

FAIRFIELD BAPTIST CHURCH

LENTEN DEVOTIONAL 2026



"Return To Me"

Joel 2:12

A Season of Prayer

Repentance · Renewal · Resurrection



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PASTORAL GREETING

Beloved Fairfield Family,

Lent is a sacred invitation to come back—to God, to purpose, to spiritual clarity. This devotional is placed in your hands as a guide for these forty days, not merely to give something up, but to grow deeper in Christ.

During this season, put something down—but pick something up.

Lay down distraction, pick up devotion.

Lay down noise, pick up prayer.

Lay down pride, pick up humility.

Lay down routine, pick up renewal.

Let every physical sacrifice be replaced with spiritual pursuit. Pray intentionally. Love deeply. Forgive freely. Serve faithfully. Seek God daily.

May this journey lead you from reflection... to renewal... to resurrection power.



Dr. Eric George Vickers, Sr.

Senior Pastor, Fairfield Baptist Church

UNDERSTANDING LENT

James 4:8

Lent is the forty-day season (excluding Sundays) leading to Resurrection Sunday. It is a sacred time of reflection, repentance, fasting, and renewal—remembering Christ’s wilderness journey and preparing our hearts for the victory of the cross and the power of the empty tomb.

ASH WEDNESDAY – THE CALL TO RETURN

Genesis 3:19

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of Lent. Ashes symbolize humility, repentance, and surrender before God. It is a solemn but hopeful reminder that we return to God not in shame—but in grace.

THE LENTEN CALENDAR

Ash Wednesday – February 18, 2026

Palm Sunday – March 29, 2026

Maundy Thursday – April 2, 2026

Good Friday – April 3, 2026

Silent Saturday – April 4, 2026

Resurrection Sunday – April 5, 2026

HOW TO USE THIS DEVOTIONAL

Set aside intentional daily time with God. Move slowly through each week. Pray honestly. Reflect deeply. Allow the Holy Spirit to shape and renew your heart. This devotional is not meant to be rushed—it is meant to be lived.

DEVELOPING A PERSONAL PRAYER JOURNAL

A prayer journal is a sacred record of your walk with God during this Lenten journey. It becomes a testimony of growth, surrender, struggle, and transformation.

Why Keep a Prayer Journal

- It deepens your relationship with God
- It helps you hear God more clearly
- It tracks spiritual growth and answered prayers
- It keeps your heart focused during the Lenten season

HOW TO BEGIN

1. Create Sacred Time

Choose a consistent daily moment—morning, midday, or night—when your heart is quiet before God.

2. Start With Scripture

Write one verse from the week's theme. Let it guide your prayer.

3. Write Honestly

Record your prayers, fears, gratitude, struggles, and hopes. God honors honesty, not perfection.

4. Listen and Record

After praying, sit in silence. Write what you sense God placing on your heart.

5. Track Growth

Return to earlier entries. Notice what God is changing, healing, and revealing.

6. End With Surrender

Close each entry with trust: "Lord, Your will be done."

Your prayer journal is not about writing beautifully—it is about walking faithfully.

WEEK 1 – PRAYER

Matthew 6:6

Devotional Thought

Prayer is communion with God. Revival begins in quiet places before it reaches public spaces. Through prayer, we align our hearts with heaven.

Prayer

Father, draw me into deeper fellowship with You. Quiet every distraction that competes for my attention. Teach me to pray not out of routine, but out of relationship. When my mind wanders, center me. When my heart grows weary, strengthen me. Let prayer become my refuge, my rhythm, and my response to life. Speak, Lord, for Your servant is listening. Shape my desires until they reflect Your will. I surrender this day to You. Amen.

Weekly Challenge

Establish a consistent daily prayer time.

Reflection & Journaling

What is God revealing to me?

Where did I feel closest to God this week?

What distractions must I release?

WEEK 2 – REPENTANCE

Psalm 51

Devotional Thought

Repentance is restoration, not condemnation. God renews surrendered hearts and restores broken spirits.

Prayer

Merciful God, search my heart and reveal what is hidden within me. Where pride has taken root, humble me. Where sin has wounded me, heal me. Where I have wandered, draw me back. Create in me a clean heart and renew a steadfast spirit within me. Teach me to walk in truth, integrity, and grace. Let repentance not be sorrow alone, but transformation. Restore the joy of Your salvation within me. Amen.

Weekly Challenge

Forgive someone. Seek reconciliation where needed.

Reflection

What must I release to God?

Who must I forgive?

What is God restoring within me?

WEEK 3 – FASTING

Isaiah 58

Devotional Thought

Fasting empties us of distraction and fills us with spiritual clarity.

Prayer

Lord, as I fast, empty me of what weakens my spirit and fill me with what strengthens my faith. Break every chain that binds my heart to distraction. Align my desires with Your will. Let this fast deepen my compassion, sharpen my discernment, and draw me closer to You. Teach me dependence, humility, and trust. May my sacrifice produce spiritual fruit that remains. Amen.

Weekly Challenge

Fast intentionally and replace it with prayer or Scripture.

Reflection

What did God reveal during my fast?

How did fasting shift my heart?

WEEK 4 – SACRIFICE

Luke 9:23

Devotional Thought

Before the crown came the cross. Sacrifice is the pathway to transformation.

Prayer

Lord Jesus, You carried the cross for me—teach me to carry mine faithfully. When obedience is difficult, strengthen me. When sacrifice feels heavy, remind me of Your love. Shape my life into a living offering of worship. Let surrender produce growth, and faith produce endurance. I choose to follow You fully, trusting that sacrifice leads to resurrection. Amen.

Weekly Challenge

Study the Seven Last Words of Christ.

Reflection

What is God calling me to surrender?

Where must I trust Him more?

WEEK 5 – GENEROSITY

2 Corinthians 9:7

Devotional Thought

Generosity reflects the heart of God and reveals the love of Christ in action.

Prayer

Generous God, You have given me more than I deserve. Teach me to live open-handed and open-hearted. Remove fear, selfishness, and hesitation. Let love lead my giving and compassion guide my actions. Make me a blessing to those in need. Use my life, my time, and my resources for Your glory. Amen.

Weekly Challenge

Serve through missions, outreach, or compassion.

Reflection

Who did God place in my path to bless?

How did giving change me?

WEEK 6 – HOLY WEEK & RESURRECTION

Matthew 28:6

Devotional Thought

The cross was not the end—resurrection is victory.

Prayer

Risen Savior, thank You for victory over sin, fear, and death. Let resurrection power live within me. Renew my hope, restore my joy, and strengthen my faith. Where I was weak, make me strong. Where I was weary, renew me. Let my life testify that You live. I walk forward in newness, purpose, and power. Amen.

Weekly Challenge

Share your testimony of renewal.

Reflection

How has God changed me this season?

What will I carry forward?

God sent His son,
They called Him, Jesus;
He came to love,
Heal and forgive;
He lived and died
To buy my pardon,
An empty grave is there
To prove my Savior lives!

Excerpt from the Hymn,
"Because He Lives"
Bill and Gloria Gather

CLOSING BLESSING

Beloved,

You began in reflection.

You walked through repentance.

You embraced renewal.

Now walk in resurrection.

Do not pick back up what you laid down.

Do not put down what God has planted within you.

Let prayer remain your rhythm.

Let love remain your witness.

Let Christ remain your center.

May grace guide you.

May hope sustain you.

May resurrection power live within you.



Fairfield Baptist Church

Whole People.
Whole Gospel.
Whole World.