acknowledge the challenges you may be experiencing. You may need to reset and recommit. Remember to build and deepen as we grow together.

Physical Wellness

- Identify any food addictions and challenges during this Lenten season.
- How has your encouraging partner enhanced your journey thus far? Discuss this with him/her.

Mental & Emotional Wellness

Do a 24-hour social media fast (don't post or check your accounts today).

Financial Wellness

Determine if you have enough life insurance for your family.

DAY READ 21 PSALM 127 (VV. 3-4)

Spiritual Wellness

Fasting: Let's focus on our practice of fasting. One of the most integral parts of our fasting practice is sacrifice. Although the most traditional method of sacrifice for us today is by denying our bodies the satisfaction of food, it is important to remember that sacrifice can also be made of our time. Reflect on the sacrifices you've had so far through the 40 Days of Focus. Identify areas of growth, acknowledge the challenges you may be experiencing. You may need to reset and recommit. Remember to build and deepen as we grow together.

Physical Wellness

You've made it! Encourage others to join your wellness journey. Remember to continue your healthy eating plan.

Mental & Emotional Wellness

- Watch a movie or TV show with a family member or friend. Relax and disconnect from work.
- What is your mood today? (see Wellness Resources)

Financial Wellness

- Determine if you have achieved the goals set forth for this week.
- Remember to pay yourself too.

READ PSALM 127 (VV. 3-4)

Spiritual Wellness

DAY

22

Fasting: Let's focus on our practice of fasting. One of the most integral parts of our fasting practice is sacrifice. Although the most traditional method of sacrifice for us today is by denying our bodies the satisfaction of food, it is important to remember that sacrifice can also be made of our time. Reflect on the sacrifices you've had so far through the 40 Days of Focus. Identify areas of growth, acknowledge the challenges you may be experiencing. You may need to reset and recommit. Remember to build and deepen as we grow together.

Physical Wellness

Adequate sleep is required to allow your body to reset and rejuvenate. The recommended time is 7-8 hours of sleep each day.

Mental & Emotional Wellness

- Exercise your mind (i.e., complete a jigsaw puzzle, sodoku, crossword, etc.)
- Journal about your week. Discuss your savings challenge journey.

Financial Wellness

- Week 3 Savings Challenge Balance: \$249.00 (halfway there)
- Review your spending and saving habits. Are you on track to meet your savings goal for this FOCUS challenge?

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READ psalm 128 (VV.1-2)

Spiritual Wellness

DAY

23

Solitude: This week, let's focus on our practice of solitude. Solitude is the practice of spending time alone with God. You may choose to take a walk alone. You may choose to sit on your porch, patio or at the park. Once you have chosen your place, it is important to share this information with your prayer partner or friends. Set aside all electronic devices and remove any distractions. If you have young children, please select a time before they wake, when they are not at home or after they are sleep. If you have pets, please attend to their needs before you begin your practice. Set aside 20-30 minutes. Clear your mind and steady your breathing. Relax into the space. Remain completely silent for the full duration. Remain open to God's activity during this moment.

Physical Wellness

Review your S.M.A.R.T. (Specific, Measurable, Assignable, Realistic, Time-specific) goals.

- Identify what needs to be modified, if any.
- Challenge yourself to surpass the goal set for yourself.

Mental & Emotional Wellness

Praise someone for their effort or strategy today. Be a leader and motivate someone.

Financial Wellness

Determine what triggers you to emotional spending and set strategies to prevent it in the future.

READ PSALM 128 (VV.1-2)

Spiritual Wellness

DAY

24

Solitude: This week, let's focus on our practice of solitude. Solitude is the practice of spending time alone with God. You may choose to take a walk alone. You may choose to sit on your porch, patio or at the park. Once you have chosen your place, it is important to share this information with your prayer partner or friends. Set aside all electronic devices and remove any distractions. If you have young children, please select a time before they wake, when they are not at home or after they are sleep. If you have pets, please attend to their needs before you begin your practice. Set aside 20-30 minutes. Clear your mind and steady your breathing. Relax into the space. Remain completely silent for the full duration. Remain open to God's activity during this moment.

Physical Wellness

Listen to your body and respond appropriately and learn to recognize early signs of illness. Schedule your doctor's appointment. "Know Your Numbers" - blood pressure, blood glucose, pulse, and cholesterol.

Mental & Emotional Wellness

- Self-Awareness means to look at self to navigate distress or elation and redirect emotions if necessary.
- How do you redirect negative emotions?

Financial Wellness

Today is a NO SPEND DAY!

READ

PSALM 128 (VV.1-2)

Spiritual Wellness

DAY

25

Solitude: This week, let's focus on our practice of solitude. Solitude is the practice of spending time alone with God. You may choose to take a walk alone. You may choose to sit on your porch, patio or at the park. Once you have chosen your place, it is important to share this information with your prayer partner or friends. Set aside all electronic devices and remove any distractions. If you have young children, please select a time before they wake, when they are not at home or after they are sleep. If you have pets, please attend to their needs before you begin your practice. Set aside 20-30 minutes. Clear your mind and steady your breathing. Relax into the space. Remain completely silent for the full duration. Remain open to God's activity during this moment.

Physical Wellness

Use prescription and non-prescription medication only as directed. Refrain from sharing medication with others. What may work for you, may not be beneficial to others.

Mental & Emotional Wellness

- Self-Acceptance
 - Accept yourself for who you are. Know when to provide room for yourself to process emotions.
- Invite someone to SMARTCHURCH at Noon and SMARTCHURCH AMPLIFIED.

Financial Wellness

Cryptocurrencies are digital assets that may be used to exchange goods and services. Bitcoin is an example of a cryptocurrency.

READ

PSALM 129 (VV.2-4)

Spiritual Wellness

DAY

26

Solitude: This week, let's focus on our practice of solitude. Solitude is the practice of spending time alone with God. You may choose to take a walk alone. You may choose to sit on your porch, patio or at the park. Once you have chosen your place, it is important to share this information with your prayer partner or friends. Set aside all electronic devices and remove any distractions. If you have young children, please select a time before they wake, when they are not at home or after they are sleep. If you have pets, please attend to their needs before you begin your practice. Set aside 20-30 minutes. Clear your mind and steady your breathing. Relax into the space. Remain completely silent for the full duration. Remain open to God's activity during this moment.

Physical Wellness

For a well-balanced diet include 3 calcium rich foods each day into your meal planning, unless contraindicated. Calcium rich foods include: dairy, nuts, leafy green vegetables, whole grains, beans, nuts and seeds.

Mental & Emotional Wellness

- Coping Skills:
 - Your use of conscious or unconscious strategies used to reduce unpleasant emotions. How do you manage unpleasant emotions?
 - Journal about your coping mechanisms.

Financial Wellness

Collect loose change in a jar. Once full, deposit into your savings account.

READ

PSALM 129 (VV.2-4)

Spiritual Wellness

DAY

27

Solitude: This week, let's focus on our practice of solitude. Solitude is the practice of spending time alone with God. You may choose to take a walk alone. You may choose to sit on your porch, patio or at the park. Once you have chosen your place, it is important to share this information with your prayer partner or friends. Set aside all electronic devices and remove any distractions. If you have young children, please select a time before they wake, when they are not at home or after they are sleep. If you have pets, please attend to their needs before you begin your practice. Set aside 20-30 minutes. Clear your mind and steady your breathing. Relax into the space. Remain completely silent for the full duration. Remain open to God's activity during this moment.

Physical Wellness

Exercising has many advantages. Stretching and flexibility exercises keep muscles and joints healthy and decreases the risk of injury. Have you checked in with your encouraging partner?

Mental & Emotional Wellness

- Managing Stress
 - The ability to recognize stressors and have other activities or skills to manage it.
 - What has been causing you undue stress? How do you release stress?

Financial Wellness

Review your bank statement. Verify there are no inaccurate charges or fees.

READ PSALM 129 (VV.2-4)

Spiritual Wellness

DAY

28

Solitude: This week, let's focus on our practice of solitude. Solitude is the practice of spending time alone with God. You may choose to take a walk alone. You may choose to sit on your porch, patio or at the park. Once you have chosen your place, it is important to share this information with your prayer partner or friends. Set aside all electronic devices and remove any distractions. If you have young children, please select a time before they wake, when they are not at home or after they are sleep. If you have pets, please attend to their needs before you begin your practice. Set aside 20-30 minutes. Clear your mind and steady your breathing. Relax into the space. Remain completely silent for the full duration. Remain open to God's activity during this moment.

Physical Wellness

Do activities that you enjoy such as bowling, dancing, yoga, walking, biking, etc. Remember to continue to wellness journey. If you sacrificed a food during this Lenten season, have you been consistent?

Mental & Emotional Wellness

Recognize the common signs of stress which include: eating issues, sleeping problems, decision-making issues, procrastination, anger, crying often, frequent illness, and substance abuse.

Financial Wellness

- Week 4 Savings Challenge Balance: \$332.00
- Have you remitted your weekly \$83 deposit?

2023 40 DAYS OF FOCUS

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READ PSALM 130 (VV. 1-6)

Spiritual Wellness

DAY

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Acts of Kindness: This week, we will focus on our practice of serving others. As Christians, we are called to care for another. In Acts 2, we read about our the beloved community took such great care of one another that there was "no need among them." This week, identify ways that you can help others. You may pay it forward by paying for the person in behind you in line or you may donate gently used items. You may volunteer or you may donate fresh food to our Community Blessings Pantry in front of the church.

Physical Wellness

Vinigarette salad dressings are much lower in saturated fat ("bad fats") than creamy ones like Caesar dressing.

A healthier alternative to white or instant rice is brown (whole grain) or basmati rice, which contains fiber, protein, and calcium.

Mental & Emotional Wellness

- According to the Project Helping organization, when you volunteer or do an intentional act of kindness for someone, you make an impact - both on them and on you.
- What will you do differently this week?

Financial Wellness

- Do you utilize auto bill pay? List some pros and cons for this service.
- Decrease some subscriptions (e.g., Netflix, Hulu, etc.).

2023 40 DAYS OF FOCUS

DAY READ PSALM 130 (VV. 1-6)

Spiritual Wellness

30

Acts of Kindness: This week, we will focus on our practice of serving others. As Christians, we are called to care for another. In Acts 2, we read about our the beloved community took such great care of one another that there was "no need among them." This week, identify ways that you can help others. You may pay it forward by paying for the person in behind you in line or you may donate gently used items. You may volunteer or you may donate fresh food to our Community Blessings Pantry in front of the church.

Physical Wellness

Since the pandemic, has your health awareness increased or decreased? Has your body weight increased? During this Lenten season, has your body weight decreased? Or do you feel more energetic?

Mental & Emotional Wellness

- Stay positive and focus on the good things in your life. Forgive yourself and others for making mistakes. Spend time with healthy, positive people.
- What is your mood today (see Wellness Resources)?

Financial Wellness

Challenge yourself to spend less than \$20 today.

DAY READ PSALM 130 (VV. 1-6)

Spiritual Wellness

31

Acts of Kindness: This week, we will focus on our practice of serving others. As Christians, we are called to care for another. In Acts 2, we read about our the beloved community took such great care of one another that there was "no need among them." This week, identify ways that you can help others. You may pay it forward by paying for the person in behind you in line or you may donate gently used items. You may volunteer or you may donate fresh food to our Community Blessings Pantry in front of the church.

Physical Wellness

Use the stairs instead of the elevator, whenever possible. Park farther away from the store. Add extra steps to your physical regimen.

Mental & Emotional Wellness

- Ask God to help you reflect on the ways your fast has softened your heart and influenced you to treat others differently.
- Invite someone to SMARTCHURCH at Noon and SMARTCHURCH AMPLIFIED.

Financial Wellness

Sow a seed of \$20 or more to a stranger.

READ psalm 131 (VV.2-3)

Spiritual Wellness

DAY

32

Acts of Kindness: This week, we will focus on our practice of serving others. As Christians, we are called to care for another. In Acts 2, we read about our the beloved community took such great care of one another that there was "no need among them." This week, identify ways that you can help others. You may pay it forward by paying for the person in behind you in line or you may donate gently used items. You may volunteer or you may donate fresh food to our Community Blessings Pantry in front of the church.

Physical Wellness

According the American Heart Association, being more active can help you to lower your blood pressure, boost your levels of good cholesterol, and keep your weight under control. Know your numbers. What are your blood pressure and cholesterol numbers?

Mental & Emotional Wellness

Express how you feel. Let people close to you know when something is bothering you. Keeping feelings of sadness or anger inside adds to stress.

Financial Wellness

Sow a seed of \$20 or more to Southern University or a Historically Black College/University (HBCU) of your choice.

2023 40 DAYS OF FOCUS	48
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DAY READ PSALM 131 (VV.2-3)

Spiritual Wellness

33

Acts of Kindness: This week, we will focus on our practice of serving others. As Christians, we are called to care for another. In Acts 2, we read about our the beloved community took such great care of one another that there was "no need among them." This week, identify ways that you can help others. You may pay it forward by paying for the person in behind you in line or you may donate gently used items. You may volunteer or you may donate fresh food to our Community Blessings Pantry in front of the church.

Physical Wellness

High cholesterol (or low LDL) can damage the arteries that deliver oxygen to your heart and brain. Cholesterol levels can be controlled through improved eating habits and regular exercise. Making changes now can prevent a heart attack or stroke later.

Mental & Emotional Wellness

Call/text a youth/young adult. Give a listening ear to what's happening in their life. Pray with and for them.

Financial Wellness

Sow a \$25 seed to the youth/young adult you contacted today.

DAY READ PSALM 131 (VV.2-3)

Spiritual Wellness

34

Acts of Kindness: This week, we will focus on our practice of serving others. As Christians, we are called to care for another. In Acts 2, we read about our the beloved community took such great care of one another that there was "no need among them." This week, identify ways that you can help others. You may pay it forward by paying for the person in behind you in line or you may donate gently used items. You may volunteer or you may donate fresh food to our Community Blessings Pantry in front of the church.

Physical Wellness

Healthy eating, regular exercise, and other lifestyle factors will greatly reduce your risk of getting many kinds of cancers. Have regular medical checkups and avoid smoking.

Mental & Emotional Wellness

Find a healthy balance between work and play, and between activity and rest. Make time for things you enjoy. GROW SOMETHING today.

Financial Wellness

Week 5 - Savings Challenge Balance: \$415.00

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DAY HOLY WEEK 35 PSALM 132 (VV. 7-9; 13-16) PSALM 133 (V.1)

Spiritual Wellness

Cultivate: This week, as you move into deeper remembrance for Resurrection Sunday, take a moment to plant a seed. You may choose to start a garden. You may choose to invest in the vision God has given you during this season of prayer and fasting. You may choose to pour into someone God has assign you to serve. You may choose to take the first step forward into a new chapter. Remember that God loves you and will never leave you or forsake you. God is with you, even until the end of the age. Amen.

Physical Wellness

Request your medical provider to evaluate the CURRENT need for your medication. Be sure you understand how and when to take your medications.

Mental & Emotional Wellness

Mental illness may be related to a physical or emotion problem caused by a chemical imbalance in the brain. Identifying the true cause of mental illness may be difficulty. However, recognizing signs of mental illness may be more imperative.

Financial Wellness

Continue to manage your debts. Seek to refinance high-interest loans.

DAY HOLY WEEK 36 PSALM 132 (VV. 7-9; 13-16) PSALM 133 (V.1)

Spiritual Wellness

Cultivate: This week, as you move into deeper remembrance for Resurrection Sunday, take a moment to plant a seed. You may choose to start a garden. You may choose to invest in the vision God has given you during this season of prayer and fasting. You may choose to pour into someone God has assign you to serve. You may choose to take the first step forward into a new chapter. Remember that God loves you and will never leave you or forsake you. God is with you, even until the end of the age. Amen.

Physical Wellness

Your body mass index (BMI) is a number relating your weight to your height. Your recommended BMI is 20-25. A high BMI is linked to heart disease and other chronic diseases.

Mental & Emotional Wellness

This is our last week, determine how you will continue to strive for balance in your life. Allow God to take complete control of your life.

Financial Wellness

Journal about your Savings Challenge journey. What has been difficult for you to do?

HOLY WEEK DAY PSALM 132 (VV. 7-9; 13-16) PSALM 133 (V.1)

Spiritual Wellness

Cultivate: This week, as you move into deeper remembrance for Resurrection Sunday, take a moment to plant a seed. You may choose to start a garden. You may choose to invest in the vision God has given you during this season of prayer and fasting. You may choose to pour into someone God has assign you to serve. You may choose to take the first step forward into a new chapter. Remember that God loves you and will never leave you or forsake you. God is with you, even until the end of the age. Amen.



37

Physical Wellness

Describe what you have learned from your encouraging partner. Has this new relationship cultivated a long-lasting relationship?

Mental & Emotional Wellness

- Stand or sit in a posture that you mentally associate with being strong for 2 minutes to increase confidence.
- Invite someone to SMARTCHURCH at Noon and SMARTCHURCH AMPI IFIFD.

Financial Wellness

Avoid hiding from your creditors. Instead, negotiate a payment holiday or plan as early as possible.

DAY HOLY WEEK 38 psalm 134 (VV. 1-3)

Spiritual Wellness

Cultivate: This week, as you move into deeper remembrance for Resurrection Sunday, take a moment to plant a seed. You may choose to start a garden. You may choose to invest in the vision God has given you during this season of prayer and fasting. You may choose to pour into someone God has assign you to serve. You may choose to take the first step forward into a new chapter. Remember that God loves you and will never leave you or forsake you. God is with you, even until the end of the age. Amen.

Physical Wellness

It is day 38 and you are still striving to achieve a better health plan for your future. Don't forget to assess your blood glucose level. A fasting blood glucose level of 100 or above may indicate a glucose tolerance problem and an increased risk of diabetes.

Mental & Emotional Wellness

Write a letter of appreciation to a loved one and read it to them by phone or person.

Financial Wellness

Very good, you have been saving. Have you considered generating a new income stream (e.g., additional job, monetize a hobby, etc.)?

DAY HOLY WEEK 39 psalm 134 (VV. 1-3)

GOOD FRIDAY PRAYER SERVICE

Join the EGBC Prayer Team for Prayer April 7, 2023 8 am - 8 pm In-Person in the Sanctuary

Spiritual Wellness

Cultivate: This week, as you move into deeper remembrance for Resurrection Sunday, take a moment to plant a seed. You may choose to start a garden. You may choose to invest in the vision God has given you during this season of prayer and fasting. You may choose to pour into someone God has assign you to serve. You may choose to take the first step forward into a new chapter. Remember that God loves you and will never leave you or forsake you. God is with you, even until the end of the age. Amen.

Physical Wellness

Check your smoke detectors at least once a month. Most deaths from home fires involve houses without working smoke detectors. Keep striving for excellence.

Mental & Emotional Wellness

Do something creative for 1 hour today (e.g., journal, dance, sing, knit, collage, draw, cook).

Financial Wellness

Continue to ask yourself if you "need" to purchase an item or do you "want" the item.

DAY HOLY WEEK 40 psalm 134 (VV. 1-3)

Spiritual Wellness

Cultivate: This week, as you move into deeper remembrance for Resurrection Sunday, take a moment to plant a seed. You may choose to start a garden. You may choose to invest in the vision God has given you during this season of prayer and fasting. You may choose to pour into someone God has assign you to serve. You may choose to take the first step forward into a new chapter. Remember that God loves you and will never leave you or forsake you. God is with you, even until the end of the age. Amen.

Physical Wellness

Celebrate your successes with your encouraging partner. These past 40 days you have developed a new mindset about your health goals.

Mental & Emotional Wellness

Take a mental vacation for 10-minutes and visualize your journey over the last 40 days. Try to engage your 5 senses in your visualization.

Financial Wellness

- FINAL SAVINGS CHALLENGE BALANCE: \$500
- Were you able to achieve the goal? What will you do with your savings?
- Share your financial journey. We would like to hear about your successes and challenges. Share your experiences with us by emailing information@elmgrovebc.org

2023 40 DAYS OF FOCUS

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FOCUS PLAYLIST



- 1) You Deserve It JJ Hairston, Youthful Praise
- 2) Way Maker Sinach
- 3) Someday We'll All Be Free Donny Hathaway
- 4) Grateful Hezekiah Walker & LFC
- 5) Open My Heart Yolanda Adams
- 6) Heaven Is 10 Zillion Light Years Away Stevie Wonder
- 7) What Is Your Life's Blueprint? Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.
- 8) Wake Up Everybody Harold Melvin & The Blue Notes
- 9) Something About the Name Jesus Kirk Franklin/The Nu Nation Project
- 10) I Love the Lord S.U. Human Jukebox (K. Taylor Cam)
- 11) Love's In Need of Love Today Stevie Wonder
- 12) Every Praise Hezekiah Walker
- 13) There Is a Place Nathaniel Bassey
- 14) 7 Civil Rights Leader You Need to Know History Countdown
- 15) God's Got a Blessing (with my name on it) Norman Hutchins
- 16) Fill Me Up/Overflow Tasha Cobbs
- 17) Who's on the Lord's Side Min. Timothy Wright
- 18) It's Not Over Israel & New Breed
- 19) Amazing Pastor Mike Jr.
- 20) Brotha Angie Stone
- 21) Jireh Elevation Worship & Maverick City
- 22) Black History/Black Inventors Hornseywood Academy
- 23) Joy Koryn Hawthorne
- 24) A God Like You Kirk Franklin
- 25) Better Than Good to Me Lady Harmony
- 26) Optimistic Sounds of Blackness
- 27) War Cry Micah Stampley
- 28) I Do Worship The New Life Community Choir
- 29) He Ain't Heavy, He's My Brother Donny Hathaway
- 30) Nobody Greater VaShawn Mitchell
- 31) Deliver Me (This Is My Exodus) Donald Lawrence
- 32) Order My Steps Southern University Human Jukebox
- 33) Still Here The Williams Brothers
- 34) Just Don't Wanna Know Marvin Winans
- 35) When You've Been Blessed Patti LaBelle
- 36) My Life is in Your Hands God's Property
- 37) Be Encouraged William Becton
- 38) Sack Full of Dreams Donny Hathaway
- 39) Changed Tremaine Hawkins
- 40) Lift Every Voice and Sing Kirk Franklin

2023 40 DAYS OF FOCUS