

“Tidy Up”

Go Vertical!

Go vertical by: thinking up (thoughts)

- Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. (Romans 12:2a)
- Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. (Colossians 3:2)

Go vertical by: lifting up (prayers)

- The first thing I want you to do is pray. Pray every way you know how, for everyone you know. (1 Timothy 2:1 - The Message)
- Always be joyful and never stop praying."(1 Thessalonians 5:16-17 - CEV)

Go vertical by: building up (words)

- Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen. (Ephesians 4:29)
- Each of us must please our neighbor for the good purpose of building up the neighbor. (Romans 15:2)

Go vertical by: getting up (action)

- “But, Lord,” said Martha, the sister of the dead man, “by this time there is a bad odor, for he has been there four days.” Then Jesus said, “Did I not tell you that if you believe, you will see the glory of God?” When he had said this, Jesus called in a loud voice, “Lazarus, come out!” The dead man came out, his hands and feet wrapped with strips of linen, and a cloth around his face. Jesus said to them, “Take off the grave clothes and let him go.” (John 11:38-44)

Devotional/Discussion Guide

- Begin with prayer. If you are in a group, this is important and if you are by yourself, it is equally important. Ask God to guide your time.
- We continue our “Tidy Up” series for Lent not by focusing on the concept of “vertical storage” (Marie Kondo) but rather on “going vertical” in our spiritual lives. Read the passages in the outline in greater depth during your own time and reflect on what they mean for you.
- The first way to “Go Vertical” is to “think up.” What do you think about? Why? What do you mentally focus on? What bothers you? Why? This Lent see how you can go vertical with your thinking.

- The second way to “Go Vertical” is by “lifting up” prayers to God. It has been said that prayer isn’t about us getting God’s attention but rather it’s about God getting our attention. How could your prayer life improve this Lenten season? Who might you add to your prayer list?
- The third way to “Go Vertical” is by “building up.” How do you speak about other people? Why? How do you like to be spoken to? Why? What might change if friends, couples, families, neighbors, co-workers, politicians and leaders were people who built others up rather than tear others down? Where do you fit into these categories? What can you do?
- The last way to “Go Vertical” is by “getting up” and taking action. Read the entire story of Jesus and Lazarus in John 11. How are you “dead” today? What needs to change? How could Jesus bring new life to your life? What do you need to take action about in your life in order for it to be better? Why haven’t you? What’s holding you back? Consider asking the Holy Spirit to help you take action with the first step of “getting up!”
- Close your time with prayer. Pray not only for yourselves but for the needs of your group, family, this church and school as well please.