

# UserManual

**MOVING FORWARD** 

**let's get started!**



**LEAP OF FAITH**  
2011



# Welcome to **LEAP OF FAITH**

This is our second annual “Leap of Faith” which takes place during the Lent season, the days between Ash Wednesday and Easter. Many of us have been looking forward to these six weeks to see the things God will pour out in your life and in the life our church. Like last year, we want to join together in some common spiritual practices and ask God to break into our lives, the lives of our friends and family, and in the neighborhoods where we live.

This User Manual is designed to walk you through everything you need to know to get going. It will take some time to read it, but if you’ve never experienced Leap of Faith we think you will find it beneficial. Start now to find out what Leap of Faith is, and how you can participate!

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# Overview

## What is Leap of Faith?

Leap of Faith is a time for our whole church to come together and orient ourselves toward God by asking Him to do amazing things in our lives. It is our church's version of Lent, which is a tradition that has been observed in the church for generations. The most significant activity during Leap of Faith is focused prayer to God, asking Him to do great things in our lives and in the lives of people around us.

## About Lent

For many of you who have grown up in the Christian tradition (maybe Catholic, Lutheran, Methodist or similar liturgical traditions that have more formal holy seasons), Lent is something familiar to you. Ash Wednesday is a day of repentance and the start of a season of fasting. For some, it's something that is less formalized but you know about it—we pray, fast, and repent as we approach Good Friday, the day Jesus died on the cross to take away our sin. Then we celebrate Easter, the day that God fulfills his most ultimate promise to save the world from itself by raising Jesus up from death and seating him in heaven so that now we can be with God instead of having to remain separated from him.

For some of you, whether you grew up in or outside of church, what you just read was a lot of religious words strung together that didn't really mean anything. If that is where you're at, this next section might be helpful.

# 40

## Why forty days?

In the story of Noah and the ark, it rained for forty days and forty nights.

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When God gave Moses the Ten Commandments, Moses was on the mountain with God for forty days without food or water.

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Jonah, after he was saved from the belly of the whale, went to Nineveh to tell the people their city would be destroyed in 40 days.

The Ninevites proclaimed a fast to repent and God spared them.

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The most famous forty days is when Jesus goes into the desert to fast and is tempted by Satan to stop putting his faith in God.

**Forty is a significant number in the history of God's people.**

In each of these cases, God delivers a significant blessing at the end of the forty day period: a rainbow as a promise to Noah to not wipe out humanity, the 10 Commandments, the city of Nineveh is not destroyed, and Jesus begins his power-packed ministry as a teacher, healer, exorcist and Savior of the world.

The 40 days leading up to Easter is often observed as a time for Christians to remember God's promises, to acknowledge their weaknesses through repentance and to pursue the new life that Jesus tells people is available, if they follow him.

Leap of Faith is our version of this forty day intensive focus on God. It is a six week period that we take together, to engage every person in our church in spiritual practices that bring us into the presence of God, asking him to display his power just like he did after these other 40 day periods shown in the Bible. Everyone doing this together brings a sense of unity and gives us all encouragement and some "oomph" to our faith, knowing we're not taking this leap alone.

# Who to pray for

Jesus told his followers that all of God's commandments are summed up in these two:

**(1) love the Lord your God with all your heart, mind and soul, and (2) love your neighbor as yourself.** We've taken this little summary statement and made it the foundation for our church, and it guides us as we pray during Leap of Faith. During these six weeks we will ask God to do great things in our lives and in the lives of people around us.

This year, there are three groups of people we want you to pray for. Think about these groups as you read through the manual and write down what you plan to pray for as soon as you're done. There is a space provided on the last page for this purpose.

1. Pray for **yourself** to experience Jesus
2. Pray for **your six** to experience Jesus
3. Pray for **your church or your city** to experience Jesus

# 1. Pray for yourself

It is not selfish to ask God for things for ourselves. Nor does it annoy God if we ask him for something again and again. One of the cool things about God is that he **wants** us to come to him with the things that we want and need. We are created to be in relationship with people and with our Creator. The Bible tells us that God walked and talked with His people and created companionship in the beginning, because it wasn't good for man to be alone.

We need to remember that if we don't go to Jesus about our needs, we will go somewhere else. We are built to connect to others, whether it's to our families, friends, or someone we love, but there are things we need that the people in our lives cannot give us. For a number of reasons, there's no better person to ask, than the one who created us and knows us better than anyone, for the things we need and desire. Here is what God says about praying for yourself:

**God wants to give us good things.**

God desires that we ask for things, even if the way in which we ask might resemble the way kids can ask over and over again for things they want. He doesn't find us annoying. He doesn't think we're nags. He doesn't look at us as foolish or our requests as foolish.

## **James 4:2 ESV**

You do not have, because you do not ask.

## **Matthew 7:7-11**

“Keep on asking, and you will be given what you ask for. Keep on looking, and you will find. Keep on knocking, and the door will be opened. For everyone who asks, receives. Everyone who seeks, finds. And the door is opened to everyone who knocks. You parents—if your children ask for a loaf of bread, do you give them a stone instead? Or if they ask for a fish, do you give them a snake? Of course not! If you sinful people know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give good gifts to those who ask him.”

**Matthew 21:22**

“If you believe, you will receive whatever you ask for in prayer.”

**John 14:13-14**

“You can ask for anything in my name, and I will do it, because the work of the Son brings glory to the Father. Yes, ask anything in my name, and I will do it!”

## God is able to give us good things.

**Genesis 1:1-2**

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. The earth was formless and empty, and darkness covered the deep waters. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the surface of the waters.

**John 1:1-5**

In the beginning the Word [Jesus] already existed.

The Word was with God,  
and the Word was God.

He existed in the beginning with God.

God created everything through him,  
and nothing was created except through him.

The Word gave life to everything that was created,  
and his life brought light to everyone.

The light shines in the darkness,  
and the darkness can never extinguish it.

## God will give you all you need.

Consider this passage in which Jesus tells his followers not to worry about the everyday cares of life.

**Matthew 6:25-33**

“That is why I tell you not to worry about everyday life—whether you have enough food and drink, or enough clothes to wear. Isn’t life more than food, and your body more than clothing? Look at the birds. They don’t plant or harvest or store food in barns, for your heavenly Father feeds them. And aren’t you far more valuable to him than they are? Can all your worries add a single moment to your life?”

“And why worry about your clothing? Look at the lilies of the field and how they grow. They don’t work or make their clothing, yet Solomon in all his glory was not dressed as beautifully as they are. And if God cares so wonderfully for wildflowers that are here today and thrown into the fire tomorrow, he will certainly care for you. Why do you have so little faith?”

“So don’t worry about these things, saying, ‘What will we eat? What will we drink? What will we wear?’ These things dominate the thoughts of unbelievers, but your heavenly Father already knows all your needs. Seek the Kingdom of God above all else, and live righteously, and he will give you everything you need.”

God is able to affect the world and wants to give his people what they need. So don’t hesitate to ask God in prayer, and be persistent. **Just one tip that we’d give for making this prayer experiment even more meaningful for you is to think about praying for something that is tangible or measurable.** When Jesus tells us God provides, he gives the example of tangible things like clothing, food, drink, and harvest in the barn. Jesus is confident that our heavenly Father knows what we need.

## Thinking about unanswered prayers

Let’s face it, there is still confusion we have about unanswered prayer. Some of you might have persistently prayed for God to do something and for whatever reasons, the prayer has gone unanswered. What if you embark on this six week experiment in prayer and all you do is end up taking a fall of faith because your big prayer went bust?

Though God answering our prayers is pretty awesome, it is encouraging to know that simply going to God can actually be more significant than His response to our prayers. Look at this passage from the Psalms:

**Psalm 4:5-8**

Offer sacrifices in the right spirit,  
and trust the Lord.  
Many people say, "Who will show us better times?"  
Let your face smile on us, Lord.  
You have given me greater joy  
than those who have abundant harvests of grain and new wine.  
In peace I will lie down and sleep,  
for you alone, O Lord, will keep me safe.

Those who go to the Lord, trusting Him, lay down and sleep in peace and have greater joy than those with an abundance of earthly riches. Also consider this passage:

**Psalm 6:6-9**

I am worn out from sobbing.  
All night I flood my bed with weeping,  
drenching it with my tears.  
My vision is blurred by grief;  
my eyes are worn out because of all my enemies.  
Go away, all you who do evil,  
for the Lord has heard my weeping.  
The Lord has heard my plea;  
the Lord will answer my prayer.

The speaker here is clearly in a state of sorrow and despair, and yet it is not the answer to prayer that has brought the turn from despair. The speaker says to their enemies, "Go away," because God "has heard my plea." God had yet to answer it. It was the knowledge that God heard the prayer that reassured the person in this Psalm, not the answer coming to pass.

It can be intimidating to ask God for something to which he might not answer "yes," but there is something perhaps more meaningful and more powerful in the asking than in getting what we asked for.

## Answered prayers from 2010

*We knew we wanted to move and used Leap of Faith to pray for where and when. Realistically, we knew what we could afford and weren't finding anything in that price range that we liked. We had really hoped to find a small house with an extra room, but knew that was a big dream that God would have to make happen.*

*During Leap of Faith I felt really led to pray about a job that Ray, my husband, had applied for months before and never heard back from. It seemed silly, but I did it anyway. Within a few weeks Ray heard from that job and they called him in for another interview (apologizing that it was just a busy time). He did get that job, and it was a significant pay increase that meant we could look at more houses to rent.*

*Ray got a call from an old co-worker who's girlfriend was looking to rent her house out and asked if we were interested. We went to look at it and loved it. It was the exact neighborhood we really wanted to be in, and the house was perfect. The landlord really liked us and liked that we were moving to the community, so she cut us an amazing deal on rent when we told her what we could afford (it was originally out of our price range).*

*We've now been there for 7 months and have gotten to know many neighbors and community members and feel so blessed to be there. God definitely orchestrated it just how it was supposed to happen, even if we had no idea. ~Angie*

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*Last year, at the beginning of Leap of Faith, I prayed about what to pray for, and I felt that it was the right time to pray for a relationship, specifically a spouse. Certainly I had longed for a permanent relationship for many years, and had been praying for it for a long time, but this time I finally felt like God was guiding me to pray for a spouse. I had been on Match.com for a few months and had gone on a couple of dates, but wasn't finding anyone interesting who was also a Christian. As the weeks of Lent went on, it was hard to trust that God would answer this prayer. At some point Ricardo contacted me and we hung out, and although he had potential, because we had a lot in common, including faith, at our first couple of meetings he made me very uneasy because he is a very passionate Brazilian, and was very certain that he wanted to be with me. As a Minnesotan I didn't trust that sort of display of emotion. I had no idea what God was doing and I felt extremely unhappy. But Ricardo kept wanting to see me, and there began to be something nice about being together with him. At this point God provided another man who wanted to go on a date with me. Although the second guy seemed good on paper, when we hung out it was very apparent that Ricardo was much better for me. So, the next day I agreed to be in a relationship with Ricardo. It was the Saturday before Easter. I didn't know until November that we would be getting married, but now I can certainly say that my life changed completely because of Leap of Faith, and that God really does hear us when we pray. ~Elisa*

*Yes! And I was praying, as well as her mother, for the same thing! ~Ricardo*

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*This year I have made the choice to tithe regularly and give back to God with my finances. This has always been something very hard for me to, as my money situation is pretty tight and I have a lot of college loans to pay off. But I really felt challenged to give consistently this year, and although it has been difficult and my attitude has not always been joyful, God has proven SO faithful!! I have seen money return to me in several unexpected ways, and I am seeing every need met, and I am gaining a deeper love for God. My level of trust has shot through the roof! My prayers are being answered quickly and I am experiencing God in everyday life! Trusting God with my finances has opened up my faith and love, and is probably the best choice I've made this year. It's been hard, but God's grace and faithfulness are never-ending and are so abundant! ~Unnamed*

## 2. Pray for “your 6”

“Your 6” refers to six people, who you see on a regular basis, that you are committing to pray for and care for. We recommend thinking of people who you’re pretty sure that no one else is praying for right now.

“Your 6” are often people who are not church-goers. If you have been in our church for a while and already have a group of six that you regularly pray for, you can ask God if, during this next six weeks, you should change up your usual list just a little bit.

You might want to ask God if there is something in particular you can pray about on their behalf. Try praying for something they really want. This might mean asking “your 6” outright if there is something that you could pray about for them. It might be neat for the person you’re praying for to know you’re committing to six weeks of intense prayer on their behalf. Pray for something tangible so they know if God answered it or not.

Give God room to show up. God seems to enjoy showing up in very surprising and powerful ways when we’re reaching out to bless people who are not in the church.

## Stories from our church

*One of my 6 has been hating his job for a long time... we used to work together and dream about getting new jobs. I got mine nearly 6 months ago... he started his new job this week. I've been praying for a new job for him for 2 years. ~Shannon*

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*I was mentoring a young girl at the Plymouth Prison for a while starting this fall, and she left in January to enter rehab. She didn't have my number, and the prison couldn't tell me where she was at, so I lost her for a few weeks. I finally found her Probation Officer and got ahold of him, and he was able to tell me where she was at and give me a phone number. We talked over the phone a few times, and then for the past three weeks we've had no contact. All I can do is call and leave a voicemail on the resident line and hope she calls me back, and I had done that about 3 times and she'd never called back.*

*I chalked it up to a loss, but she was on my list of “Big Dreams” that I pray daily, so I kept praying for her. This past week I felt really led to pray specifically that she would call me, but honestly I was doubtful. She hadn't called me in three weeks when I actually left her a message, why on earth would she call me out of the blue? But I prayed anyway.*

*And then today, SHE CALLED ME. Just like that. During a staff meeting. There was a voicemail on my phone when we finished, and she just apologized for not calling back but she'd been really busy. ~Angie*

### **3. Pray for our church or your city**

We think it's a tremendous blessing to be part of a church family. One of the cool things happening right now in our church is that we're experiencing this sort of "growing up" phase and thinking about what the future holds for Mercy. God has been speaking about this to the leaders and members who pray regularly for our church.

Going on seven years as a church community, it fits the timeline of a growing organization. We are continuing to grow in weekend attendance and diversity (including age, socio-economics, race and ethnicity, and faith backgrounds). Opportunities to impact our city and to make potential international connections keep cropping up, and the need for more auditorium space, more parking, more kids rooms, more leaders, more ways to connect and more experiences of God.

If you are a part of this church family, you are a vital part of where God is taking us. We would love for you to think about ways you could pray for the church. Just as a house doesn't make a place a home, the church building doesn't make us the church we are. It is ALL the people inside who have committed themselves to care about each other that make this church what it is. What God speaks to you as a member of this family and how you pray for Mercy makes a difference!

If you're not in the place where praying for six weeks for our church seems meaningful or appropriate, consider praying for God to bless the city or neighborhood in which you live. Think about some very real and measurable needs of your city/neighborhood and pray for those things. Think about how you can be a vital part of where you live and what God might have for your city.

# What to pray for

Now that we have covered who to pray for, we're going to spend some time on what to pray for each of those people.

## This Year's Theme: Moving Forward

What I really want to see happen in my life and in the lives of others, I think of a phrase that a friend coined. When following Christ, we can live “impossibly great lives.” I want

**When following Christ, we can live “impossibly great lives.”**

to live an impossibly great life. I want my children to live impossibly great lives, and my husband, my siblings and parents, my friends, the people in my small group and the people who show up to a Sunday service, and my neighbors on my block and in the Northeast Minneapolis—whether they follow Jesus or not. If everyone I knew had a great life, we would all be so much happier.

The reality is that there is pain, suffering and wrongdoing in the world. News outlets in America remind us hourly. Life is often not great. In fact, it can be troubling, even horrific at times. Even in the United States where famine, persecution and war are not daily happenings, following Jesus doesn't always feel “great” let alone “impossibly great.”

A “great” experience is occasional: we have a great day, a great week, an amazing work project, an awesome class, or a fabulous three-week vacation, but a great life? For every follower of Jesus? Isn't that a little unrealistic?

Maybe there is another way to look at this idea of living impossible great lives in Christ.

Throughout the Bible, it is God’s desire to give his people good things. The Bible doesn’t deny the difficulties that we face, whether it’s other people, ourselves, or the enemy, Satan.

## What God says about the difficulties others cause

### **Jeremiah 31:11-13**

For the Lord has redeemed Israel

from those too strong for them.

They will come home and sing songs of joy on the heights of Jerusalem.

They will be radiant because of the Lord’s good gifts—

the abundant crops of grain, new wine, and olive oil,

and the healthy flocks and herds.

Their life will be like a watered garden,

and all their sorrows will be gone.

The young women will dance for joy,

and the men—old and young—will join in the celebration.

I will turn their mourning into joy.

I will comfort them and exchange their sorrow for rejoicing.

Jeremiah tells us that God will save His people from their oppressors. God will give his people great abundance and take away our sorrows. He will turn “mourning into joy.” God doesn’t gloss over the fact that there is mourning and that there are people who have enslaved his followers, but he does turn it around.

## What God says about the difficulties we face in ourselves

### **Romans 7:21-25**

I have discovered this principle of life—that when I want to do what is right, I inevitably do what is wrong. I love God’s law with all my heart. But there is another power within me that is at war with my mind. This power makes me a slave to the sin that is still within me. Oh, what a miserable person I am! Who will free me from this life that is dominated by sin and death? Thank God! The answer is in Jesus Christ our Lord.

### **2 Corinthians 5:17-18a**

This means that anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun! And all of this is a gift from God, who brought us back to himself through Christ.

The Bible recognizes that in wanting to live good lives, we also have ourselves to contend with, and sometimes we're not always what we want to be and fight against ourselves. But when we belong to Jesus, we are a new person. We get a fresh start and a new life that is a gift from God. Wherever we have failed or not lived the way that we wanted, God has presented us with a clean slate.

## What God says about the difficulties we face from our greatest enemy

### **John 10:10**

The thief's [Satan's] purpose is to steal and kill and destroy. My [Jesus'] purpose is to give them [my followers] a rich and satisfying life.

The Bible recognizes that there is a force at work against us. There is Satan, the great enemy of God and people, who wants to bring people down. Jesus comes and brings a "rich and satisfying life" which sounds so abundant in contrast to how Satan tries to take from us.

## God's answer to these difficulties

The Bible talks to us about having life in Christ and doesn't ignore the difficulties we have with other people around us, with ourselves, or the negative impact of our enemy. But the life that God continually gives us is summed up well by a writer of the Bible named Paul when he said:

### **Ephesians 3:19-20**

May you experience the love of Christ, though it is too great to understand fully. Then you will be made complete with all the fullness of life and power that comes from God. Now all glory to God, who is able, through his mighty power at work within us, to accomplish infinitely more than we might ask or think.

## Abraham's Example

The life God has for us isn't about perfection in every area and no difficulties, it is about experiencing a love from Jesus that is incomprehensibly great, even in the middle of imperfection. It is about the process of being made complete by the life and power that comes from God, whether we're in good times or difficult times.

The great life we can have in Christ is about how we live the life we have. Our circumstances, the people around us, our enemy Satan, even our own sense of self, all of this can be dealt with through Christ. We know that there are going to be barriers and hurdles that might get in our way, but moving forward is how we "will come home" and "will be radiant" from Jeremiah 31 and "will be made complete" in Ephesians. That is why we want to move forward together during Leap of Faith.

Consider Abraham, one of the greatest heroes of the Bible. It was Abraham that God used to start everything. He wasn't a war hero like David. He wasn't a famous king like Solomon. He didn't organize a massive group of God's people. He didn't cause walls to fall or execute brilliant military strategies.

What Abraham did to move forward in God was move from his home. In his day and age, leaving his family and homeland behind was no small deal—it was in fact a big undertaking. Most of us can imagine what it feels like to move away from some place and move on to somewhere else. As adults, many of us have already done it at least once. We put our stuff into a box and we take a step out our front door. For Abraham, this was moving forward.

For our everyday lives, this idea of moving forward toward a "great" life becomes a little more real when we think about imitating Abraham's step outside his front door. At the end of it all, his life was truly great. In the middle of his journey, though, it didn't often look great, and he occasionally made poor choices. Yet he kept moving forward, toward God's promises. It was that movement forward, in God's direction, that has set his life apart as one of great and remarkable faith.

So as you're going through the next six weeks, praying every day for God to show up, it will be helpful to pray for yourself, "your 6," and your church or city to move forward one step, big or small, toward Jesus and the "fullness of life and power" he has for us.

# Beyond prayer: Participating in Leap of Faith

Now that you know all about Leap of Faith, let's wrap it up and talk about all the ways you can participate in moving forward toward God in this season, beyond praying for yourself, "your 6," and our church or your city.

## **Church Services**

Church services during Leap of Faith aren't going to be all that different from what you would normally experience. You'll come, hear a sermon, sing, and receive prayer. The sermons will follow this year's Leap of Faith theme: Moving Forward.

There will be special services for Good Friday, and Easter Sunday. The Easter service can be a great opportunity for you to invite your 6 to attend our church.

## **Small Group**

Many small groups will be talking about their Leap of Faith commitments. If you go to small group, it will depend on what your leader has planned. Even if the group doesn't participate in Leap of Faith together, it would be a great place to tell a few folks what you're praying for during Leap of Faith. There will continue to be discussions available for small groups to go through that will be related to the Leap of Faith sermons.

If you're not currently in a small group, we encourage you to find one during the next six weeks. They are a fantastic place to share your joys, get encouragement, find accountability, and receive prayer. You can find information about all of our small groups on the website or in the information corner in the Café.

## On Your Own or With Your Family

The primary way to participate is to pray for the three areas we've already outlined. There are additional ways you can participate by adding an extra discipline or habit to your six week commitment to pray. These areas of participation are entirely optional, but are practices that God's people have done for thousands of years and we think doing them will make your six weeks of prayer even better. We suggest you do something that is **(1) not something you usually do (2) something you will do the whole six weeks**. Here's a brief description of additional disciplines you might want to add to your commitment to pray:

**BIBLE READING:** We will be providing a Bible Guide that you can read each day with the stories about God and his people. There is something powerful about processing, praying and discussing some of the same things together as a church. You'll be able to pick up the week's reading each Sunday, download PDFs posted on our website, [www.mercyvineyard.org](http://www.mercyvineyard.org), or receive them in a daily email (sign up at the Leap of Faith resource table).

**FASTING (Acts of Self-Denial):** This is a tradition that has been tied closely with Jesus' forty days of prayer and fasting described in the Bible, and is something people have been doing for centuries. Fasting is removing something good from your life as a physical demonstration of your weakness and dependence on God. It is also a way God's people have shown repentance for sins. The Bible mostly talks about fasting from food, but there are many other things that could be fasted from. Here are some examples:

- Fast from food(s): meat, fast food, sweets, coffee, etc. If you choose to fast all 40 days, be sure to consult a doctor or dietician about health considerations.
- Fast from activities: television or specific shows, radio or specific stations, certain kinds of books, gaming, sports events, online media like Facebook or Twitter, etc.

**BLESSING OTHERS:** This is also something that has often accompanied the Lent season. In some liturgical traditions, there is something called "almsgiving" which is charitable giving to the poor. It is a way of blessing others during this season of

pursuing God. You can choose to give of your time, talents or money during Leap of Faith. Here are some ideas that we are focussing on as a church:

- **Welcome new people:** In the church, at your job or in your neighborhood.
- **Serve kids:** Kids are the future, not just of our church, but everything. We have included some suggestions in the Bible Guide each week for both parents and people without kids. Ask how God wants you to bless a kid for six weeks; perhaps pray for a kid in “your 6.”
- **Serve the city:** There are thousands of local organizations serving the community where you can connect to and volunteer with. You could buy some food for your local food shelf.
- **Give money (small or big):** You could give money to someone you know who is in a tight spot lately, just to bless them. Try sponsoring a child through Compassion International or give to a local non-profit.

## From Pastor Le Que

*I'll let you in on what Jeff is planning to do. He and I have been observing Lent in some fashion for the last ten years, and in the last few years he's felt very ho-hum about the whole experience. It's become something of an obligation, instead of coming to God in weakness. So this year, he's going to commit to meeting new people. Now, that might seem silly because he seems so comfortable when you see him on stage, but Jeff struggles with shyness when he is one-on-one. So instead of doing a discipline that is very familiar to him, he's going to do something very relational and very difficult for him, and he needs a lot of help from God to do it! This is Jeff's admission of weakness, where he needs to rely on Jesus to give him peace and joy.*

*I, on the other hand, am going to fast from rice. I realize that might sound a bit odd at first, so let me explain. My family had come to the United States as refugees when I was young—around 5 or 6 years old—and ended up in a situation where we were only eating rice for several days. Well, as I've gotten older, it's become something Jeff and I have joke about. If I eat rice, people have to watch me eat it because I will scarf it down so fast, it makes me sick later. I have this sort of crazy obsession with rice.*

*Last year, in the middle of Leap of Faith, I had this “aha! moment” that the reason I have this obsession is that I associate rice with near starvation from my childhood and if there's rice to eat I NEED to eat it to the point of fullness. This year, it came to me in another “aha! moment” that I needed to fast from rice so I could show that I was trusting in Jesus to provide for me. This is my admission of weakness and where I need Jesus to come with his peace and his joy in to the places where I'm weak and anxious.*

*Ask God for his guidance and power in pursuing and accomplishing one of these additional disciplines.*



This year's Leap of Faith is all about us moving forward in faith and making a commitment to pray for God to break into our lives and the lives of others with power so that we can live "impossibly great lives." Here's how we can do that:

## **1. Pray for yourself, "your 6" and our church or your city to get blessing from God.**

Tip: Pray for things that are measurable and tangible so you know when your prayer has been answered.

## **2. Try some of the "extras."**

**We have put together some resources to help you get a more in-depth experience during Leap of Faith. Our ideas include:**

Reading the Daily Bible Guide (available at church or online)  
Fasting from something  
Serving Others

## **3. Make a commitment**

Fill out the card on the back of this page with the things you want to do during Leap of Faith. Try something you would not normally do, and pick things that you can do for all 40 days.

# Commitment

## During Leap of Faith, I am going to PRAY for...

MYSELF \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

### MY 6 (LIST THEIR NAMES)

1. \_\_\_\_\_ Prayer Need \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_ Prayer Need \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_ Prayer Need \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_ Prayer Need \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_ Prayer Need \_\_\_\_\_
6. \_\_\_\_\_ Prayer Need \_\_\_\_\_

MY CHURCH OR CITY \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

### I also want to...

(check and complete all that apply)

- READ THE BIBLE GUIDE EVERY DAY
- FAST FROM \_\_\_\_\_ EVERY DAY
- SERVE OTHERS BY \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_