



Lent 2023: “Learn, Live, and Share God’s Story”

This Lent we are reading The Torah—the first five books of the Old Testament—and we learn, or re-learn, the faith stories of our spiritual ancestors and discover how their stories of God’s presence and mercy impact our lives today. You may use *Immerse: Beginnings* for the daily readings or your own Bible, reading the portions marked below for each day. As we move through these 40 days of Lent, our offerings will be gathered for projects to impact the children of Prine Elementary, our neighborhood school, where many students live in poverty and the staff is overwhelmed.

Day	Read	Giving Focus	My Offering
1. 2/22	Genesis 1-3	Ash Wednesday: As we begin Lent, we remember that Jesus, the Word made flesh, was present at Creation! Give .05 for every year you have lived.	
2. 2/23	4-11:9	Today we read about Noah—who spent 120 years building a ship in a place where there was no water for hundreds of miles. Listen for God’s “ask” in your life today, and give .25 for each water facet you have.	
3. 2/24	11:10-18:15	Abraham answered God’s call to pick up and move from Ur, a journey of faith filled with challenges and learning. Many Prine families are migrants. Give .10 for each time you packed up and moved in your life.	
4. 2/25	18:16-25:11	Abraham tries to pass Sarah off as his sister, not just once but twice (Gen. 12 and 20). Recall an experience that went poorly, that you failed to learn its lesson the first time. Give \$1.	
5. 2/27	25:12-30:24	In Gen. 28 Jacob dreams of the ladder reaching to the heavens, awaking and declaring “Surely God was in this place and I didn’t know it!” Count the places you set your foot in yesterday and give .20 for each.	
6. 2/28	30:25-35:29	“To see your face is like seeing the face of God” are Jacob’s words when reunited with the brother he had wronged. Give .50 for each person you need to reconcile with right now.	
7. 3/1	36-38:30	Joseph began life as an arrogant and privileged child. Prine students do not know privilege; their families often go days or weeks without income or support. Give \$.25 for everyone who has provided for you.	
8. 3/2	39-41:57	Joseph’s dreams—and his ability to interpret them—were stunning. If you had a dream you can remember from last night, give .40. If you don’t remember a dream, give \$1.	
9. 3/3	42-46:27	Even though Joseph forgave his brothers for what they did to him, he couldn’t help having some fun at their expense. Give \$2 if you find yourself finding humor in another person’s ignorance today.	
10. 3/4	46:28-50:26	A severe famine originally brought Joseph’s brothers to Egypt to find grain. All Prine students receive free breakfasts and lunches - often their only daily meals. Give .50 for each item of healthy food you eat today.	
11. 3/6	Exodus 1-5:5	Moses was given miraculous power, but had a problem speaking. God provided Aaron to help Moses. Prine Elementary needs volunteers to help students learn to read. Give .10 for every book in your house.	
12. 3/7	5:6-10:29	It took the execution of 10 horrible plagues to teach Pharaoh to obey God. Prine’s Principal Sander says the most important factor in a child’s success is a good teacher. Give .25 for each good teacher you had.	
13. 3/8	11-15:21	It is said that an angel applauded when all the Egyptians drowned, and God responded with sorrow: these are my children too. Fast from saying anything unloving today. Give \$1 for every time you slip.	
14. 3/9	15:22-18:27	Every day God provided manna, “bread from heaven”, that the people gathered from the ground in the morning. Give \$1 for each meal you eat today.	
15. 3/10	19-24:18	Recite the Ten Commandments to a family member or friend, from memory. Give \$1 for each one you cannot remember.	
16. 3/11	25-27:21	Worshiping God in the tabernacle was important for God’s people as they lived in the wilderness, and we still treat coming to God’s house as important to our lives of faith. Give \$1 for each church you have been a part of in your lifetime.	
17. 3/13	28-30:38	Take note of the eternal flame in our sanctuary—it is burning 24/7 to remind us that God dwells with God’s people all the time. Give an offering today that you would consider a sacrifice.	
18. 3/14	31-34:35	The people gave up on Moses and made a golden calf to worship. Look around your life and identify any “golden calves” (things that distract your devotion to God). Give .50 for each.	

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19. 3/15	35-38:31	In the days of the Exodus, the altar had receptacles to receive drink offering. Now, instead of giving God food or drink, the altar holds the feast for us. Give \$1 in gratitude for Christ's body and blood.	
20. 3/16	39-40:38	The cloud covered the tabernacle—signifying God's presence. Notice the clouds in the sky today and imagine each cloud as a sign of God's presence. Give .25 for every pair of glasses you own.	
21. 3/17	Leviticus 1-6:7	People believed that God found joy in pleasing smells, and thus made offerings that were odiferous. Name the smells that are pleasing to you and give .50 for every one. (Cookies baking...yum!)	
22. 3/18	6:8-12:8	Leviticus offers guidelines for how to make amends for actions that harm others. If you have unintentionally done something hurtful to someone else, apologize and give what that person says to.	
23. 3/20	13-16:34	Lev. 16 tells about the "scapegoat" - the goat upon which all the sins of the people are heaped - and he goes out to wander in the wilderness. Have you ever blamed someone else for your actions? Give \$2.	
24. 3/21	17-22:33	God's call to be "holy" (19:2) marks the outward expression of an inward spiritual reality. How we love God and God's people is observable! Find a concrete way to demonstrate God's love today. Give \$1 in honor of him/her.	
25. 3/22	23-27:34	Festivals were crucial to the faith community—and still are today! Give .50 for each Easter you have been able to celebrate God's gift of salvation in Jesus' life, death and resurrection.	
26. 3/23	Numbers 1-4:49	Teamwork is critical to God's community. Each Levite had a vital role in worship. Each worshiper today is asked to participate in worship with voices raised together in song and prayer. Give an offering of your choice.	
27. 3/24	5-9:23	As you read the benediction of Aaron, did you sense God's favor and smile? Intentionally smile at others today—reflecting God's joy in your face. If they smile back, give \$1. If they don't, give \$2.	
28. 3/25	10-14:45	Pretty much every human emotion is covered in these chapters; even a life of faith has dark nights of the soul. Prine families struggle - their support network is fragile. If you had a "good" day, give \$1. If you didn't, give .50.	
29. 3/27	15-19:22	In Num. 15:38 God says to put fringes on their garments to remind them of the commandments. What visible reminders do you have in your dwelling, or on your person? If you don't see any, give \$10 and find some!	
30. 3/28	20-24:25	In Num. 21 the people were told to fix their gaze on the serpent lifted up for healing. Jesus also talked about being lifted up for the world. Fix your gaze on the cross. Give \$2 if you have not ever been bitten by a snake.	
31. 3/29	25-30:16	The story of Balaam and Balak reminds us to be open to hearing what we may not want to hear from God! Ask for God's guidance and then listen for God's response. Give .50 for every sibling you have.	
32. 3/30	31-36:13	As God ordered the complete conquest of Canaan, God requests our undivided devotion, knowing that distractions will draw us from our commitment to love God and others. Count today's distractions. Give \$1 each.	
33. 3/31	Deut. 1- 3:29	Deuteronomy presents the final sermons of Moses, at the conclusion of 4 decades of wilderness life, preparing for Promised Land entry. Imagine the excitement! Give .75 for anything you've waited 40 years to see.	
34. 4/1	4-8:20	Deut. 4:9 advises to carefully remember the past and God's faithfulness, so it can be taught to coming generations. Who taught you faith from a previous generation? Give \$1 for each teacher.	
35. 4/3	9-14:21	Familiar with Micah 6:8? What about Deut. 10:12? What the Lord requires of us is simple: Love. Caring for our Prine families in every way we are able demonstrates God's Love. Give \$5 for the ways we will care for them.	
36. 4/4	14:22- 20:20	Every seven years was set for the remission of debts. A reset for the community. How might you work to level the "playing field" in our community, without the Sabbath year? Give \$3 if you don't know a family that is poor.	
37. 4/5	21-26:19	While many of the rules in these chapters are archaic and not useful for our lives, the notion of offering God "first fruits" - the act of setting aside what we will give first - still undergirds our faith. Give \$3 for the Trinity!	
38. 4/6	27-28:68	Maundy Thursday —join us for worship in person at noon or 7pm. Online at 7pm.	
39. 4/7	29-32:47	Good Friday —join us for worship in person at noon or 7pm. Online at 7pm.	
40. 4/8	32:48- 34:12	<i>Congratulations on your reading of the Torah!</i>	