

## 40-Day Prayer Walk

### Day 8

**Passage:** “Blessed are you among women.” —Luke 1:42

The last thing Mary felt was blessed. She was scared and alone. She was unwed and pregnant. How could her world have gone so terribly wrong?

Mary ran to the safe place of her friend and cousin, Elizabeth. There she found the wide-opened arms of acceptance plus the wisdom that would transform her grief into awe at the greatness of what God was doing. “Mary,” Elizabeth said, “you are highly favored and so is the child you will bear.”

Many of life’s daily circumstances can leave us feeling condemned or defeated, alone and scared. At such times, we need a place to run to, where we can be reminded of God’s truth that we remain highly favored and blessed, whatever our circumstances. This is the heart and passion of FRIENDS OF FAITH: women, like you and me, who have the humility to admit when they need to be encouraged, and who offer open arms and discernment when others need encouragement...those offering true and Godly friendship!

**Prayer:** It’s FRIENDS OF FAITH registration time! Let’s pray that all those Marys and Elizabeths out there will find out about the safe, nonjudgmental, accepting, and fun, fun, fun place awaiting them at our FRIENDS OF FAITH gathering .

**Practical:** Leadership team...go ahead and register today. This will help us see our team is onboard and you will understand the registration process if asked. Then, sit and ask God to whom you should “run” to by sending out your personal invitation and registration link. REMEMBER...99% of those who attend your event will be because someone took the time to personally invite them! They will see the ads on TV, they will hear about our event on the radio...they will see the social media postings – and your call will help seal the deal!

## 40-Day Prayer Walk

### Day 9

**Passage:** “Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you.” —John 14:27

I have many mirrors in my life. For example, watching my boys grow into men and “reflect” my behavior was a huge mirror. Keeping watch on my friends’ reactions to my words can be another mirror of how I am perceived. This morning, as I read *The Peace Prayer* of St. Francis, I immediately thought of how its words also provide a mirror. Even though this prayer is attributed to the 13<sup>th</sup> century, it is so appropriate today as a mirror that reflects the heart of every FRIENDS OF FAITH leader.

**Prayer:** Let’s pray today for ourselves! Let’s pray that the following words would describe what others see in our service as we plan our event, as we approach our event, and on the day of our event.

*Lord, make me an instrument of your peace;  
where there is hatred, let me sow love;  
when there is injury, pardon;  
where there is doubt, faith;  
where there is despair, hope;  
where there is darkness, light;  
and where there is sadness, joy.  
Grant that I may not so much seek  
to be consoled as to console;  
to be understood as to understand,  
to be loved as to love;  
for it is in giving that we receive,  
it is in pardoning that we are pardoned,  
and it is in dying [to ourselves] that we are born to eternal life.*

**Practical:** Who are your mirrors today? Where do you need to wipe away some smudges of hurt or the build-up of resentments? As I stand before the mirror of God’s words, I can see that I have some work to do, but that’s OK! God *promises* that I can reflect Him more and more each time I choose His way over mine. Remember – how we walk to our event is just as important as the event. God, help us to be more like you!

## 40-Day Prayer Walk

### Day 10

**Passage:** “You created all things, and by your will they were created and have their being.” —Revelation 4:11

I know with every fiber of my being that God is the creator of all things, including our FRIENDS OF FAITH event. Many times, leadership has heard me say, “Just as Jesus walked the shores of Galilee, inviting His chosen to become fishers of men, I know with the same certainty that He has also made His presence known in our lives and invited us to serve in this ministry.” You too can rest assured that in whatever situation you face today, God is current and working.

**Prayer:** Today, let’s pray earnestly for those who have a need for a small, intimate group—or a community-wide or church-wide gathering. It takes courage to step up and answer God’s calling. In most cases, it means confronting personal fears and doubts, and maybe the skepticism of others. Our faith does not make it easy, but it does make it possible. Pray specifically for each team member as she works diligently to remember that God HAS indeed called her and she is to fulfill that role confidently, courageously and compassionately as she reaches out today!

**Practical:** Each of you is giving your time, talents, gifts, and finances because you have no doubt that God has invited you to do this. Isn’t it awesome to be facilitators of God’s plan to start conversations among friends of faith to see them encouraged and equipped in God’s truths! Today, your challenge is to SEE those whom God places along your path. As Jesus walked...inviting, so can we invite as we walk today. Take extra brochures... invite, invite, invite! Invite strangers, invite cashiers, invite family members. And invite with joy and passion! And now, for the rest of today’s passage—and the goal of our efforts: “You are worthy, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power.”

## 40-Day Prayer Walk

### Day 11

**Passage:** “Go; I will...teach you what to say.” —Exodus 4:12

If we ever want to be reminded of the patient, gentle, kind, and caring way God handles our insecurities about doing His work, we only need to pop in on the scene in Exodus 3-4. After calling Moses by name, God opened Moses’ eyes to the needs of the hurting people around him. Then He invited Moses to be His chosen instrument to bring hope and healing to these suffering people.

What followed demonstrates that God has not robotically programmed us to be at His service. He issues the invitation and then waits as we make our choice. We can see from the questions Moses asks that God even addresses our insecurities and excuses: “But who am I, that I should go?” “But I have never been an eloquent speaker.” “Can’t someone else do it?” Does any of this sound like your inner dialogue when God invites you to serve?

Personally, I don’t think God would have it any other way. I think this passage shows that God wants us to pause and work through our insecurities so that, at the end of the day, we understand this very important truth: Whatever God calls us to do, He has our back!

**Prayer:** I kinda like my insecurities. I’ve always found that my lack of Kim-confidence makes way for a whole lot of God-confidence. Let’s pray today that God continues to call us to that which we cannot do alone, that which requires more than mere human effort. Let’s search our hearts and examine personal insecurities through the lenses of God’s word. How would God speak to your anxious heart today? Let’s pray that all who observe us will know our service is only being accomplished because a real and relevant God is teaching and speaking through us. And that way, only God can reap the glory.

**Practical:** Take time to read the story of Moses in Exodus. Imagine what he and the world would have missed had he not answered God’s invitation. Yes, I know, you’re no Moses. None of us are. But we are the ones God is calling TODAY. He is inviting us to begin a conversation about God’s hope with other women all around us...those who are hurting, those who need hope, those who are lonely...those who have hope and friendship to give! Thank you for saying yes! Look out world: We are women on God’s mission (EXCITING)!

## 40-Day Prayer Walk

### Day 12

**Passage:** “They realized that this work had been done with the help of our God.” — Nehemiah 6:16

Have you noticed how easy it is to analyze, scrutinize, and make judgments on all that is going on around us? “What the world needs today is...” “I cannot believe that group that calls themselves believers is...” “If I were them I would...”

The truth is, if our world is going to become what God wants it to be, then we need people who will not just sit around and talk about how bad things are, but who will do something about it! Enter (drum roll) Your team! Sleeves rolled up and ready to serve. :)

God is using your team just as He used Nehemiah’s group of godly people. And those around us are realizing our work is only accomplished because of God at work within us. I can think of no higher compliment that could be paid to any of us than that God, the Lord of Heaven, can be seen in the passion of our hearts and the works of our hands.

**Prayer:** The book of Nehemiah provides one of the greatest pictures of leadership of all time. Throughout this lesson in leadership, you have been given lists of roles to do specific jobs. You have different churches organized to send ladies. You have social media working for you! Today, let’s pray for each person in each of these areas. Let’s pray for Pastors; pray they will embrace this community effort. Let’s ask for God’s favor among all people. When we put together all these people, all these talents and gifts, we’ll be amazed by what God accomplishes.

**Practical:** Yes, we have many wonderful volunteers, but there is room for everyone, and everyone is needed. Who are you overlooking that is waiting to be asked to help? There’s someone! And what church have you yet to contact? There’s one! How about if everyone on your team ponders who they know where and reaches out to that Pastor or Pastor’s wife! No one wants to be excluded! And, if you haven’t already done so, let me know how I can help you.

## 40-Day Prayer Walk

### Day 13

**Passage:** “Do not be ashamed of the testimony about our Lord....Rather, join with me in suffering for the gospel, by the power of God...[who] called us to a holy life—not because of anything we have done but because of his own purpose and grace.” —2 Timothy 1:8-9

At some point as we serve God, we'll all hear that ugly, condescending little voice: “And just who do you think you are?” Am I right, friends...or am I right?

Our enemy may be clever, but I'm here to tell you he's not too smart. He uses the same tactics against all of us, and one of those tactics is to make us feel unworthy or ashamed. I have learned, at these times, to just agree with the ole devil. WHAT? Agree? Sure, because within myself I *am* unworthy. But the One I serve is worthy. It's by *His* voice and *His* power that I have been called. It is to *His* service I am committing myself, and it is *His* grace that covers me and gives me my worth. And you can declare the same truths this morning! As we walk toward our FRIENDS OF FAITH event, we can walk without shame. As we talk about FRIENDS OF FAITH, we can talk boldly. As we serve FRIENDS OF FAITH, we can serve selflessly and humbly. Because our worthiness is GOD-given, and NO DEMON in Hell can take that away! Praise God!

**Prayer:** Let's pray for boldness today. HOLY – GOD GIVEN – JESUS, BLOOD-BOUGHT boldness! Let's pray for strength as we face personal challenges—new jobs, new communities, new seasons of life, health issues. Let's pray for those who feel like life is spinning out of control. Let's pray for those asking for miracles today. And finally, let's all look into our mirrors today and proclaim not who we *think* we are, but rather who we *KNOW* we are: daughters of the most High God.

**Practical:** Don't be robbed of what God has called, purposed, and prepared you to do! Don't start to slow down now! Silence the condescending voice by obeying the calling voice. When you hear whispers to call someone and invite her to FRIENDS OF FAITH, accept God's power at work within you and just do it. Let's allow God to work fresh and anew through our lives, and JUST DO IT! Get ready though, because through God's mighty power at work within you, you will be able to do abundantly more than you would have ever expected, asked, or even dared to imagine! Ephesian 3:20 says so. What just went through your mind to do: Ask someone for forgiveness? Invite someone yet again to our event? Write a check to help with expenses? Volunteer to drive someone to our event? How about this – JUST DO IT, no procrastination – Let's all JUST DO IT NOW, BOLDLY!

## 40-Day Prayer Walk

### Day 14

**Passage:** “The harvest is plentiful.” —Matthew 9:37

Let me imagine the setting for this verse from Matthew. Jesus and His disciples had been taking care of people’s needs all week. The disciples were exhausted. It made sense to get away from the crowds and seek some quiet and rest. But wait! That’s not at all what Jesus and His disciples did. You see, wherever they went, the crowds followed, eager to see, hear, and be healed. And this time, when Jesus saw them, He was annoyed. Right? No, of course not. The Bible says He was touched by their needs. He was moved by compassion.

**Prayer:** Today, your goal may be to relax and get away from it all, but God’s goal may be to place you in a “crowd” that needs to hear about FRIENDS OF FAITH. As tired as we may be, let’s pray that we recognize those women we are to invite, and that our invitation is so warm and welcoming that those we invite can’t help but say yes.

**Practical:** Allow God to open your eyes to the needs of those around you, and you too will be moved by compassion. Then open your mouth and say, “Would you like to make new friends...because I know some people who would truly enjoy your friendship?”

P.S. Don’t forget to ask people to register! Let’s get those numbers up! Not for numbers’ sake...but for the hearts of those who will become good friends!