

# 40 Days Preparation Sunday

## Opening the door to Real Change

### I. Understand that Growth in God's Grace is a process – not an event

*"I am certain that God, who began the good work within you, will continue his work until it is finally finished on the day when Christ Jesus returns." Philippians 1:6*

- i. Then – past forgiveness
- ii. Here & Now – daily life since becoming a Christian
- iii. Then – Future hope

*"By his divine power, God has given us everything we need for living a godly life. We have received all of this by coming to know him, the one who called us to himself by means of his marvellous glory and excellence. <sup>4</sup> And because of his glory and excellence, he has given us great and precious promises. These are the promises that enable you to share his divine nature and escape the world's corruption caused by human desires.*

*<sup>5</sup> In view of all this, make every effort to respond to God's promises. Supplement your faith with a generous provision of moral excellence, and moral excellence with knowledge, <sup>6</sup> and knowledge with self-control, and self-control with patient endurance, and patient endurance with godliness, <sup>7</sup> and godliness with brotherly affection, and brotherly affection with love for everyone. <sup>8</sup> The more you grow like this, the more productive and useful you will be in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>9</sup> But those who fail to develop in this way are short sighted or blind, forgetting that they have been cleansed from their old sins." 2 Peter 1:3-9*

### II. What should we do when we get spiritually stuck?

#### 1. Recognise the presence and power of sin indwelling you

*"The trouble is with me, for I am all too human, a slave to sin. <sup>15</sup> I don't really understand myself, for I want to do what is right, but I don't do it. Instead, I do what I hate... And I know that nothing good lives in me, that is, in my sinful nature. I want to do what is right, but I can't. <sup>19</sup> I want to do what is good, but I don't. I don't want to do what is wrong, but I do it anyway." Romans 7:14-19 (see Gal 6:1)*

#### 2. Embrace God's provision for you

*"God has given us everything we need for living a godly life." 2 Peter 1:3*

*For in Christ lives all the fullness of God in a human body. <sup>10</sup> So you also are complete through your union with Christ, who is the head over every ruler and authority." Col 2:9-10*

*"My old self has been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me." Gal 2:20*

#### 3. Be aware of counterfeit provision (p19)

*"Don't let anyone capture (abduct or kidnap) you with empty philosophies and high-sounding nonsense that come from human thinking and from the spiritual powers of this world, rather than from Christ. <sup>9</sup> For in Christ lives all the fullness of God in a human body." Colossians 2:8-9*

#### 4. Reengage with God's process for growth in your life

##### i. Confession & repentance

*"...give your bodies to God...Let them be a living and holy sacrifice" Rom 12:1*

##### ii. Live with the destination in view (Rev 7:9-17)

*"And if our hope in Christ is only for this life, we are more to be pitied than anyone in the world." 1 Cor 15:19*

##### iii. Commit to growing through community – (Ephesians 3 & 4)

##### iv. Commit to 40 Days of Real Change

- a. Come each Sunday – listen on line if now able to be there
- b. Memorise the verse/s
- c. Compare notes with your children
- d. Connect with a homegroup