

RESTORE HOPE

MINISTRIES

a United Methodist Church Affiliate

2017 FAST-A-MEAL GUIDE TO PRAYER

*“Yet even now, says the Lord, return to me
with all your heart, with fasting.” Joel 2:12*

For centuries, Christians have **fasted, prayed, and given to the poor** through the season of **Lent**. In this guide, you’ll find **daily readings** to immerse yourself in God’s story. You will also find a **weekly “Did you know”** regarding poverty in Oklahoma that we at Restore Hope address every day. We hope you’ll join us in **fasting one meal each week in Lent, reading the daily Scriptures**, and participating in our daily work of **restoring hope** to hurting people in our community. Imagine what God might do.

Week of Ash Wednesday (March 1-4)

- Joel 2:12-17
- Isaiah 58:5-12
- Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21
- Psalm 51:1-15

Did you know? A person making minimum wage in Tulsa needs to work 79 hours in order to afford renting a 2-bedroom apartment. Many of the families Restore Hope helps with rent assistance face eviction simply because hours were cut back or missed due to sickness (or to care for a family member who is ill).

First Week in Lent (March 5-11)

- Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7
- Psalm 32
- Hebrews 4:14-5:10
- Matthew 18:10-14
- Isaiah 51:1-3
- Micah 7:18-20
- Luke 7:1-10

Did you know? More than 1 in 4 Oklahoma children rely on the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP, formerly known as food stamps). The average benefit is less than \$1.40 per meal. When those benefits run out, food pantries like Restore Hope are the only place many families can turn to for help.

Second Week in Lent (March 12-18)

- Genesis 12:1-4
- Numbers 21:4-9
- Isaiah 65:17-25
- Ezekiel 36:22-32
- Exodus 16:1-8
- Exodus 16:9-21
- Exodus 16:27-35

Did you know? More than 654,640 Oklahomans are “food insecure,” which means they don’t have consistent access to enough food for an active, healthy lifestyle. Think about how you feel when you are hungry and pray for the food insecure neighbors Restore Hope helps every week.

Third Week in Lent (March 19-25)

- John 4:5-42
- Psalm 81
- 1 Corinthians 10:1-4
- Jeremiah 2:4-13
- Ephesians 4:25-32
- 1 Samuel 15:22-31
- Hebrews 10:4-1

Did you know? In 2015, Tulsa's homelessness overall increased by almost 13% compared to the previous year, despite housing efficiencies and improvements. Without Restore Hope's Homeless Prevention Initiative which keeps hundreds of families in their homes, this number would be even higher.

Fourth Week in Lent (March 26-April 1)

- Psalm 23
- Isaiah 59:9-19
- Colossians 1:9-14
- Matthew 9:27-34
- Psalm 130
- Ezekiel 33:10-16
- Ezekiel 36:8-15

Did you know? Oklahoma's per pupil funding for public schools has fallen 26.9 percent after inflation between 2008 and 2017, the deepest cuts of any state in the country, and the margin is widening. Each year Restore Hope helps thousands of students with school supplies and often helps teachers with much-needed food.

Fifth Week in Lent (April 2-8)

- Ezekiel 37:1-14
- Psalm 143
- Ephesians 2:1-10
- Jeremiah 32:36-41
- Psalm 31:9-16
- Philippians 1:21-30
- Lamentations 3:55-66

Did you know? The poverty rate for Oklahomans under the age of 18 has risen from 20 to 24 percent, between 1969 and 2014. For children under 5, the current rate is 31 percent. Last year 53 percent of the individuals helped by Restore Hope were under the age of 18.

Holy Week (April 9-15)

- Matthew 21:1-11
- Isaiah 42:1-9
- 1 Corinthians 1:18-31
- John 13:21-31
- John 13:1-17, 31-35
- John 18:1-19:42
- Matthew 27:57-66

Did you know? Oklahoma has the nation's third-highest rate of people working at or below the minimum wage of \$7.25 an hour. Even full-time at that salary, families need help from places like Restore Hope to meet the most basic needs.

We hope you had a blessed season of fasting and prayer. For more information on Restore Hope or to make a donation to help us serve our neighbors in need, go to www.restorehope.org