

GIVING UP

the season of lent

Week 4

NORTHSIDE
CHURCH

Instructions: Find a quiet place for your time alone with God. Then seek to set aside at least 30 minutes each day to create space in your life for God to work. Begin each session with a time of silence so that the noise of your life will have an opportunity to settle. When you are ready, proceed as directed. Remember the goal is not to complete the daily exercises. Rather it is to have a life-changing encounter with God.

Monday

Read the following: *And Elijah came near unto all the people, and said, How long halt ye between two opinions? if the Lord be God, follow him: but if Baal, then follow him. And the people answered him not a word.* 1 Kings 18:21.

This is a classic example of hesitancy. Where do you struggle the most with hesitancy in your relationship with God?

Elijah invited God's people to make a choice. Is there an area in your life where you are needing to make a similar choice? If so, what is it?

Ask God to give you the strength to overcome your hesitancy and choose to be faithful to Him.

Tuesday

Read Mark 8:31-32.

Name an area where you are resistant to yielding to God's truth. Don't trust your initial reaction to this invitation. Give God a chance to uncover any hidden hesitancy in your spirit?

What do you sense is underneath your hesitancy? Why are you resistant?

Ask God to grant you His mercy for those times when you wanted to choose your own way rather than trust God's way.

Wednesday

Read John 18:15-16.

Think about a time when you wanted to keep some distance between yourself and God.

How did you keep your distance? What drove the decision to try to avoid dealing with God?

Spend time quietly before the Lord about any tendency you may have to want to follow Him from a distance.

Thursday

Read John 18:25-27.

Notice the defiance in Peter's denials. When have you chosen to deny your relationship with Christ through word or deed?

Why do you think you did that? How has it impacted your soul?

Confess any defiance you have expressed against God. Ask Him to grant you both the courage to face it and the grace to cleanse it.

Friday

Read Acts 4:8-20

Notice the change in Peter's heart from his earlier denials. The hesitancy is gone. He is making a clear choice.

What choice do you need to make?

Read Galatians 5:24.

What needs to be crucified in your life so that you may be more decisive in following Christ?

Saturday

Read Matthew 26:69-75, John 21:15-17, Acts 2:36

Ask God to speak to you in worship tomorrow about giving up shame.