

# CONNECTING AND REFLECTING EXPERIENCE

**NEXT WEEK:** Feb. 22, 2015

Christian Principles Series  
begins next Sunday!



## CARE Groups

**Our Purpose:**  
To help families apply the truth of God's Word in everyday life and build closer relationships within our church.

**Our Passage:**  
*"But God has {so} composed the body... {that} the members should have the same care for one another."*  
1 Cor. 12:24-25 (NAS)

**Timber Lake Christian's website:**



**Doug's Blog:**



## Prayer Requests:

---



---



---



---



---

**In a Nutshell:** Beginning on Ash Wednesday, the 40 days leading up to Easter (not including Sundays) is the season of lent. Putting aside the "baggage" that may come along with the mention of these dates, we might find that the original intent of this season was very beneficial for a Christian's spiritual walk. The challenge is to be very intentional throughout this 40-day period, in which true repentance can lead to true celebration.

**Ice Breaker:** Have each person in your group share your perception of the season of lent. Is it positive or negative or neutral, and how did you come to have that perspective?

**Title:** "Ash Wednesday"

**Texts:** Joel 2: 12-14;  
Hebrews 9:11-17; John 10:27;  
Matthew 6:16-18

### CONNECTING TO THE TEXT

1. In Joel 2, starting in verse 12, it talks about repentance ("return to the Lord..."). How are we to return to the Lord in repentance, and what are the attributes of God mentioned in the passage?

2. Read Hebrews 9:11-17. Why do we have reason to celebrate?

And how do we move from repentance to celebration? Can there be celebration without repentance?

3. Read John 10:27, and discuss how we "hear God's voice."

4. What are the warnings given Matthew 6:16-18 regarding spiritual disciplines?

### REFLECTING ON OUR LIVES

Have you ever fasted? What is the purpose of fasting, and what are some different methods of fasting? Could this be a beneficial spiritual discipline to try at some point during the next 40 days?

What are some other ways you might be intentional (spiritually disciplined) between now and Easter in order to draw closer to God?

For those with families, how could your family participate together in this season of prayer, fasting, and service?

### CONNECTING TO OUR CHURCH:

What are some creative ways that our church might come together at times for the purpose of intentional prayer, fasting, and/or other spiritual disciplines? If you have some good ideas, share them with the staff!