

LIFE IN THE PITS

Pastor Dennis begins a new sermon series based on Psalm 40 looking at the various kinds of pits we may find ourselves in over the course of our life and walk with the Lord. How did we get in the pit? What kind of pit is it? What are we supposed to do while we're waiting down there? How do we get out?

We just started a new sermon series called "Life In The Pits" and I'm pretty excited about it. Excited about it not because of the pits, but because I have been working on it for some time and am excited to share how the Lord would have us see the pits of life, which are common to all of us, and how we can trust Him to know exactly what He's doing while we encounter them. We started the series with Psalm 40, looking at King David as he described the pit he was in at the time of the writing of the psalm. I too sometimes find myself in some sticky situation, some depressing place or some tight and stressful circumstance that can seem like a kind pit. Sometimes we haven't fallen in yet but we can tell we're rather close to the edge of a pit of one kind or another. David was just as human as any of

us and probably lived his life, although in very different times, in much the same way we do. In the midst of living life, being human and trying to follow God, we end up in a pit. Sometimes we wonder, "What did I do wrong?" or "What do I need to learn in finding myself in this position?" Over the course of the next several weeks, I hope we can see that God ALWAYS has a plan, and because this is true, because He is God, and He is sovereign, He can and will use these pits to help shape our lives.

I started to realize that I use this phrase quite a bit when talking to people about their lives. Seriously though, isn't that what it feels like? You're in a deep dark hole looking up and the walls of the pit seem smooth. When we are down in that place, we can allow the darkness and isolation to define who we are.

Mark Your Calendar

5.8 - Mom's Tea—11 AM

5.9 - Mother's Day!

5.10—5.11 - SBTC Admin. Assistants' Conf. hosted by CBC

5.16 - Graduation Sunday

5.26 - Last Wed. Meal until Fall schedule resumes

5.26 - Deadline for Youth Mission Lab Deposit

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If we're in a pit of shame, depression, guilt, rejection or whatever pit it might be, we can find, over time that we have allowed this pit to define who we are. We can go through life as the under-dog, defeated and feeling unworthy. We start to believe that is who we are and the feelings we've experienced down in the pit is also how others perceive us. This is exactly what the enemy wants. So how should we see the pit?

Well, the other way to think about pits is that God desires to refine us and He can use whatever circumstances He chooses, even deep, dark places where hope seems to have left us. God may want to take something out of our life, or He may desire to hone and shape our lives so that He can use us in ways we never imagined or realized. This is where David found himself in Psalm 40 and you know what? There are many of the other men and women in the Bible that found themselves in the pits of life and yet God saw them through and used that circumstance to bring about amazing results!

As we progress through this series, I want us to ground ourselves in the Word – think of the words of Psalm 40, think of David in the pit. God didn't leave him there but willingly lifted him out; probably a little more humble, a little more wise, a little more God-honoring than when he went in.

Mom, we've hired a few people to fill in for you while you relax on Mother's Day.

HUMAN RESOURCES

One Vacalian day a year?! That's all I get?!

We call it Mother's Day, but Technically you still have to work.

I realize God has a lot of work to do on this ole boy, (me) and I guess that is why there are pits that God has allowed me to be in, but He has always been faithful to hear me when I cry out His name.

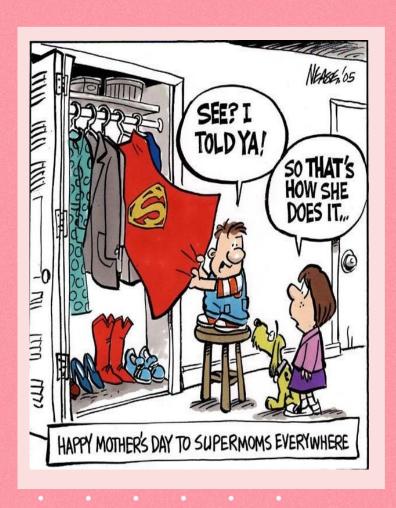
We're going to be looking at other characters, men and women in Scripture who got thrown into, fell into, or put themselves in different kinds of pit! I look forward to going through this series with you all. Invite a friend or coworker. Pray for the moving of God's Spirit upon us as a church to be all that we need to be in the area in which we serve. Life in the pits can define us or it can refine us; the choice is ours.

Blessings, Bro. D

Exodus 20:12

"Honor your father and your mother, so that you may live long in the land the Lord your God is giving you."





Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 Tommy Jeanes Amber Scott Bubba Trumbull
2 Rachel Heiser Regular Schedule	3 Michael Villarreal	4 Vicki Clark CELEBRATE RECOVERY 6:00 PM _ Dinner 6:30 PM—Meeting	5 Erin Castle JoAnn Johnson	6 6:30 PM Praise Team/Band 8:00 PM College Small Group	7	8 Kaylee Evans 11 AM Mother's Tea Party
9 Happy Mother's Day Regular Schedule	10 Paul Castle SBTC Admin. Assistants' Conference	CELEBRATE RECOVERY 6:00 PM _ Dinner 6:30 PM—Meeting	12 Elijah Moss	13 Trey Boeker 6:30 PM Praise Team/Band 8:00 PM College Small Group	14 Caleb McDaris	15 Wes Harris Rocky Sandoval Karen Sones
16 GRADUATION SUNDAY Regular Schedule	17	CELEBRATE RECOVERY 6:00 PM _ Dinner 6:30 PM—Meeting	19	20 Mattie Martin Ashley Rodriguez 6:30 PM Praise Team/band 8:00 PM	21	22 Dan Landrey
23 Regular Schedule	24	CELEBRATE RECOVERY 6:00 PM _ Dinner 6:30 PM—Meeting	26	27 Dariela Castro 6:30 PM Praise Team/Band 8:00 PM College Small Group	28	29
Regular Schedule	31			Regular Sunda 9:30 AM Sunday Schoo 11:00 AM Worship Gather	ol Chi ring Y	Wednesday Schedule 5:30 PM urch-Wide Meal 6:30 PM ids Encounter outh Takeover Prayer/Bible Study





What Does Mom REALLY Want for

Mother's

Surveys find that Mom doesn't want flowers and chocolates. *Here* are the seven things she really wants.

1. Time Off

Give Mom a day "off." Let her go shopping, run errands alone, or give her the house so she can relax in the quiet.



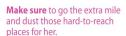
2. Sleep

Let Mom sleep in, sneak in a nap, or catch some Z's without interruption.

If she has a little one, take over early morning or late night feedings so she can catch a full night's sleep!

3. A Clean House

Whether you clean the house yourself, recruit the kids, or call in a professional, give Mom a cleaning break.



4. A Spa Day

Book a massage, a facial, a mani/pedi, or all of the above!





5. A Car Wash

Get rid of the Goldfish crumbs, wipe down the small fingerprints, and take out the trash from her Mom-mobile.



6. Check Off the Honey-Do's

Don't let the To-Do List pile up.

Get those projects started and really surprise her with those shelves she's been wanting or that fresh coat of paint.

7. Take Over Dinner Duty

Do the grocery shopping, prep lunches, plan meals, and cook dinner.

Make her favorite meal for bonus points.



What are YOU getting your mother this Mother's Day



ONLINE MEETS OFFLINE WHEN SEARCHING FOR THE PERFECT GIFT TOP MOTHER'S DAY MOBILE PURCHASE ACTIVITIES

- MORE THAN 30% OF MOBILE USERS RESEARCH AND COMPARE PRICING ON THEIR DEVICES
 1 OUT OF 5 USE THEIR DEVICE TO LOOK UP RETAILER INFORMATION (I.E. STORE HOURS, DIRECTIONS, ETC.)
 AND 18% OF MOTHER'S DAY GIFTERS GO ON TO MAKE A PURCHASE VIA MOBILE DEVICE

MOTHER'S DAY PURCHASE ACTIVITIES CONDUCTED VIA MOBILE DEVICE











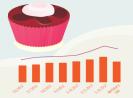
THE ART OF PROCRASTINATION

AY GIFTERS TEND TO LEAVE GIFT SHOPPI



LAST MINUTE MOTHER'S DAY GIFTING RELATED SEARCH ACTIVITY— DESKTOP VS. MOBILE

MOBILE PROCRASTINATORS



PEAK MOBILE ACTIVITY: 2 DAYS BEFORE SAME TREND, RAMPING 2 DAYS BEFORE AND PEAK THE DAY BEFORE MOTHER'S DAY.



PEAK MOBILE ACTIVITY: 3 DAYS BEFORE ACTIVITY RAMPS UP DRASTICALLY 6 DAYS BEFORE AND DROPS OFF JUST AS DRASTICALLY THE DAY BEFORE MOTHER'S DAY.

MOBILE PLANNERS



PEAK MOBILE ACTIVITY: 6 DAYS BEFORE MOBILE SEARCH FOR JEWELRY RELATED KEYWORDS DOESN'T REVEAL A TRUE SPIKE, BUT RATHER A 6-DAY WINDOW OF OPPORTUNITY WHERE TRAFFIC IS GREATER THAN THE AVERAGE DAY, THE PROCRASTINATORS SEEM TO BE SEARCHING VIA DESKTOP, REVEALING A PEAK IN ACTIVITY THE DAY BEFORE MOTHER'S DAY.



PEAK MOBILE ACTIVITY: 6 DAYS BEFORE MOBILE AND DESKTOP SEARCH ACTIVITY FOLLOW SIMILAR TRENDS, THOUGH MOBILE ACTIVITY PEAKS 2 DAYS BEFORE MOTHER'S DAY, WHILE DESKTOP PEAKS THE DAY BEFORE.



WHERE DO MOMS **GET THE MOST LOVE?**

U.S. CITIES WITH THE MOST MOTHER'S DAY RELATED MOBILE SEARCH TRAFFIC BETWEEN 5/6/2012 AND 5/13/2012

