



What An Opportunity! Devotion

Serve the LORD with gladness! (Psalm 100:2a)

Have you had a unique opportunity in your life? Perhaps you have been blessed to attend college, to advance in your job, to travel to a special part of the world on a mission trip, or to use your skills and passion to help people in your community. Opportunity is defined as “a favorable juncture of circumstances,” “an occasion or situation which makes it possible to do something, or the possibility of doing something” (*Cambridge English Dictionary* and *Miriam-Webster.com Dictionary* 2018).

Whatever opportunities you have enjoyed, today there is an opportunity for each of us. That opportunity or “possibility of doing something” is Lent! Lent is an opportunity. Lent is a favorable juncture of time where we are given the gift of 40 days to prepare for Easter. This opportunity begins on Ash Wednesday. For 40 weekdays, we pause, remember, and contemplate what God has done and continues to do for us. So, what might be your “opportunity” this Lenten season?

Lent may mean attending Lenten services where we focus on repentance. When we fully repent, God graciously forgives our sins and releases us from the guilt and sorrow our sins cause us. Knowing God forgives our sins for Jesus’ sake, we are filled with joy and thanksgiving that leads us to abundant praise and worship for our great God.

Lent may also mean giving up something. Fasting is one such way to do this. In Matthew 6:16–18, Jesus talks about the proper way to fast. For some, giving up a type of food or other item for the Lenten season is a daily and constant reminder for them of Jesus’ total sacrifice for us when He gave up His life on the cross to rescue us from sin and eternal death.

But instead of giving up something for Lent, this season can also be an opportunity for each of us to also consider what we can **add** to our lives that is good. A good addition might be to write notes (40 of them for each day in the Lenten season) to thank people in your life or tell them you are thinking of them and praying for them that day. Another good addition might mean reading a different psalm each day of Lent as your daily prayer. The Lenten season can be an opportunity to rise and shine 15 minutes early and spend the time in God’s presence or even give up a 30-minute television show to add more time in His Word. Or motivated by Christ’s own acts of kindness and love, you might wish to do an act of kindness for others.

Another something we can add during Lent might be to find items in your home, maybe even 40 of them, to give to a service organization in your community that can give them to help those in need. Or perhaps you could encourage members of your family to share some “out of the normal” nice things with one another. For example, instead of just saying “Thank you” or “Good job,” take the opportunity to tell your spouse, “I love how you help with the kids.” Or tell your kids, “I love how you work hard on your homework,” or “I love how you make others feel they are special.”

The Lenten season can be a new opportunity for you, “an occasion to do something” memorable and meaningful. Whether you choose to give up something or choose to add something good, spend time in prayer and thanksgiving as the joyous celebration of Jesus’

resurrection approaches. Ask the Holy Spirit to use your Lenten “opportunity” to prepare your heart for Easter in a way that is meaningful and that deepens your relationship with God. Enjoy your opportunity this Lenten season!

Prayer: Dear God, may we always, and in every opportunity, be Your willing servants. In Jesus’ name. Amen.

What An Opportunity!

Written by Past LWML President Linda Reiser, Grand Island, Nebraska

Published by Lutheran Women’s Missionary League, 2019