

## Saturday - April 16

*Preach the word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage—with great patience and careful instruction.*

*2 Timothy 4:2 (NIV)*

As a mom of two teenagers, it is important that I try and stay organized. Calendars, reminder notes, places to put important papers – I try to do my best. Organization helps me from being overwhelmed, and usually helps me prepare for the week. While this is important for my weekly routine, God is more interested in me being prepared than being organized.

When I think back over the Christmas season, I tried to use my same organization skills as I participated in mission for the church. When I sat down to write my letters for The Drop, I made sure I had a space to write, a good pen, and the address list right in front of me to double check the information. When I planned dinner for Family Promise, I made a detailed ingredient list and made sure I had enough containers for the food. This organization was important, but I also needed to prepare my heart to give, which sometimes get lost. I had to be reminded to pray for those incarcerated men we were reaching out to through our notes. It was the same for the families at Family Promise, so that the meal could nourish both their bodies and their spirit. Both were important – the actual act of giving and the preparation of our own hearts and minds in prayer for those children of God we were about to serve.

As I think about how I prepare to experience and share God's love, for me it comes from regular study. I wish it came more naturally to me (like brushing my teeth) to remember to pray and reflect, but I need to have a set time each day to make sure this happens. It is the time I feel that I am in relationship with God. I realize the importance of preparing myself through daily study and reflection so that I am open to hearing Him during Lent and the rest of the year.

Lynda

**Prayer:** Heavenly Father, help us to be thoughtful in our preparation as we go through this Lenten season. Help us to read, reflect, and pray on a regular basis. Just like nourishing our body with good food and movement, help us nourish our spirit and love for You with regular interaction. Help us not to be distracted by our busy life and set aside time to focus just on You during this season and always. In your name we pray. Amen.