

40 days with the risen Lord Handbook

outline

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 - Organise follow up team
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 - Explanation
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Check list for the 40 days with the Risen

Lord

This list is designed to help you organise your group leading up to, during and after the 40 days with the risen Lord.

- Order**
- Present to the congregation/ group**
- Organise follow up team**
- Organise prayer team**

Purpose of 40 days with the Risen Lord

Vision

Reaching entire regions for Christ through prayer for evangelism by resourcing the local church.

Creatively resourcing the local church:

- ◆ To pray and proclaim Christ
- ◆ In revisiting the early church model
- ◆ So that cities may be transformed as Christian fellowships are multiplied.

Praying & Proclaiming Christ

Outline of the Timeframe

Churches are invited to do some or all of this vision.

Easter Sunday **Forty Days with the Risen Lord**
Starts Easter Sunday.
Local Churches pray for your region/Nation
www.40dayswiththerisenlord.org

Suggested Sunday Sermon Titles for churches involved

Easter Sunday The Risen Lord continues to Proclaim
The Risen Lord continues to Intercede
The Risen Lord calls us to Repentance
The Risen Lord calls us into a life in His Spirit
The Risen Lord calls us to praying & proclaiming Christ
The Risen Lord for all Nations to the ends of the Earth

May **Ascension Day Assemblies**
- Congregational Gospel think tanks Night
10 days of world wide prayer begins
www.globaldayofprayer.com starts

June National Day of Thanks –Australia
National Day of Prayer –USA, Fiji etc

June **Global Day of Prayer**
details on website
www.globaldayofprayer.com

Pentecost Sunday

June/July 90 Days of Blessing your Region - Meet the needs
of those around you in new ways and reach out to
them in Christ name

Forty days with the Risen Lord

Program Handbook

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- ◆ How to present the program to your congregation
- ◆ Running a 40 days service
- ◆ Children and Youth involvement
- ◆ Using the small groups material
- ◆ Other materials in the 40 days program
- ◆ Follow up after the forty days with the Risen Lord

Presenting the program to your group

Presenting the program to your group is extremely important. If it isn't presented well the congregation won't get passionate about the vision of praying for the lost. It is also important to make this program appealing to youth and children.

Useful ideas

Congregation:

- Display the feedback quotes from previous years
- Encourage the congregation to view the website
- Display the different products

Youth:

- Emphasise the importance of praying for their friends
- Interview people who have become Christian through their friends talking to them
- Encourage them to view the website

Children:

- Children are easily excited, this will benefit you a lot! Get them excited to invite their friends along to church or other children's activities you have
- Encourage them to use the website. They have their own journal on the website.

Encouraging the Congregation

Once your congregation has grasped on to the vision for praying for their friends, family and neighbors who are lost, you can start promoting the different products that will help them focus on the vision of this program. Encouraging the congregation will help have confidence in praying for and speaking to their friends and family. Having a prayer team that is praying for the congregation leading up to the 40 days as well as during the 40 days is a great way to make sure Christ is the center of the program within your church.

Running a 40 days with the risen Lord service

This section includes:

- ◆ Children's talk
- ◆ Memory verses; creative suggestions, how to incorporate memory verses in the service
- ◆ Sermon

Children's Talk

The Quizworx team has written all of the children's material for the 40 days with the risen Lord. (See autobiography section) It can be downloaded for free from the 40 days website:

www.40dayswiththerisenlord.org

This material caters for children from age 5 to 12. It includes puppet plays, kid's talk and activity sheets for Kid's church.

The puppet plays are designed to be used within the church service as the children's talk or within the Kid's church program. It all depends on how you have your children's activity structured.

If you decide to use the puppet plays within the church service, it is best to have it just before the children go out to their activities. If the children in your church do not go out to kid's church, have the activity sheets that they can do during the adult's sermon. This way they will have something to do.

Memory verses

Memory verses are to be used as a tool for people to remember the gospel. Using fun and creative ways within the service will help your congregation/ group remember key passages when speaking to their friends about Christ.

Week1: Luke 24:44

- Encourage sending a chain SMS message or email of the memory verse to people
- Make up wallet size cards of the memory verse for people to keep or pass on to a friend.
- When presenting this verse to the congregation try doing it in a simple way, as it is the first week of the program.

Example of presenting the memory verse:

Write the memory verse out on to a series of pieces of paper and put them into balloons. Get volunteers (have a large age range so no one feels left out) to come up and pop a balloon and put the verse together. Some small children may be frightened by the popping noise. Just warn parents before starting the activity

Week 2: Luke 24: 45

-SMS chain and email chain

-Memory verse cards

Example of presenting the memory verse:

Get a group of enthusiastic kids together to do a commando cry of the memory verse to the 1234 tune. Encourage the congregation to join in on the echo.

Week 3: Luke 24: 46

-SMS and email chain

-Memory verse cards

Example of presenting the memory verse:

Put the memory verse on to three cards and cut them up into a puzzle. Put together three teams of 4 people from volunteers in the congregation and have relay race of putting together the memory verse. Again have a wide age range. Have a prize for the first team to finish and get them to read out the verse to the rest of the congregation.

Week 4: Luke 24: 46

-SMS and email chain

-Memory verse cards

Example of presenting the memory verse:

Hide parts of the memory verse around the building e.g. Taped under people's seats. Get people to check under their seats and then bring those up and put the verse in order. Get the whole congregation to read

it out. Take pieces out randomly one by one till there are no pieces left, getting the congregation to recite it as you take parts out.

Week 5: Luke 24:48-49

-SMS and email chain

-Memory verse cards

Example of presenting the memory verse:

Have a confident group of people in your congregation/ group to sing the memory verse to the tune of "*Singing in the Rain*". Then encourage the congregation to join in.

Week 6: Luke 24: 45-48

-SMS and email chain

-Memory verse cards

Example of presenting the memory verse:

This is a sum up of all the memory verses so far. Have a few people who are confident come out and recite what they remember. Have the memory verses displayed around the building. Encourage the congregation to recite them together.

Sermons

Week 1: The risen Lord continues to proclaim

Week 2: The risen Lord continues to intercede

Week 3: The risen Lord calls us to repentance

Week 4: The risen Lord calls us into a life in his spirit

Week 5: The risen Lord calls us to pray and proclaim Christ

Week 6: The risen Lord for all nations to the ends of the earth

Involving the Children and Youth

Children and youth are the next generation of our church. It is vital that we reach out and minister to them also. The best way to have the gospel spread amongst this generation is for them to do it! Encourage them to invite their friends along to church, youth group or kid's club. Having children and youth involved in the 40 days with the risen Lord will equip them to speak to their friends about God now!

There is no reason for children/ youth not to be a part of this program. They are as much a part of God's kingdom as adults are.

Ideas for presenting the 40 days with the Risen Lord program

*SEE THE *PRESENTING THE 40 DAYS PROGRAM* FOR IDEAS ON HOW TO PRESENT THIS PROGRAM. *

Encouraging them to pray and be involved

During the 40 days with the risen Lord program have the youth cell/ growth groups also completing the DVD journey. The senior high age youth may be able to handle the content of the small group material so it would be helpful for them to also to be doing the small group material. During the 40 days with the risen Lord time frame have once a week prayer meetings where the youth can meet together and pray for each other and their friends. This will help them become focused on the importance of this vision, as well as keep each other accountable in praying for their friends.

Having an outreach event towards the end of the forty days gives the youth an opportunity to invite their friends to something where they can here more about God. Encourage them to invite their friends to church and youth group as well.

Encourage the youth to get together with a close friend and over coffee do their journal together. This will make the journal less like homework

and more of an important time of reflection on God's word. It will also encourage fellowship together.

As the 40 days with the risen Lord may fall during the school holidays (AUSTRALIA) it may be good to encourage the children and youth to come along to church anyway. Get the parents to be doing their journal with their children or even reading the set reading at the breakfast table or before bed. The children's journal is also available on the website if the child is old enough to read on their own. It is presented in a fun way that children will enjoy.

Get the children involved during the service by getting them up to help with the memory verses etc.

Small Group Material

Linking Bible study and DVD:

Find the day that has impacted some of your members and replay that day on the DVD during your small group's time.

Preparing leaders

- ◆ Encourage leaders to read Acts 2:42-47 several times

THINK

- ◆ **What would it be like for your small group over the next six weeks for your small group to recapture some of that early model?**
- ◆ Explain the reason why you are together for the next six weeks
- ◆ Have talking and catching up in the first five minutes
- ◆ Try to encourage your key questions to sound conversational
- ◆ Launch, guide and summarise the discussion
- ◆ Encourage the sharing of the prayer journal experiences
- ◆ Be open for God to work amongst your group

Follow up

The most important thing is to form a Follow up team who will be responsible for the follow up in your church. They will be in charge of looking for resources for people to continue in their daily devotionals.

The follow up team also needs to plan for the national day of thanks. The national day of thanks (Australia) is on the Pentecost weekend with the Global Day of prayer www.globaldayofprayer.com.

Encourage the **WHOLE** church family to come together on the last day of 40 days and brainstorm and share ideas of what the needs are in your region. Share what God has laid on your hearts, as a means of showing Christ to the people around you. Every age will have some great input in this session. Listen to them, even the little ones!

- Spend the next 10 days praying through the 10 day prayer guide and the ideas raised. Encourage the whole church to do so.
- Follow up team and ministry team develop your course of action outreach to your region
- Plan for your key evangelistic events/ courses to occur in the 90 day period eg. Alpha, introducing God, Christianity explained etc.
- Some churches ran their children's outreach programmes in the holidays after these prayers and many came to the Lord.