

HOW TO USE THIS LENTEN STUDY GUIDE

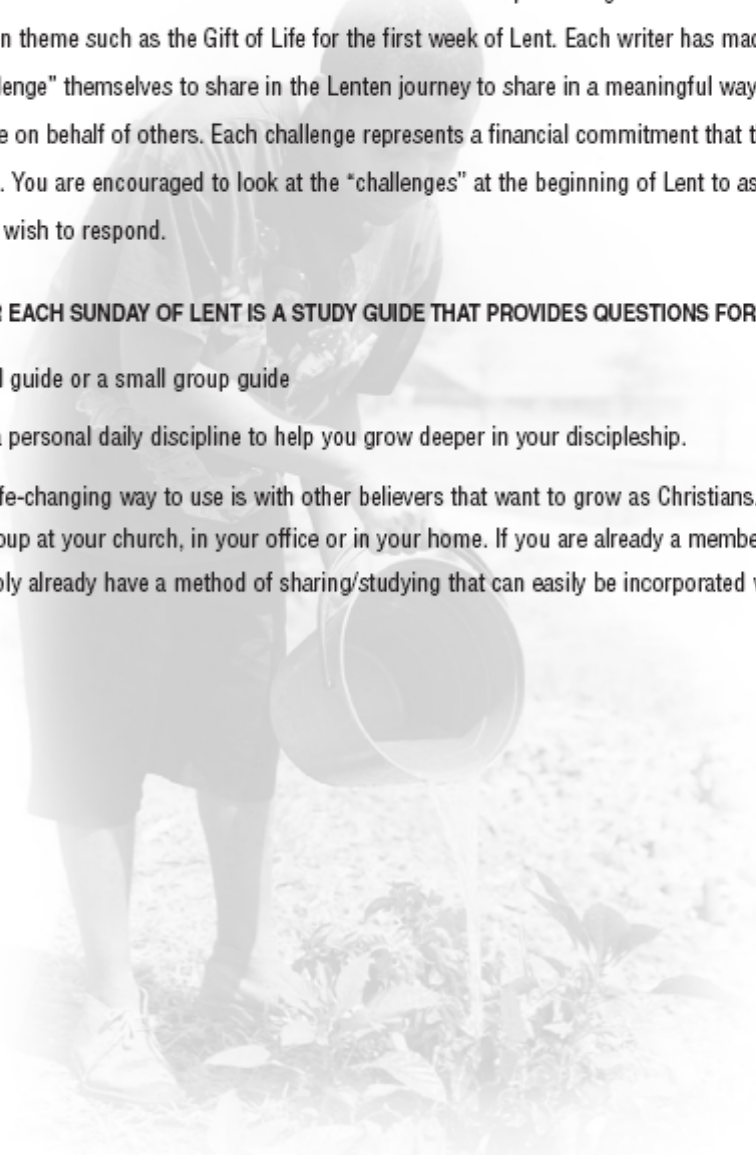
Forty different writers, laity and clergy, have prayerfully meditated prior to writing their devotional that supports the goals of the Bishop's Initiative for a health center and scholarships for African University. Many of these writers shared in an inspiring trip to Zimbabwe last summer, among them our Bishop and his wife, to see that the dream of a United Methodist affiliated university is still alive. Other writers are persons that hope to make the trip in the future, God willing, but are committed to this cause. While the writers are not professional writers, we believe that you will discover that the different personalities and theological insights truly represent the richness and diversity of our annual conference. Please be open to each of the devotionals, study questions, prayers and their individual challenge.

Be aware that thousands of others are daily reading and reflecting on the same devotional that you are and praying the same prayers. Let this Lenten Study Guide strengthen our connection with one another.

THE LENTEN STUDY IS DIVIDED INTO SEVEN SECTIONS – each section representing a week of Lent. Each section has a common theme such as the Gift of Life for the first week of Lent. Each writer has made a commitment to “challenge” themselves to share in the Lenten journey to share in a meaningful way the experience of sacrifice on behalf of others. Each challenge represents a financial commitment that the writer will make to this initiative. You are encouraged to look at the “challenges” at the beginning of Lent to assist you in determining how you wish to respond.

ALSO INCLUDED FOR EACH SUNDAY OF LENT IS A STUDY GUIDE THAT PROVIDES QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION.

- Use as a personal guide or a small group guide
- You may use as a personal daily discipline to help you grow deeper in your discipleship.
- An exciting and life-changing way to use is with other believers that want to grow as Christians. You may use it with a small group at your church, in your office or in your home. If you are already a member of a small group you probably already have a method of sharing/studying that can easily be incorporated with this guide.





BRIEF DESCRIPTION - ROW OF FLAGS REPRESENTING...AT AFRICA UNIVERSITY

**WE OFFER THE FOLLOWING AFRICAN MODEL FOR BIBLE STUDY
AS ONE WAY TO MAXIMIZE THE BENEFITS OF THE GUIDE:**

Read the devotional slowly (one person out loud).

1. Reflect upon the devotional for a word or phrase that catches your attention (one minute).
2. Each person shares that word or phrase with the group.
3. Read the passage again.
4. Think about (or write out) in silence where this devotional touches your life today (three minutes).
5. Each person shares "I am touched by ..." or "This passage tells me that I ..."
6. Read the devotional again silently.
7. Think about (or write out) "From what I have heard and shared, how can I be more faithful to Jesus Christ in the immediate future? How can our church be more faithful?" (three minutes)
8. Each person share "I" in relation to the above question.
9. Each person prays for the person on their right naming what was shared in #9 and prays that prayer until the group meets again. The group closes with the Lord's Prayer led by the first reader (number one above).

Note: In #3, #6 and #9, be brief. Do not elaborate, explain or give "sermonettes." Sharings are made to the center of the group. Other should not respond to or build on sharings in cross-talk as if they were in a discussion group. Reflect.