

# ***Forty Days of Seeing Jesus –2020***

*Great Oaks 2020 Booklet*

The fall brings one of the best things we do all year: our “40 Days” emphasis, and *we need your help for our annual 40 Days booklet!*

THE DATES - Our 40 Days this year will be October 18 to November 26, and along the way we will have our 24-Hours-of-Prayer (Nov. 13-14), and our Praying for Memphis Sunday (Nov. 15).

THE THEME - *This year our 40-Days theme will be connected to our 2020 theme (“That All May See Jesus”), asking the question “Where Have You Seen Jesus This Year?”* We hope to reflect on where we have seen Christ working in our lives, our church, and our world in 2020. With all the struggles of this year, we believe it will be especially meaningful to focus on some of the blessings we’ve seen, helping all of us to see Jesus a little more clearly in our own lives.

THE DEVO ARTICLES - *We need 40 people to write a short devotional thought, answering the question “Where Have You Seen Jesus This Year?”* We will put these in booklets that will be available to each family, and we will also post the devotionals on our church blog and social media, one each day throughout the 40 Days. We hope everyone will read the devotional thought and have a private time of prayer each day.

CAN YOU WRITE A SHORT ARTICLE FOR US? *We would love for you to write a short article (about 300 words) about where you have seen Jesus this year.* A blessing God gave? A person you saw God work through? A new perspective you have gained this year? Lots of possibilities!

**These are always encouraging, and they help bring us closer together. Please try to turn in these articles by Wednesday, October 14<sup>th</sup> so we can try to get the booklets together.**

GUIDELINES FOR THE ARTICLES - Below are the guidelines for these devotionals. When you finish, please submit them to Brenda’s email: [office@greatoaks.org](mailto:office@greatoaks.org)

- 1) Use 10 point font - Georgia if you have it (otherwise Times New Roman).**
- 2) Start with a Scripture (see example below).**
- 3) Devotional thought on where you have seen Jesus this year**
- 4) Close with a prayer (see example below).**
- 5) Keep it as close to 300 words as possible.**
- 6) See this as a way to encourage your Great Oaks Family!**
- 7) Please include a picture of yourself to include with your article.**

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***See sample article on next page...***

*EXAMPLE of a prayer book article from a past year's booklet:*

### **GOD IS ALWAYS THERE**

***Then Job replied to the Lord: I know that you can do all things; no purpose of yours can be thwarted. Surely I spoke of things I did not understand, things too wonderful for me to know. (Job 42:1-2, 30)***

...the most terrifying words to hear from the doctor. I heard those words on August 11, 2004, lying in the hospital, on my son's birthday, and a month after running a slight fever. It was a year after burying my mother and 7 years after watching my father die a slow painful death, both from cancer.

I never asked, "Why me?" I always knew what happened to others could happen to me. But that night waiting for surgery, alone in my thoughts, the one thing I knew was that this was bigger than I could carry. It was so big, I couldn't carry any of it, and I had to let God carry it all. It was no longer my life, but His. Whatever He wanted to do with it, was for His will, not mine. Recovering from surgery, my doctor came in one morning, excited that there was no cancer, and also puzzled that I was not sharing his surprise. I asked Him to take me and use me as He wanted, and He didn't want me to have it then.

There have been other health issues, even chemo, but He's always been there, and will be until He takes me home.

**Dear Lord, Help me to understand that You are here for me and that the difficulties I face are never too big for You. You care for the birds of the air and the lilies of the field, but consider me as much more important than any of them. Help me to remember that the things You have in store for me are much greater than I could ever imagine. In Christ's Name, Amen. Your Name**

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