

“COURAGEOUS FAITH: PRAYING THE LORD’S PRAYER”
“For Yours is the Kingdom, Power, Glory Forever”

No matter the severity of the situation, God is with us. In the transfiguration of Jesus, God is revealing something bigger that is happening before us. We begin to see that Jesus is the Messiah, through this mountain top experience we have a glimpse of what is about to unfold throughout the events of lent and Easter. We know that Jesus comes down from the mountain top and bursts onto the scene with ministry full of movement and transformation. Just as Jesus, our Messiah, begins moving, teaching, listening and walking with people near him, we have an opportunity to participate and learn how God’s movement can become the impetus of how we move and interact daily. Are you ready to take the next step and journey with “God on the move?”

Things I’d like to remember from today’s sermon: **“For Yours is the Kingdom, Power, Glory Forever”**

God, we have entered into relationship together with an open heart, but the complexity and fragility of our times trouble us. Give us hope as we seek to understand the breadth of your love each day. May the stride of your steps move us to seek justice and wholeness all the days of our life. Amen.

Study Guide

Monday, March 4: Exodus 34:29-35

This rather extraordinary encounter with Moses is one that shocks the others who are journeying with him. The transfiguration of Jesus, builds on this image of profound glow and majesty, one big difference is that this incident happens after Moses is coming down the mountain with the tablets, rather than on the mountaintop. The sermon this week reminded us to seek Christ in those high holy moments, and to continue seeking God, the days after, because that is when the real work begins. Reflect on what Moses shining face during the ascent means to you during this particular season of your life.

Daily challenge: *Move Upward- Find ways to move into a deeper relationship with God, allow God's rhythms of justice and righteousness to become your movement upward.*

Tuesday, March 5: 2 Corinthians 3:12-18

Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. Much of the scripture reading for today draws on the Moses' response of covering his face when it shone. Sometimes our insecurities and fear of insult drive us toward missing the opportunity to proclaim the glory of God. Remember when you might feel ridiculous sharing a personal encounter with Christ, or a faithful moment, that where the Spirit is, you are free. **Daily challenge:** *Move inward- Find ways to move into knowing yourself, allow your gifts and passions to be realized in all that you do. Move toward accepting yourself, just the way you are.*

Wednesday, March 6: 2 Corinthians 4:1-2

In this scripture, Paul drives home the point that ministry and the work of God are beyond human control. We are prone to shameful things, and often falsify God's word, but as a community of believers, we never lose sight of God. Today is Ash Wednesday, the day that marks the beginning of Lent. As you begin this journey of Lent- know that God is on the Move and that we should always keep our conscience of everyone in the sight of God. **Daily challenge:** *Move outward- Find ways to assess the community you live, work and play in. Move out beyond yourself to help a neighbor, volunteer for an organization, or make connections that challenge your daily comfort.*

Thursday, March 7: Joel 2:1-2, 12-17 "Return to me with all your heart, with fasting, weeping, and with mourning, rend your hearts and not your clothing." The onset of Lent gives several suggestions for changing patterns in life. As First UMC is encouraging individuals to track their miles moving during this season, might you find meaning as your muscles begin to stretch and build new muscles. Remember that as you are tracking these miles, you are engaging in a spiritual practice or drawing closer with our God who is still on the move. **Daily challenge:** *Move of ward (of the church) - Find and commit to ways to plug into the church and become a more committed follower of Jesus by your service to our local congregation. Move throughout the hallways and classrooms, praying for teachers, participants, and for the holy connection that happens when we share and learn about how God is moving in our church today.*

Friday, March 8: Psalm 51:1-11

"Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me." Lent is a new beginning for the church to come before God asking for repentance and mercy. When our stony- hate filled hearts become weary, God opens up the possibility for renewal. As you continue tracking your miles, ponder the presence of God's grace during this season. Turn your heart to God and be open to receiving that new, right Spirit. **Daily challenge:** *Move into Wholeness- Throughout the week you have been challenged to move upward, inward, outward and of ward. Today, reflect on how each of these movements has helped you to welcome wholeness in life and relationships. As you journey throughout Lent, God will continue to purify you and put a new and right spirit within you.*