

## Lent 2024



Lent is a time of preparation and repentance during which we anticipate and prepare for Good Friday and Easter. Lent is a time of personal reflection, of penitence for our sins,

and a reminder of our great need for God's grace and forgiveness. As Christians, Lent is a time for us to renew our commitment to Jesus Christ as our Savior and Lord.

This year for Lent we will hear Jesus' teaching in the gospel of Luke. The theme for Lent this year is "The Gospel Makes a Difference". We will focus on how the good news of Jesus Christ touched the lives of individuals. For Lent we will be using the symbol of a Starfish.

For the fifth week of Lent the scripture is Luke 10:25-37 and is the story of the Good Samaritan. Remember that the story of the Good Samaritan is a parable told by Jesus to illustrate the breadth of God's love. When Jesus was asked who is one's neighbor and what it means to love them, he used this parable to illustrate. To understand the parable, it is important to realize that Samaritans were not considered to be "neighbors" of the Biblical Jewish community. Through this parable Jesus expands God's love to include people we don't normally consider our "neighbor." The breadth of God's love includes people we don't normally get along with. That is what it means though "to love one's neighbor" in the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Let the starfish today remind us and challenge us to love everyone as "our neighbor."

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