

CORNERSTONECHURCH.COMMUNITY/LENT

What is Lent?

Lent can be an intimidating season for a lot of us. Some of us grew up hearing that it was a Catholic tradition. Some of us envision harsh days of fasting and long, uninterrupted hours of prayer. Some of us have never heard of it at all! No matter where you fall when it comes to Lent, we see you...and we get it!

We're willing to bet that if you picked up this guide, you're at least curious about it. Maybe you're looking to grow in your spiritual walk. Maybe you're looking for a new way to observe Easter with your family. Maybe you're looking for some practical accountability for your daily time with God. Whatever your reason, we have some good news for you: *Lent doesn't have to be complicated!*

Simply put, Lent is a season all about the Gospel. Therefore, it's a season that all Christians can observe, enjoy, and benefit from. It is a time when we come together to focus our minds and our hearts on the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus as we approach Easter Sunday. It's a time when we're challenged to turn from our sins and the things that distract us from God, so we can focus fully on Him.

The Lenten season lasts for the 40 days (excluding Sundays) between Ash Wednesday and Easter Sunday. 40 is a significant number in the Bible, popping up all throughout the Old Testament in events like the flood (Genesis 7), Moses's intercession for Israel (Deuteronomy 9), Jonah's prophecy to Nineveh (Jonah 3), and many others. However, the one that is most significant to the season is found in Matthew 4—Jesus's 40 days of testing in the wilderness.

Historically, Lent began as a requirement for baptism in some of the early churches. Today, we celebrate it symbolically as a time for each of us to follow Jesus into the wilderness of testing and trial. It includes fasting, self-denial, and most importantly...prayer! It's not about giving things up just to say that we did. Rather, it's about intentionally creating room in our daily rhythms so that we can be filled with more of God.

While Advent gets more and more hopeful as we approach the incarnation, Lent gets more and more solemn as we approach the cross. Our prayer is that this guide would be a catalyst for radical spiritual growth and heart change as we dive into the full and glorious gift of Christ, lament His crucifixion, and rejoice in His resurrection!

A Word on Fasting

Traditionally, participants use the Lenten season to fast during the weekdays and feast on Sundays. This is true all the way through Holy Week, which begins on Palm Sunday (March 29, 2026). Whether it's abstaining from food, technology, social media, spending, entertainment, sleep, or something else, we can't talk about Lent without talking about fasting.

But...why fast? This is where we need to examine our hearts and proceed with caution. Fasting is not about losing weight to look better before Spring Break. It's not about reinvention or meeting our personal goals. It's not about challenging ourselves for the sake of a challenge. None of these things are inherently "bad"...but they miss the point.

We fast during Lent so that we can pursue a deeper intimacy with Jesus. Easter comes with a whole host of cultural expectations—pastel dresses and ties, baskets and bunnies, family brunches and egg hunts. It's easy to get so tied up in these secondary things that we miss out on the true meaning of Easter. When we observe Lent, it reminds us that there would be no resurrection without the crucifixion.

It is a time when we can fully prepare our hearts for the overwhelming joy of Easter Sunday by acknowledging the days of sorrow and suffering that came before it. Whenever we feel a pang of hunger or an urge to swipe the credit card or a pull to hit the snooze button during a fast, it creates a physical longing that reminds us to meditate on the price of our redemption and the lengths that Jesus went to in order to save us.

Fasting isn't about subtracting something as much as it is about adding the BEST thing—communion with God. With that in mind, we encourage you to spend some time in prayer. What is the main source of distraction in your life right now that keeps you from spending daily time with God? What is a temptation that you can't seem to shake? What is eating up most of your free time? Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal these things to you, and use the answers to inform how you fast.

This may look different for each of us...and that's okay! We are not more holy, and God is not more pleased with us if our fast is more challenging than someone else's. You may want to add a new fast each week, or stick with one for the whole season. You can go big or start small. You may be restricted from certain fasts by health conditions or life circumstances.

We have more good news for you:

Lent isn't meant to be a burden. Rather, it's a special opportunity for each of us to steward as our unique schedules and situations allow. Our ultimate hope for you is that you would use a fast to create some margin and then leverage that margin for the sake of delighting in Jesus. It is meant to help you engage in deeper times of worship, Bible study, prayer, community, meditation, and reflection.

Following Christ into the wilderness does require some inconvenience and a resistance to our culture of instant gratification. But, we promise you this:

If you entrust God by establishing a consistent rhythm of fasting during this season, you will reap a harvest of spiritual renewal, maturity, and breakthrough. Let's prepare our hearts accordingly as we ask the Lord to do a work in us as he gives us the *"...strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that [we] may be filled with all the fullness of God."* (Ephesians 3:18-19)

Fasting Ideas For You to Prayerfully Consider

- **Food** - abstaining from one meal a day
- **Food** - abstaining from all food from dawn to dusk (We encourage you to drink water!)
- **Food** - abstaining from caffeine or sweets
- **Technology** - abstaining from social media
- **Technology** - abstaining from TV shows, sports, or movies
- **Technology** - abstaining from video games or secular music
- **Other** - abstaining from non-essential shopping
- **Other** - abstaining from sleep (waking up early or staying up later to spend more time with God. We do not encourage you to abstain from sleep entirely.)

How to Use This Guide

Pray and Choose a Fast

After praying and asking for guidance from the Holy Spirit, I will be abstaining from _____ for Lent 2026.

Daily Content

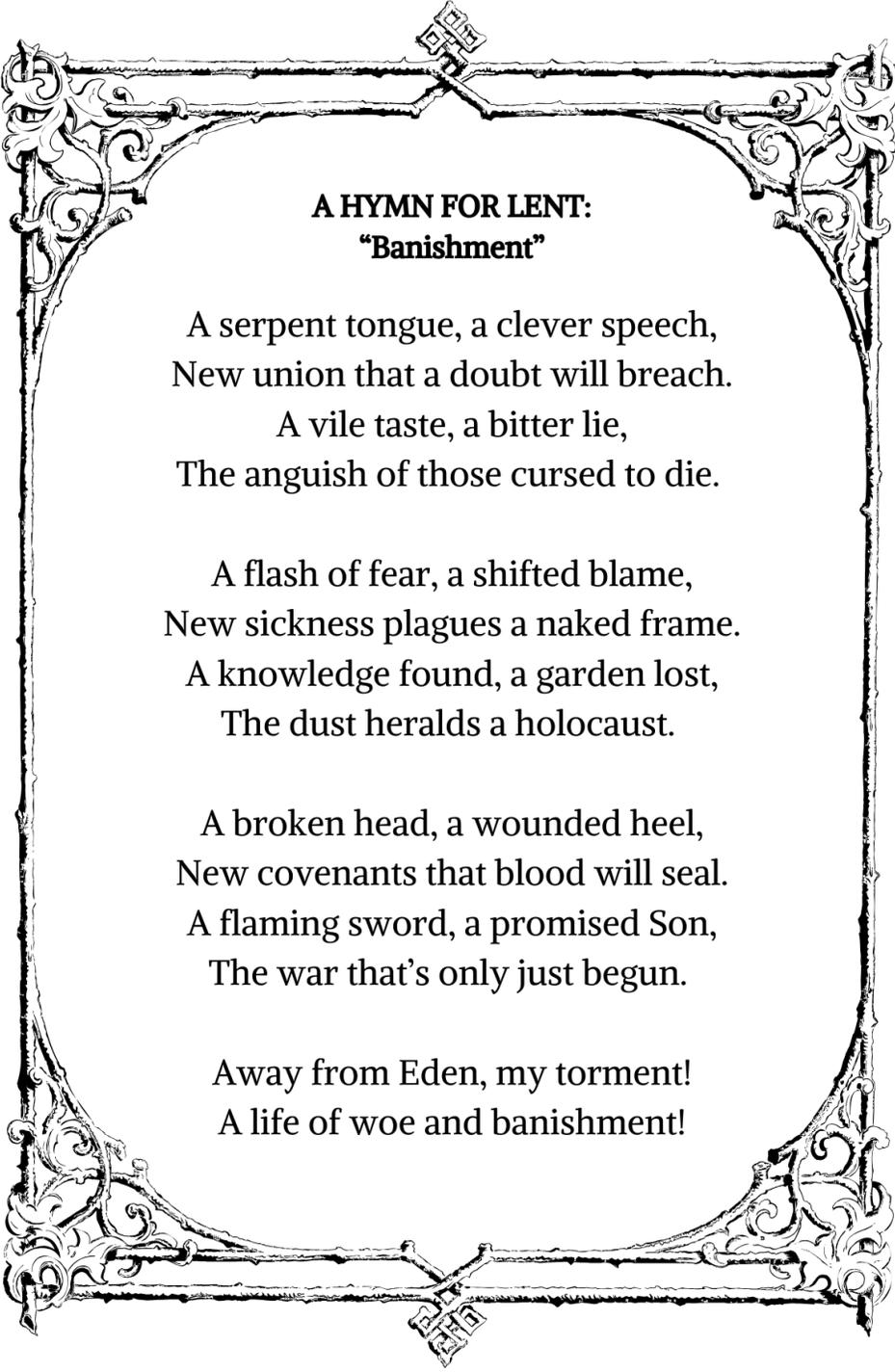
This guide includes a daily time of reading, response, and prayer starting on Wednesday, February 18, 2026 (Ash Wednesday) and ending on Easter Sunday. Palm Sunday marks the beginning of Holy Week, for which we have additional resources. This guide excludes other Sundays, as they are meant to be a time of corporate worship and celebration.

The daily content for this guide focuses on six biblical themes that encapsulate the heart of the Lenten season: prayer, humility, confession, mercy, forgiveness, and suffering. We will be devoting a week to each theme, taking a look at how God wants to use these practices to sanctify us. The cross and Christ's sacrifice on it should cause us to approach these weeks with a posture of solemn reverence as we meditate on the reality of our sin and our desperate need for a Savior.

We encourage you to start each day of the guide with prayer. Ask God to help you have a deeper desire for Him. Ask Him to reveal the areas of your life that need repentance, reconciliation, healing, or a work of His Spirit. Spend some time listening and tuning your heart to Him in silence.

Next, read the selected passages based on the weekly theme. Read them expectantly and patiently, looking for the thread of the Gospel through each verse and reflecting on the way Jesus modeled these practices for us. Then, take a few minutes to reflect on what you read by answering the Discussion Questions—on your own or with your family. After each week, pause and meditate on how God is moving before moving on to the next portion.

Finally, end your time how you began it—in prayer! Thank God for the truths He faithfully reveals in His Word. Ask Him to bless your time of fasting with more of Him as he draws you into a deeper knowledge of His glory and love for you.



**A HYMN FOR LENT:
"Banishment"**

A serpent tongue, a clever speech,
New union that a doubt will breach.

A vile taste, a bitter lie,
The anguish of those cursed to die.

A flash of fear, a shifted blame,
New sickness plagues a naked frame.

A knowledge found, a garden lost,
The dust heralds a holocaust.

A broken head, a wounded heel,
New covenants that blood will seal.

A flaming sword, a promised Son,
The war that's only just begun.

Away from Eden, my torment!

A life of woe and banishment!

Week of **PRAYER**

For the first week of Lent, we will be turning our attention to the practice of prayer. Prayer is a major focus of this season because Lent calls all believers to renewed repentance and dependence on God. As Jesus entered the wilderness to fast and pray before beginning his public ministry, he modeled a life oriented entirely toward His Father's will.

We are called to pray because prayer is how God has chosen for His redeemed people to live in dependent, relational fellowship with Him. Prayer doesn't change God's eternal plan, but it is one of the means He has ordained to accomplish His purposes in the world and in our lives. At the most basic level, we pray because God commands it. Scripture is clear that believers are to "pray without ceasing" and to bring everything to God in prayer. Obedience matters—but prayer is never meant to be obligatory or an item to cross off our spiritual checklist.

We also pray because we're utterly dependent creatures. Prayer is a confession that we are not self-sufficient. When we pray, we're saying, "Lord, apart from You I can do nothing." It humbles us and keeps us grounded in grace rather than self-reliance. In Scripture, prayer is the natural response of a people who know they cannot rescue themselves.

Prayer is also how God conforms us to His will. We don't pray to inform God or to bend His arm. He already knows our needs, and His purposes are unchanging. But as we pray, our desires are shaped, our hearts are aligned with Scripture, and we learn to want what God wants.

And finally, we pray because we've been invited to fellowship with God. Through Christ, we have access to the Father. Prayer flows out of the Gospel—Jesus has removed the barrier of sin, so we can come boldly—not as strangers, but as adopted children! That's a really big deal! Ultimately, we pray not to earn favor or to manipulate outcomes, but because God is our Father. We need Him, and He delights to work through the prayers of His people.

February 18 - Ash Wednesday

Ask the Holy Spirit to guide your time, then read the following Scriptures.

- **Scripture:** Matthew 6:1-18

Reflect on the devotional, and answer the questions to dive in deeper!

- **Devotional:** In this passage, Jesus calls us away from prayer that seeks the approval of others and draws us instead into sincere communion with our Heavenly Father. He reminds us that prayer isn't a performance or a way to impress anyone, but a humble expression of our dependence on the God who sees and knows us fully. Simple prayer is an act of faith—we begin by seeking God's glory, we submit our desires to His kingdom and will, and we trust His care by bringing our daily needs before Him. During this season of repentance and renewal, this passage invites us to pray simply, trust deeply, and rest confidently in the Father who truly loves us.
- **Discussion Questions:**
 1. What stood out to you in today's passage?
 2. What questions do you still have?
 3. What is God asking you to do in response?

End your time with prayer, and ask the Lord to help you apply what you have learned today.

February 19 - Thursday

Ask the Holy Spirit to guide your time, then read the following Scriptures.

- **Scripture:** Luke 11:1-13

Reflect on the devotional, and answer the questions to dive in deeper!

- **Devotional:** Today, we come back to the Lord's Prayer, but from a slightly different angle. Jesus teaches His disciples this prayer not as a tool for getting their way, but as a method of learning dependence on their gracious Father. Lent trains our hearts to ask boldly because we know God is both sovereign and good. He gives us what we need—not reluctantly, but according to His wise will. Even when we do not receive the answer we want, we can trust that the Father gives us what is best, especially the gift of His Spirit. This passage equips us to pray with confidence, patience, and humble trust as we wait for God's faithful provision!

- **Discussion Questions:**

1. What stood out to you in today's passage?
2. What questions do you still have?
3. What is God asking you to do in response?

End your time with prayer, and ask the Lord to help you apply what you have learned today.

February 20 - Friday

Ask the Holy Spirit to guide your time, then read the following Scriptures.

- **Scripture:** Luke 18:1-14

Reflect on the devotional, and answer the questions to dive in deeper!

- **Devotional:** In today's passage, Jesus teaches us that a healthy prayer life is marked by persistence and humility. In the parable of the persistent widow, He encourages us not to lose heart, but to keep coming to God. Our perseverance in prayer shows that we trust His perfect justice and timing. And in the prayer of the tax collector, we see that God gladly hears those who are honest about their sin and who plead for His grace. As we continue through Lent, this passage calls us away from self-reliance and toward a life of prayer that rests not in our own righteousness, but in the mercy God freely gives.

- **Discussion Questions:**

1. What stood out to you in today's passage?
2. What questions do you still have?
3. What is God asking you to do in response?

End your time with prayer, and ask the Lord to help you apply what you have learned today.

February 21 - Saturday

Ask the Holy Spirit to guide your time, then read the following Scriptures.

- **Scripture:** Luke 22:39-46; Romans 8:26-28

Reflect on the devotional, and answer the questions to dive in deeper!

- **Devotional:** In Luke 22:39–46, we see Jesus praying in Gethsemane with real sorrow, yet fully submitting Himself to the Father’s will. That same posture of surrender is echoed in Romans 8:26–28, where we are reminded that our weakness in prayer is met by the Spirit’s faithful intercession. Lent teaches us that we do not pray alone or in our own strength, but as those upheld by God’s sovereign purpose. Even when we cannot see how suffering fits into God’s plan, we can trust that He is working all things together for our good. Together, these passages invite us to remember that when we pray with honest and humble submission, we can rest confidently in the God who is at work in every moment.
- **Discussion Questions:**
 1. What stood out to you in today’s passage?
 2. What questions do you still have?
 3. What is God asking you to do in response?

End your time with prayer, and ask the Lord to help you apply what you have learned today.

Week of **HUMILITY**

For the next week of Lent, we will be focusing on the practice of humility. As believers, we pursue humility because it tells the truth about who God is and who we are before Him. Humility isn't pretending we're worthless or ignoring the gifts God has given us; it's living with a clear-eyed awareness that everything we have comes by grace.

James reminds us, "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble" (James 4:6). Our culture constantly tells us to promote ourselves, climb higher, and celebrate our own achievements. Lent calls us in the opposite direction—to bow low, to acknowledge our weakness, and to cling to God's grace. We practice humility because God commands it, and because pride is ultimately a refusal to live as dependent creatures. Humility puts us back where we belong—under God's authority and alongside one another as fellow sinners in need of mercy.

More than that, humility flows directly from the Gospel. Jesus, the eternal Son of God, humbled Himself by taking on flesh and becoming obedient even to death on a cross. If our salvation comes through Christ's humility, then a humble life is the only fitting response.

Humility also protects us. It keeps us teachable, slow to judge, and quick to repent. It frees us from the exhausting work of self-justification and allows us to rest in Christ's righteousness rather than our own. We know that even our faith is a gift from God, and humility keeps us from leaning on ourselves or boasting in our efforts.

Humility also shapes how we treat others. When our hearts are humble, we're more patient, more forgiving, and more willing to serve without seeking recognition. We follow the example of Jesus, who came not to be served, but to serve (Mark 10:45). With all this in mind, we practice humility not to earn God's favor, but because we already have it in Christ!

February 23 - Monday

Ask the Holy Spirit to guide your time, then read the following Scriptures.

- **Scripture:** Matthew 11:25-30; Matthew 18:1-4

Reflect on the devotional, and answer the questions to dive in deeper!

- **Devotional:** In Matthew 11, Jesus thanks the Father that the truths of His kingdom are revealed not to the confident and self-important, but to the humble and needy. He invites the weary to come to Him for rest—not by trying harder, but by trusting Him and submitting to His kind and steady rule. That same humility shows up again in Matthew 18, where Jesus says that the greatest in His kingdom are like children—those who know they depend entirely on God. Lent presses us to let go of pride and the exhausting habit of self-reliance. And as we come low before Christ, we find that His yoke really is easy and that His grace is truly enough.
- **Discussion Questions:**
 1. What stood out to you in today's passage?
 2. What questions do you still have?
 3. What is God asking you to do in response?

End your time with prayer, and ask the Lord to help you apply what you have learned today.

February 24 - Tuesday

Ask the Holy Spirit to guide your time, then read the following Scriptures.

- **Scripture:** Luke 7:1-10

Reflect on the devotional, and answer the questions to dive in deeper!

- **Devotional:** In today's passage, the centurion comes to Jesus with a clear awareness of his own unworthiness. Jesus had come first to the Jewish people, and the centurion—a Roman—was an outsider and even an enemy. And yet, he trusted that a single word from Jesus would be enough to heal his ailing servant. Jesus marvels at his faith, a faith marked by humility and confidence in Christ's authority, and the servant is healed. Lent invites us to examine the places where we rely on ourselves instead of resting in the sufficiency of Jesus. Like the centurion, we're called to trust that Christ is both able and willing to save and restore all who come to Him humbly by faith.

- **Discussion Questions:**

1. What stood out to you in today's passage?
2. What questions do you still have?
3. What is God asking you to do in response?

End your time with prayer, and ask the Lord to help you apply what you have learned today.

February 25 - Wednesday

Ask the Holy Spirit to guide your time, then read the following Scriptures.

- **Scripture:** Zechariah 9:9-13; Mark 11:1-11

Reflect on the devotional, and answer the questions to dive in deeper!

- **Devotional:** Zechariah foretells a King who comes not with worldly power, but in humility and righteousness, riding on a donkey. In Mark's account, Jesus fulfills this promise, revealing God's unfolding plan not through spectacle, but through His obedient suffering and quiet authority. The crowds praise Him as King, but they misunderstand the kind of kingdom He brings. He will establish His kingdom by the cross rather than the sword. During Lent, we are confronted with the same question: will we follow Christ on His terms with humility or attempt to reshape Him to fit our expectations? True discipleship is found in joyfully submitting to this humble King, trusting that His victory is sure, even when His ways seem weak to the world.
- **Discussion Questions:**
 1. What stood out to you in today's passage?
 2. What questions do you still have?
 3. What is God asking you to do in response?

End your time with prayer, and ask the Lord to help you apply what you have learned today.

February 26 - Thursday

Ask the Holy Spirit to guide your time, then read the following Scriptures.

- **Scripture:** Philippians 2:1-11

Reflect on the devotional, and answer the questions to dive in deeper!

- **Devotional:** In today's passage, Paul reminds us that humility isn't optional for the Christian life—it flows from the Gospel itself. Jesus, who had every right to cling to His glory, chose instead the difficult path of obedience. He lowered Himself all the way into death for our sake. During Lent, we are invited to examine our pride and self-interest in light of the cross, where Jesus's sacrifice exposes our idols of recognition and comfort. Lent gives us space to slow down and learn again from our humble Savior. As we fix our eyes on Christ, we're shaped into a people who serve others gladly, trusting God to lift up what we have surrendered to Him.
- **Discussion Questions:**
 1. What stood out to you in today's passage?
 2. What questions do you still have?
 3. What is God asking you to do in response?

End your time with prayer, and ask the Lord to help you apply what you have learned today.

February 27 - Friday

Ask the Holy Spirit to guide your time, then read the following Scriptures.

- **Scripture:** Ephesians 4:1-16

Reflect on the devotional, and answer the questions to dive in deeper!

- **Devotional:** In Ephesians 4, Paul urges us to live in a way that aligns with the grace we have received, marked by humility, patience, and love toward one another. Unity in the church doesn't come from us being the same as everyone else or from strong personalities, but from hearts willing to put others first for the sake of Christ. Jesus Himself is the source of this unity, generously giving us gifts so His body might grow together instead of competing against itself. Lent invites us to notice how pride quietly hinders that growth and to repent of the ways we resist God's work in us. As we walk humbly with Christ and one another, God uses even our smallest acts of faithful humility to build His church into maturity.
- **Discussion Questions:**

1. What stood out to you in today's passage?
2. What questions do you still have?
3. What is God asking you to do in response?

End your time with prayer, and ask the Lord to help you apply what you have learned today.

February 28 - Saturday

Ask the Holy Spirit to guide your time, then read the following Scriptures.

- **Scripture:** John 13:1-20

Reflect on the devotional, and answer the questions to dive in deeper!

- **Devotional:** Today's passage shows us the ultimate example of humility. Jesus does the unthinkable: the Lord of all creation takes the place of a servant and washes the feet of His disciples. He kneels before them, fully aware of who He is and where He is going, and that frees Him to serve without hesitation. This moment reveals how easily we resist being served by Christ and how reluctant we can be to serve others quietly and without recognition. During Lent, we are called to sit humbly at Jesus's feet, receiving His cleansing mercy before we try to imitate His example. As those washed by His grace, we are sent to love and serve one another—not to earn favor, but because we already belong to Him.
- **Discussion Questions:**
 1. What stood out to you in today's passage?
 2. What questions do you still have?
 3. What is God asking you to do in response?

End your time with prayer, and ask the Lord to help you apply what you have learned today.

Week of **CONFESSION**

For the third week of Lent, we will be zooming in on the practice of confession. Confession is the way God teaches us to slow down and tell the truth about ourselves before Him. It's not a ritual we perform to earn more grace—grace has already been given in Christ—but a humble response to that mercy. As we prepare our hearts to remember the cross, we are reminded that sin is serious, yet Christ's mercy is far greater. Confession stops us from pretending we are fine and draws us back into dependence on Jesus, the only one who can cleanse and restore us.

Scripture makes clear that repentance is not a one-time event but a regular rhythm of the Christian life. Lent gives us forty focused days to practice this rhythm with renewed intentionality. When we confess our sins, we agree with God about what is broken in us and turn again to the forgiveness promised in Christ (1 John 1:9). Confession isn't about wallowing in guilt or shame—it's about clearing away what dulls our joy and clouds our fellowship with the Father.

Confession also reminds us that the Gospel is not only for the lost—it's for disciples as well. We never outgrow our need to repent; in fact, the deeper we grow in Christ, the more we see our own sin and our need for His mercy. During Lent, confession recalibrates our hearts, helping us see both the weight of our sin and the wonder of the cross more clearly. As we walk toward Good Friday, honest confession makes our Easter joy ring louder and truer.

Finally, confession invites us into the freedom of living in the light. Whether quietly before God or wisely with trusted brothers and sisters, bringing sin into the open breaks its power over us. Lent is a gracious opportunity to practice that freedom—to lay down our burdens, receive fresh mercy, and walk forward renewed in faith and obedience.

March 2 - Monday

Ask the Holy Spirit to guide your time, then read the following Scriptures.

- **Scripture:** 2 Chronicles 33:1-20

Reflect on the devotional, and answer the questions to dive in deeper!

- **Devotional:** Manasseh's story in 2 Chronicles 33 reminds us that no amount of sin places us beyond the reach of God's mercy. After years of rebellion, idolatry, outright defiance, and even child sacrifice, Manasseh is brought low—and it's there that he finally humbles himself and seeks the Lord. His confession isn't polished or impressive—it's done in the midst of bitter exile. Nevertheless, it's real, and God responds with forgiveness and restoration. During Lent, this passage invites us to stop excusing our sin and instead come honestly before God, trusting that Christ has already secured mercy for repentant sinners. Confession doesn't minimize our sin, but it magnifies the grace of a God who delights to forgive!
- **Discussion Questions:**
 1. What stood out to you in today's passage?
 2. What questions do you still have?
 3. What is God asking you to do in response?

End your time with prayer, and ask the Lord to help you apply what you have learned today.

March 3 - Tuesday

Ask the Holy Spirit to guide your time, then read the following Scriptures.

- **Scripture:** 2 Samuel 12:1-23

Reflect on the devotional, and answer the questions to dive in deeper!

- **Devotional:** David's confrontation with Nathan in 2 Samuel 12 comes on the heels of David's affair with Bathsheba. This passage shows us that confession often begins when God lovingly exposes what we would rather keep hidden. When David finally says, "I have sinned against the Lord," there are no excuses or defenses—just honest agreement with God about his guilt. Though the consequences of David's sin remain, God's forgiveness is immediate. Grace doesn't erase God's discipline, but it does restore our fellowship with Him. During Lent, this passage calls us to practice that same kind of straightforward, humble confession, trusting that our standing before God rests entirely on His mercy, not on anything we do. Honest confession leads us away from self-justification and back into humble dependence on the grace Jesus purchased for us.

- **Discussion Questions:**

1. What stood out to you in today's passage?
2. What questions do you still have?
3. What is God asking you to do in response?

End your time with prayer, and ask the Lord to help you apply what you have learned today.

March 4 - Wednesday

Ask the Holy Spirit to guide your time, then read the following Scriptures.

- **Scripture:** Jonah 3:1-10

Reflect on the devotional, and answer the questions to dive in deeper!

- **Devotional:** Jonah 3 testifies to the surprising power of a simple, honest response to God's word. When the people of Nineveh hear Jonah's warning, they don't argue, delay, or look for loopholes. Their king leads by example, and the people confess their sins and turn from them completely. Their repentance is marked by humility—they don't know how things will turn out, but they cast themselves entirely on God's mercy. During Lent, this passage reminds us that confession begins when we take God at His word and respond in faith. God's willingness to relent from His wrath shows that sincere repentance—even from the most unlikely people—is met with His unwavering compassion.
- **Discussion Questions:**
 1. What stood out to you in today's passage?
 2. What questions do you still have?
 3. What is God asking you to do in response?

End your time with prayer, and ask the Lord to help you apply what you have learned today.

March 5 - Thursday

Ask the Holy Spirit to guide your time, then read the following Scriptures.

- **Scripture:** Exodus 32:1-35

Reflect on the devotional, and answer the questions to dive in deeper!

- **Devotional:** Exodus 32 paints a powerful picture of confession as intercession, as Moses steps into the gap for a sinful people. He doesn't minimize Israel's rebellion or shift the blame—he openly acknowledges their guilt and pleads for God's mercy based on God's own promises. Moses's prayer reminds us that confession is not about self-defense, but about agreeing honestly with God about our sin and our need for His grace. During Lent, this passage points us to the greater Mediator, Jesus Christ, who perfectly intercedes for us on the basis of His finished work. Confession, then, becomes an act of trust—bringing our sin into the light, confident that we are heard because of the One who stands for us.
- **Discussion Questions:**
 1. What stood out to you in today's passage?
 2. What questions do you still have?
 3. What is God asking you to do in response?

End your time with prayer, and ask the Lord to help you apply what you have learned today.

March 6 - Friday

Ask the Holy Spirit to guide your time, then read the following Scriptures.

- **Scripture:** Daniel 9:1-19

Reflect on the devotional, and answer the questions to dive in deeper!

- **Devotional:** Daniel's prayer in today's passage takes place in exile, a painful reminder that sin has real consequences for God's people. Yet instead of distancing himself from that guilt, Daniel leans in—confessing “we” again and again. He takes ownership of the nation's sin without making excuses while appealing to God's covenant faithfulness. His confession is careful and specific, rooted in Scripture, and marked by a deep awareness of God's righteousness and Israel's shame. During Lent, this passage reminds us that confession often happens in the aftermath of failure, when we finally see where our sin has taken us. Even there, Daniel shows us that God welcomes honest repentance and hears the prayers of those who return to Him in humility.

- **Discussion Questions:**

1. What stood out to you in today's passage?
2. What questions do you still have?
3. What is God asking you to do in response?

End your time with prayer, and ask the Lord to help you apply what you have learned today.

March 7 - Saturday

Ask the Holy Spirit to guide your time, then read the following Scriptures.

- **Scripture:** James 5:7-20

Reflect on the devotional, and answer the questions to dive in deeper!

- **Devotional:** James 5 reminds us that confession is meant to be lived out in community, not kept locked away in isolation. When James calls believers to confess their sins to one another, he points us toward the healing that comes through honest prayer and shared dependence on God. This kind of confession doesn't replace our confession before the Lord—it flows out of it, as God's grace reshapes how we walk together as His church. During Lent, these verses invite us to slow down, examine our hearts, and bring what is hidden into the light with wisdom and love. When we do these things with other believers, confession becomes a means God uses to restore wandering hearts and strengthen our perseverance as we wait for the Lord's return.
- **Discussion Questions:**
 1. What stood out to you in today's passage?
 2. What questions do you still have?
 3. What is God asking you to do in response?

End your time with prayer, and ask the Lord to help you apply what you have learned today.

Week of **MERCY**

For the following week of Lent, we will be turning our attention to the practice of mercy. During this season of fasting and reflection, we remember that God stooped down to save us according to His steadfast love. He redeemed us in defiance of our continual sinfulness, sending Jesus to bear the crushing weight of our guilt and shame.

The cross reminds us that God's mercy, while offered freely and abundantly to us, came at a great cost—a cost we could never pay on our own. As Christians, we are called to practice mercy because mercy reflects the God who has been merciful to us. The Gospel teaches that we do not earn God's favor; we receive it freely through Christ's sacrifice.

When we show mercy to others, we are simply extending to them the same patience, kindness, and compassion God has lavished on us. This is not a checklist of good deeds—it is a heart posture formed by grace, a response flowing naturally from lives touched by the cross.

Practicing mercy also reminds us that we are not meant to live in isolation. Sin and suffering are real, and our acts of mercy make God's kingdom visible in a hurting world. When we feed the hungry, forgive those who have wronged us, or care for the hurting, we participate in God's work of restoration, pointing others toward the hope and healing found in Christ.

Mercy shapes the one who gives it as much as the one who receives it. Extending patience and kindness keeps us mindful of our own ongoing need for God's mercy, humbling us and deepening our dependence on Him. Practicing mercy softens our pride, renews our hearts, and nurtures communities where Christ's love can flourish.

As people shaped by the work of Jesus on the cross, we can show mercy to those in need over and over again because we have already received it fully and freely!

March 9 - Monday

Ask the Holy Spirit to guide your time, then read the following Scriptures.

- **Scripture:** Matthew 9:1-13

Reflect on the devotional, and answer the questions to dive in deeper!

- **Devotional:** In Matthew 9, we see Jesus healing a paralyzed man, calling Matthew—a despised tax collector—and dining with sinners. The Pharisees were shocked and quick to protest, yet Jesus reminds us that He came not for the self-righteous, but for those who recognize their need for mercy. Lent is a season to reflect on our own sinfulness and to rest fully in His undeserved grace. God’s mercy does not wait for us to “clean up” first—He meets us right in the midst of our brokenness and calls us to follow Him. Let this truth sink in today: no one is beyond His compassion—not even you! As recipients of His abundant mercy, we are now invited to extend it freely to others.
- **Discussion Questions:**
 1. What stood out to you in today’s passage?
 2. What questions do you still have?
 3. What is God asking you to do in response?

End your time with prayer, and ask the Lord to help you apply what you have learned today.

March 10 - Tuesday

Ask the Holy Spirit to guide your time, then read the following Scriptures.

- **Scripture:** Titus 3:1-11

Reflect on the devotional, and answer the questions to dive in deeper!

- **Devotional:** Today’s passage reminds us that our salvation is rooted entirely in God’s mercy, not in anything we have done to earn it. We were once foolish, disobedient, and enslaved to sin, yet God, in His kindness, stepped in to save us—washing us clean through Christ and renewing us by His Spirit. Lent gives us space to sit with this truth: while we are called to good works, they are never the basis of our standing with God. They are the result of His mercy at work in us. That mercy reshapes our hearts, helping us live peaceably with others, show kindness, and turn away from unnecessary division. As we rest in God’s mercy, we are reminded that we are secure in His love and graciously equipped to share His compassion with those around us.

- **Discussion Questions:**

1. What stood out to you in today's passage?
2. What questions do you still have?
3. What is God asking you to do in response?

End your time with prayer, and ask the Lord to help you apply what you have learned today.

March 11 - Wednesday

Ask the Holy Spirit to guide your time, then read the following Scriptures.

- **Scripture:** James 2:1-13

Reflect on the devotional, and answer the questions to dive in deeper!

- **Devotional:** James reminds us that mercy—not favoritism—is meant to mark God's people. God calls us to reflect His love without partiality, because He showed mercy to us without prejudice. He did not save us because of our status, our background, or our efforts, but solely because of the perfect worthiness of Jesus. Lent invites us to pause and honestly consider how easily we judge or exclude others, forgetting how freely mercy was given to us when we least deserved it. God's law of love is not fulfilled through favoritism or harsh judgment, but through compassionate hearts that mirror His grace. As those who have received such mercy, let us walk in it with gratitude, ready and willing to extend the same mercy to others!
- **Discussion Questions:**
 1. What stood out to you in today's passage?
 2. What questions do you still have?
 3. What is God asking you to do in response?

End your time with prayer, and ask the Lord to help you apply what you have learned today.

March 12 - Thursday

Ask the Holy Spirit to guide your time, then read the following Scriptures.

- **Scripture:** Luke 10:25-37

Reflect on the devotional, and answer the questions to dive in deeper!

- **Devotional:** Jesus's story of the Good Samaritan shows us mercy in its simplest and most tangible form: stepping in to help someone in need without waiting for them to earn it—or even ask for it. Like the priest and the Levite, we can be quick to pass by suffering when we are focused on our own concerns, but Lent calls us to slow down and notice the hurting around us. God's mercy reached us when we were helpless and undeserving, and He now equips us to extend that same compassion to others. Even small acts of mercy reflect the heart of Christ and make His kingdom visible to the lost. As we reflect today, let us remember that mercy is often costly, and let us be willing to set aside our comfort and convenience to care for those who are vulnerable.
- **Discussion Questions:**
 1. What stood out to you in today's passage?
 2. What questions do you still have?
 3. What is God asking you to do in response?

End your time with prayer, and ask the Lord to help you apply what you have learned today.

March 13 - Friday

Ask the Holy Spirit to guide your time, then read the following Scriptures.

- **Scripture:** Hebrews 4:14-5:10

Reflect on the devotional, and answer the questions to dive in deeper!

- **Devotional:** Today's passage reminds us that our hope rests not in our striving, but in Christ's finished work on our behalf. Jesus, our great High Priest, fully understands our weakness, yet He never sinned. Because He suffered and faced temptations like we do, He doesn't meet us with cold condemnation, but with lavish mercy. Lent invites us to come honestly before God, laying aside our self-reliance and drawing near to the throne of grace. Today, we can rest in Jesus's perfect obedience, which secured eternal salvation for all those who trust in Him. In Christ, we find a merciful Savior who intercedes for us. He doesn't hold us at a distance. He welcomes us and draws us close in our time of need!

- **Discussion Questions:**

1. What stood out to you in today's passage?
2. What questions do you still have?
3. What is God asking you to do in response?

End your time with prayer, and ask the Lord to help you apply what you have learned today.

March 14 - Saturday

Ask the Holy Spirit to guide your time, then read the following Scriptures.

- **Scripture:** Luke 6:27-36

Reflect on the devotional, and answer the questions to dive in deeper!

- **Devotional:** In Luke 6:27-36, Jesus calls His followers to a kind of mercy that goes far beyond what feels natural—loving our enemies and doing good to them without expecting anything in return. He knows this is not easy, so He points us back to the heart of our Father. During Lent, we remember that God loved us long before we ever learned to love Him in return. He showed us mercy when we were still His enemies, not after we proved ourselves worthy. As we rest in His kindness, our hearts are softened, and we are empowered to respond with patience, forgiveness, and grace. Following Christ means learning to live as beloved children of a merciful Father, freely extending mercy to others—even when it costs us.
- **Discussion Questions:**
 1. What stood out to you in today's passage?
 2. What questions do you still have?
 3. What is God asking you to do in response?

End your time with prayer, and ask the Lord to help you apply what you have learned today.

Week of **FORGIVENESS**

For the fifth week of Lent, we will be focusing on the practice of forgiveness. Lent invites us to take an honest look at ourselves before the Lord. As we examine our hearts in light of God's law, we are reminded that our greatest problem is not only the wrong done to us, but the wrong we have done against a holy God. Forgiveness points us back to the central truth of the Gospel: we are a people who live by grace we did not earn.

At the cross, we see just how seriously God takes sin—and how willingly He moves toward sinners in love. Jesus bore our guilt fully and freely so that we might be forgiven and brought near to God. God's mercy reached us when we were helpless and undeserving, and it is this same mercy that equips us to forgive others. As we rest in the gift of salvation, bitterness loosens its grip, and gratitude begins to shape the way we see God and those around us.

Forgiving others is rarely easy. Hurt can run deep, and trust takes time to rebuild. Yet Lent gives us space to bring our pain honestly before the Lord, asking Him to help us release resentment and entrust justice to His care. Forgiveness is not excusing sin, but a faithful choice to reflect the mercy we have received in Christ. When we forgive, we imitate the heart of God, demonstrating patience, compassion, and grace in a world that desperately needs them.

As we practice forgiveness, we participate in God's sanctifying work in our lives. The Spirit uses these faithful and challenging acts of obedience to make us more like Jesus. In letting go of unforgiveness and extending grace, we prepare our hearts to celebrate Easter with renewed joy as we bear profound witness to the Gospel that continues to transform us.

March 16 - Monday

Ask the Holy Spirit to guide your time, then read the following Scriptures.

- **Scripture:** Matthew 18:21-35

Reflect on the devotional, and answer the questions to dive in deeper!

- **Devotional:** In today's passage, Jesus reminds us that forgiveness flows naturally from remembering how much we ourselves have been forgiven. The servant's overwhelming debt reflects the weight of our sin before a holy and just God—a debt that Christ fully paid on our behalf at Calvary. When we cling to unforgiveness, we take far too small a view of our own sin and brokenness. Lent invites us to linger at the foot of the cross, where God's grace humbles us and loosens our grip on bitterness. Forgiven there, we are set free by the Spirit to forgive others, knowing that the debt we once owed was far greater than anything anyone could ever owe to us.
- **Discussion Questions:**
 1. What stood out to you in today's passage?
 2. What questions do you still have?
 3. What is God asking you to do in response?

End your time with prayer, and ask the Lord to help you apply what you have learned today.

March 17 - Tuesday

Ask the Holy Spirit to guide your time, then read the following Scriptures.

- **Scripture:** Colossians 3:1-17

Reflect on the devotional, and answer the questions to dive in deeper!

- **Devotional:** Because we have been raised with Christ, Paul reminds us that our lives should no longer be driven by old ways that once held us captive. In this season of Lent, many of us may be feeling the weight of hurt or unresolved conflict, and the call to forgive can feel especially hard—if not impossible. Yet, we forgive not to prove our spiritual strength to God, but because we are already forgiven and held secure in Christ. As God's beloved people, we are invited to clothe ourselves with compassion and mercy, trusting the peace of Christ to steady our hearts as we extend grace to others. When the word of Christ lives richly among us, forgiveness becomes a healing gift God uses to restore both our broken hearts and our broken fellowship with one another.

- **Discussion Questions:**

1. What stood out to you in today's passage?
2. What questions do you still have?
3. What is God asking you to do in response?

End your time with prayer, and ask the Lord to help you apply what you have learned today.

March 18 - Wednesday

Ask the Holy Spirit to guide your time, then read the following Scriptures.

- **Scripture:** Ephesians 4:17-32

Reflect on the devotional, and answer the questions to dive in deeper!

- **Devotional:** Paul speaks plainly in Ephesians 4 to remind us that following Jesus means leaving behind the old ways of thinking and living that once defined us. During Lent, we are challenged to look honestly at the anger, hard words, and buried resentments that still cling to us, and to bring them into the light of the grace we have found in Jesus. God calls us to take our struggles with “the old self” seriously, and He patiently helps us “put on” the new life He has given us. We forgive because God in Christ has forgiven us fully and decisively, even though we didn’t deserve it. As the Spirit works in us, forgiveness becomes a way that we reflect the kindness and mercy of Jesus to those around us—even to those who have hurt us the most.
- **Discussion Questions:**
 1. What stood out to you in today's passage?
 2. What questions do you still have?
 3. What is God asking you to do in response?

End your time with prayer, and ask the Lord to help you apply what you have learned today.

March 19 - Thursday

Ask the Holy Spirit to guide your time, then read the following Scriptures.

- **Scripture:** 1 John 3:11-24

Reflect on the devotional, and answer the questions to dive in deeper!

- **Devotional:** In today's passage, John reminds us that the message we have heard from the beginning is simple, but it's not easy: those who belong to Christ are called to love one another. During these 40 days of Lent, forgiveness becomes one of the most practical ways that love shows itself, especially when it feels costly to us. John brings us more good news—when our hearts accuse us, and we struggle to release resentment, God meets us with abundant mercy, far greater than our guilt or our fear. As we abide in Christ and walk in His ways, the Spirit works within us, sanctifying our hearts so that forgiveness becomes evidence of our living, active faith!
- **Discussion Questions:**
 1. What stood out to you in today's passage?
 2. What questions do you still have?
 3. What is God asking you to do in response?

End your time with prayer, and ask the Lord to help you apply what you have learned today.

March 20 - Friday

Ask the Holy Spirit to guide your time, then read the following Scriptures.

- **Scripture:** Philippians 2:12-18

Reflect on the devotional, and answer the questions to dive in deeper!

- **Devotional:** Paul calls us to “work out our salvation with fear and trembling,” trusting that God is faithfully at work within us, growing both the desire and the power to follow Him in obedience. At the heart of that obedience is forgiveness. This Lent, we are invited to examine the ways we cling to grudges or withhold forgiveness, remembering that Christ has poured out mercy for us far beyond anything we deserve. In light of this truth, we can strive to do everything without grumbling or arguing, reflecting the same love that bore our sins on the cross. As we obey through acts of forgiveness, we join Paul in becoming a fragrant offering to our gracious God.

- **Discussion Questions:**

1. What stood out to you in today's passage?
2. What questions do you still have?
3. What is God asking you to do in response?

End your time with prayer, and ask the Lord to help you apply what you have learned today.

March 21 - Saturday

Ask the Holy Spirit to guide your time, then read the following Scriptures.

- **Scripture:** Luke 23:26-49

Reflect on the devotional, and answer the questions to dive in deeper!

- **Devotional:** In our final passage of the week, we see the forgiving heart of our Savior shining most clearly at the cross. Surrounded by unspeakable cruelty and rejection, Jesus prays for His enemies and welcomes a dying sinner into paradise. Here, the ultimate act of love is on full display: by His blood, Jesus declares that no one is beyond the reach of God's mercy. The darkness that falls and the torn curtain remind us that Christ bore the full weight of sin so that forgiveness might be freely offered to all who repent and believe. At the cross, God did not overlook sin—He overcame it through the loving sacrifice of His Son. During Lent, we are invited to meditate on this grace, laying down our guilt and receiving the forgiveness secured by Jesus's finished work.

- **Discussion Questions:**

1. What stood out to you in today's passage?
2. What questions do you still have?
3. What is God asking you to do in response?

End your time with prayer, and ask the Lord to help you apply what you have learned today.

Week of **SUFFERING**

For the final week of Lent before Holy Week, we will be diving into the topic of suffering. This theme is especially fitting for the season because it draws our hearts into solidarity with Christ on His journey to the cross. As we enter these days of reflection, we are reminded that the brokenness of the world touches all of us. By embracing a measure of suffering—whether through fasting, self-denial, or honest lament—we are reminded of our dependence on God and the seriousness of sin, both personal and cosmic. We see that comfort and ease cannot satisfy us, because Christ Himself is our ultimate good.

Suffering during Lent also helps us look beyond the present moment. Paul reminds us in Romans 8:18 that our current hardships are not worth comparing to the glory that awaits us. When we willingly endure discomfort or confront painful realities in our lives, we cultivate patience, perseverance, and a deeper awareness of God's sustaining grace.

Suffering humbles us and strips away our illusions of self-sufficiency. When we encounter limitations, pain, or frustration, we are compelled to cry out to God for help, guidance, and comfort. This is a living picture of the Gospel, which calls us to rely entirely on Christ rather than our own strength. In a culture that prizes comfort and control, Lent reminds us that there is real spiritual fruit in discomfort, as it draws us closer to the One who suffered for us.

Finally, suffering is never meaningless—it is redemptive when joined to Christ. Lent invites us to remember that Jesus bore the ultimate suffering for our salvation, and that our small, voluntary sacrifices allow us to participate in His life and death in a humble, thankful way. Through suffering, we are reminded of God's grace, strengthened in our intercession for others, and pointed toward the eternal hope promised in Revelation 21. One day, there will be a new heaven and a new earth, where tears, pain, and death will be no more. Lent helps us endure present hardships in light of that eternal hope, pointing us forward to the day when all suffering will be swallowed up in God's perfect glory.

March 23 - Monday

Ask the Holy Spirit to guide your time, then read the following Scriptures.

- **Scripture:** 1 Peter 4:1-19

Reflect on the devotional, and answer the questions to dive in deeper!

- **Devotional:** Today's passage reminds us that suffering is not a strange interruption to the Christian life, but a shared path with Christ Himself. Peter tells believers not to be surprised when trials come, because suffering refines our faith and loosens our grip on sin and self. When we suffer for righteousness, we are being drawn away from our human passions and shaped to live for the will of God. During Lent, this passage invites us to examine how suffering reorients our desires and deepens our hope in God's glory. As we entrust ourselves to our faithful Creator, suffering becomes a means by which God strengthens our faith and prepares us for the joy to come!
- **Discussion Questions:**
 1. What stood out to you in today's passage?
 2. What questions do you still have?
 3. What is God asking you to do in response?

End your time with prayer, and ask the Lord to help you apply what you have learned today.

March 24 - Tuesday

Ask the Holy Spirit to guide your time, then read the following Scriptures.

- **Scripture:** James 1:1-12

Reflect on the devotional, and answer the questions to dive in deeper!

- **Devotional:** James opens his letter by calling suffering a strange kind of gift—one God uses to grow our endurance and mature our faith. Trials don't feel joyful in the moment, but James reminds us that God is at work through them, shaping us into people who trust Him more deeply. Instead of asking God to remove every hardship, we're invited to ask for wisdom to endure them faithfully. During Lent, this passage helps us see suffering not as punishment, but as purposeful training in the hands of a loving Father. As we persevere, we participate in the work of our sanctification as the Spirit grows our spiritual roots. In the midst of the battles, we can cling to the promise that God is forming us—not for temporary comfort, but for lasting joy!

- **Discussion Questions:**

1. What stood out to you in today's passage?
2. What questions do you still have?
3. What is God asking you to do in response?

End your time with prayer, and ask the Lord to help you apply what you have learned today.

March 25 - Wednesday

Ask the Holy Spirit to guide your time, then read the following Scriptures.

- **Scripture:** Romans 5:1-11

Reflect on the devotional, and answer the questions to dive in deeper!

- **Devotional:** Romans 5 reminds us that suffering does not mean God is against us. We have already been justified by faith and have peace with Him through Christ. Paul traces a surprising path: suffering produces endurance, character, and hope—not because pain itself is good, but because God is faithful in the midst of it. The Scriptures promise that this hope will not disappoint, for God has poured His love into our hearts through the Holy Spirit. During Lent, this passage anchors our suffering in the cross, where Christ demonstrated His love by dying for us while we were still sinners. Our hardships, then, are not signs of God's abandonment. They are invitations to trust more deeply in the One who has already secured our future.
- **Discussion Questions:**
 1. What stood out to you in today's passage?
 2. What questions do you still have?
 3. What is God asking you to do in response?

End your time with prayer, and ask the Lord to help you apply what you have learned today.

March 26 - Thursday

Ask the Holy Spirit to guide your time, then read the following Scriptures.

- **Scripture:** Romans 8:12-39

Reflect on the devotional, and answer the questions to dive in deeper!

- **Devotional:** Romans 8 reminds us that suffering is part of life in a broken world, but it is never the final word for those who belong to Christ. As sons and daughters adopted by grace, we suffer with Him now so that we may be glorified with Him later. Paul does not minimize our afflictions—the Bible never asks us to pretend that pain isn't painful. Instead, he places them within the unshakable love of God that holds us fast. He anchors our hope in the gift of the Spirit, who intercedes for us when suffering leaves us overwhelmed and speechless. During Lent, this passage invites us to face hardship honestly while clinging to the promise that nothing can separate us from the love of Jesus. Even in our weakness and groaning, God is at work, carrying us forward toward a future where suffering will give way to redemption and everlasting life.
- **Discussion Questions:**
 1. What stood out to you in today's passage?
 2. What questions do you still have?
 3. What is God asking you to do in response?

End your time with prayer, and ask the Lord to help you apply what you have learned today.

March 27 - Friday

Ask the Holy Spirit to guide your time, then read the following Scriptures.

- **Scripture:** 2 Corinthians 4:1-18

Reflect on the devotional, and answer the questions to dive in deeper!

- **Devotional:** 2 Corinthians 4 pulls back the curtain on what faithful ministry and discipleship truly look like: not strength on display, but endurance under pressure. Paul speaks honestly about being worn down, opposed, and stretched thin, yet he refuses to lose heart because God is at work through it all. He suffered greatly for the sake of the Gospel, and yet he persevered, knowing it was worth it. Our suffering exposes our limits, reminding us that the life—and the treasure—we carry comes from Christ, not from ourselves. During Lent, this passage invites us to stop hiding our weaknesses and instead offer them to God as the places where His power shines most brightly. As we live with eternity in view, even heavy affliction becomes a vessel through which God forms lasting hope within us.

- **Discussion Questions:**

1. What stood out to you in today's passage?
2. What questions do you still have?
3. What is God asking you to do in response?

End your time with prayer, and ask the Lord to help you apply what you have learned today.

March 28 - Saturday

Ask the Holy Spirit to guide your time, then read the following Scriptures.

- **Scripture:** Philippians 3:1-16

Reflect on the devotional, and answer the questions to dive in deeper!

- **Devotional:** Philippians 3 reminds us that the goal of the Christian life isn't about stacking up spiritual credentials. It's about gladly losing everything to gain Christ. Paul doesn't romanticize suffering—he experienced plenty of it, and he counts it as real loss. Yet he insists that knowing Christ is far better than comfort, reputation, or control. Anyone who has walked with Jesus for a while knows this to be true! During Lent, this passage challenges us to ask whether we are clinging to our own sense of righteousness or resting fully in the righteousness Christ gives us by faith alone. Sharing in Christ's sufferings is part of how God loosens our grip on this world and fixes our hope on the resurrection to come. So we press on—not because we've arrived, but because Christ has already secured the victory for us!

- **Discussion Questions:**

1. What stood out to you in today's passage?
2. What questions do you still have?
3. What is God asking you to do in response?

End your time with prayer, and ask the Lord to help you apply what you have learned today.

HOLY WEEK

The first six weeks of Lent lead us to the most important part of the whole season—Holy Week. The days stretching from Palm Sunday to Easter Sunday mark the sacred time of Jesus’s triumphal entry into Jerusalem, His clearing of the temple, Passover, and the Last Supper with His disciples, His death on the cross, and His glorious resurrection!

Even though some of these events have been touched on earlier in this guide, they are worth reflecting on deeply as we close out the Lenten season. To help with this, we have included additional resources at the end of this guide specifically for Holy Week.

The weight of this week can be difficult for children to grasp, but we encourage you to invite them to participate! Jesus’s rescue mission is good news for everyone. This is the ultimate pinnacle of our hope and the source of our greatest celebration!

We pray that the supplementary family activities provide opportunities for you to share the Gospel with your entire household. May they enrich your discussions about Jesus’s final days on earth and help your children—or even lost family members—see the beauty of Christ’s saving work.

As you complete our 40 days of study and talk about the events of Holy Week, we encourage you to rejoice! The victory of Jesus and the salvation He offers us is the greatest cause for our joy and worship!

March 29 - Palm Sunday

Ask the Holy Spirit to guide your time, then read one or all of the following Scriptures.

- **Scripture:** Matthew 21:1–11, Mark 11:1–11, Luke 19:28–44, John 12:9–19

Reflect on the devotional, and answer the questions to dive in deeper!

- **Devotional:** Palm Sunday shows us a King who comes gently—not grasping for power, but willingly walking toward suffering. The crowds shout “Hosanna,” yet they long for a Messiah who will fix their present circumstances and overthrow Roman oppression. They do not yet want a Savior who will die for their sins—and in many ways, we are not so different. Jesus knows the praise will fade, the palms will be dropped, and the cross is coming, yet He rides on in perfect obedience to the Father’s will. This scene humbles us, reminding us that our salvation does not depend on our fleeting enthusiasm, but on Christ’s sovereign resolve to save His people. As Lent nears its end, Palm Sunday calls us to follow King Jesus—not only in celebration, but on the costly road of submission that leads to life.
- **Discussion Questions:**
 1. What stood out to you in today’s passage?
 2. What questions do you still have?
 3. What is God asking you to do in response?

End your time with prayer, and ask the Lord to help you apply what you have learned today.

March 30 - Holy Monday

Ask the Holy Spirit to guide your time, then read one or all of the following Scriptures.

- **Scripture:** Matthew 21:12–22, Mark 11:12–19, Luke 19:45–48

Reflect on the devotional, and answer the questions to dive in deeper!

- **Devotional:** Holy Monday confronts us with a Jesus who is both tender Savior and righteous Judge. As He clears the temple, Christ exposes how easily true worship is crowded out by profit, noise, and empty religious routines. This isn’t a loss of control on His part—it is holy zeal flowing from the authority of the Son who cares deeply about the Father’s glory. The warning in these passages lands close to home: God is not impressed by busy religion that bears no fruit of repentance and faith. Lent invites us to let Christ search our hearts, overturn what does not belong, and prune the fruitless branches of our spiritual lives. As He works in us, He restores us to worship—a praise that flows not from our efforts or performance, but from His grace.

- **Discussion Questions:**

1. What stood out to you in today's passage?
2. What questions do you still have?
3. What is God asking you to do in response?

End your time with prayer, and ask the Lord to help you apply what you have learned today.

March 31 - Holy Tuesday

Ask the Holy Spirit to guide your time, then read one or all of the following Scriptures.

- **Scripture:** Matthew 21:23–26:5, Mark 11:27–14:2, Luke 20:1–22:2, John 12:37–50

Reflect on the devotional, and answer the questions to dive in deeper!

- **Devotional:** On Holy Tuesday, we see Jesus teaching with authority in the temple, confronting the hardness of hearts and the hypocrisy of the religious leaders. He warns of coming judgment, yet He also proclaims the Gospel clearly, calling all people to repentance and faith. Even as the world resists Him, Christ's words remain steadfast and true. He reminds us that His Word brings light and life, while those who reject Him remain in darkness. As we reflect on this passage during Lent, we are invited to listen with hearts open to His truth, to repent of our own hardness, and to trust in the living, powerful Word of God.

- **Discussion Questions:**

1. What stood out to you in today's passage?
2. What questions do you still have?
3. What is God asking you to do in response?

End your time with prayer, and ask the Lord to help you apply what you have learned today.

April 1 - Holy Wednesday

Ask the Holy Spirit to guide your time, then read one or all of the following Scriptures.

- **Scripture:** Matthew 26:6–16, Mark 14:3–11, Luke 22:3–6

Reflect on the devotional, and answer the questions to dive in deeper!

- **Devotional:** On Holy Wednesday, Jesus is anointed at Bethany, and His response reveals the beauty of faithful devotion. He honors the woman’s love, saying, “She has done a beautiful thing to Me,” reminding us that our acts of worship and sacrifice are precious to Him. At the same time, Judas begins to turn away, plotting to betray our Lord. The contrast is striking: some respond to Jesus with generous love, while others cling to greed and sin. Lent invites us to examine our own hearts—do we serve Christ with wholehearted devotion, or are there areas we hold back? Even as the shadow of betrayal and suffering draws near, Jesus remains steadfast, calling us to faith, repentance, and worship that flows from sincere love.
- **Discussion Questions:**
 1. What stood out to you in today’s passage?
 2. What questions do you still have?
 3. What is God asking you to do in response?

End your time with prayer, and ask the Lord to help you apply what you have learned today.

April 2 - Maundy Thursday

Ask the Holy Spirit to guide your time, then read one or all of the following Scriptures.

- **Scripture:** Matthew 26:17–75, Mark 14:12–72, Luke 22:7–71, John 13:1–18:27

Reflect on the devotional, and answer the questions to dive in deeper!

- **Devotional:** On Maundy Thursday, we watch Jesus humbly wash His disciples’ feet, showing that true greatness is found in lowly service and care for others. At the table, He gives His disciples the bread and cup, calling them—and us—to remember His body given and His blood poured out for the forgiveness of sins. Even as He warns of coming betrayal and Peter’s denial, we see the depth of human weakness set against His perfect obedience. This night draws our hearts to the truth that His love reaches even to the unfaithful. As we meditate on His final hours, we are called to follow Jesus’s example of sacrificial service and love for others. In reflecting on His words and actions, Lent invites us to return again and again to humble dependence, faith, and wholehearted devotion to the One who gave Himself for us.

- **Discussion Questions:**

1. What stood out to you in today's passage?
2. What questions do you still have?
3. What is God asking you to do in response?

End your time with prayer, and ask the Lord to help you apply what you have learned today.

April 3 - Good Friday

Ask the Holy Spirit to guide your time, then read one or all of the following Scriptures.

- **Scripture:** Matthew 27:1-61, Mark 15:1-47, Luke 23:1-56, John 18:28-19:42

Reflect on the devotional, and answer the questions to dive in deeper!

- **Devotional:** On Good Friday, we stand in awe before the cross and witness the Savior bearing the full weight of our sin. Jesus, perfectly holy and innocent, is condemned and crucified, taking upon Himself the punishment we deserved. The sky darkens and the earth trembles, yet in His suffering He surrenders fully to the Father's will. His death reminds us of the seriousness of our sin and the immeasurable depth of God's mercy. As we meditate on this sacrifice, Lent calls us to lay down pride, guilt, and self-reliance, receiving His grace with reverent awe. In the shadow of the cross, we are reminded that nothing—not our failures, not our fears, not even death itself—can separate us from the love of Christ, who endured everything for our redemption!

- **Discussion Questions:**

1. What stood out to you in today's passage?
2. What questions do you still have?
3. What is God asking you to do in response?

End your time with prayer, and ask the Lord to help you apply what you have learned today.

April 4 - Silent Saturday

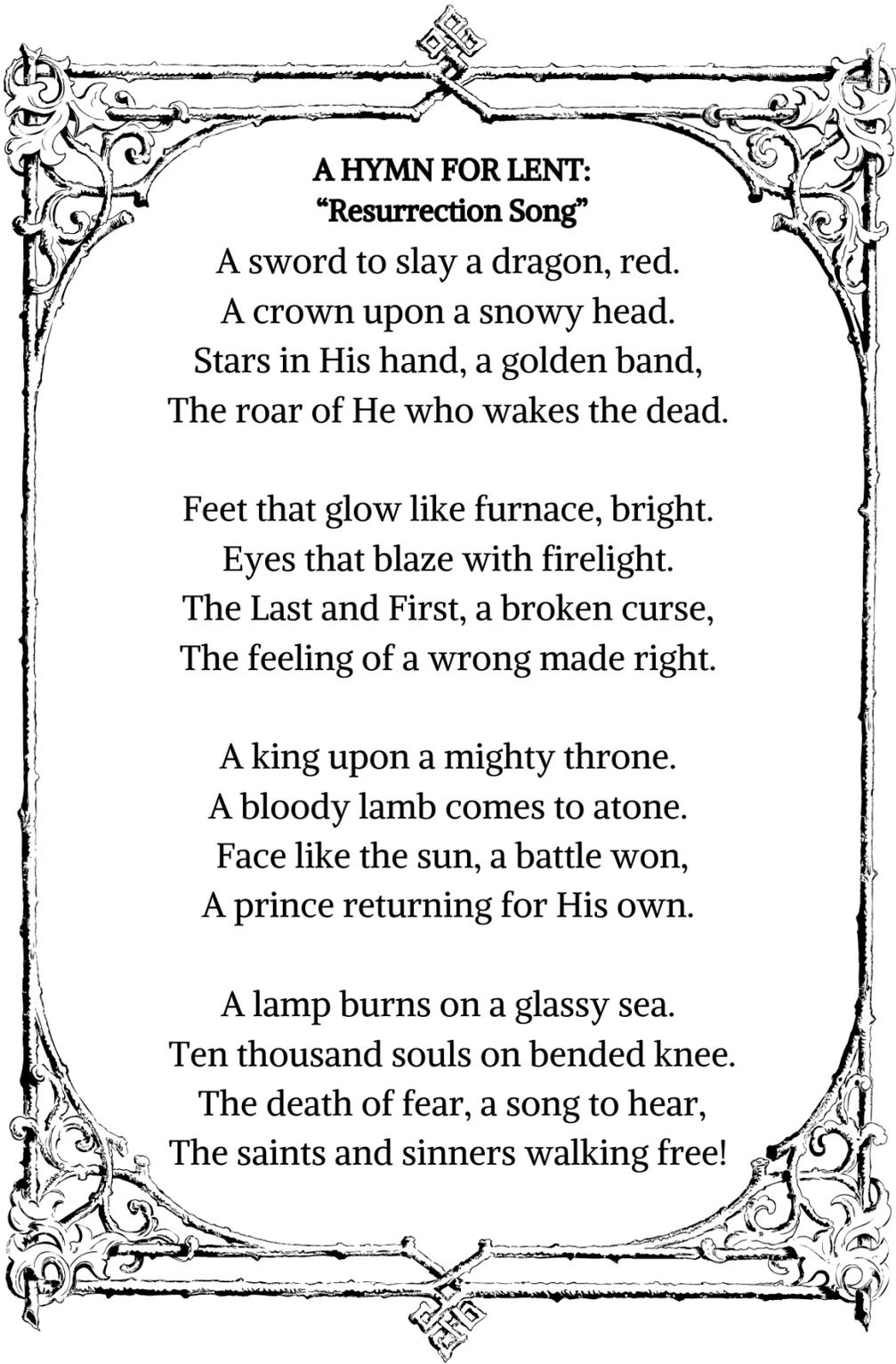
Ask the Holy Spirit to guide your time, then read the following Scriptures.

- **Scripture:** Matthew 27:62–66

Reflect on the devotional, and answer the questions to dive in deeper!

- **Devotional:** On Silent Saturday, the world seems to hold its breath. The tomb is sealed, and Jesus lies in death, the Savior who bore the weight of all our sin. The streets of Jerusalem are quiet, the disciples are confused and fearful, and grief hangs heavy in the air. It is a day of waiting, of questions, and of longing—yet it is also a day of hope hidden beneath the stillness. God’s work is not finished; even in the silence, His plan is moving toward victory. The end of Lent invites us to wait with expectant faith, trusting that despair does not have the final word. The darkness of today points us toward the glory of tomorrow, when Christ will rise, conquering sin and death. It is the most silent day in history—but Sunday is coming, and with it, the light of life, the victory of our risen Lord, and the hope that transforms everything!
- **Discussion Questions:**
 1. What stood out to you in today’s passage?
 2. What questions do you still have?
 3. What is God asking you to do in response?

End your time with prayer, and ask the Lord to help you apply what you have learned today.



**A HYMN FOR LENT:
"Resurrection Song"**

A sword to slay a dragon, red.
A crown upon a snowy head.
Stars in His hand, a golden band,
The roar of He who wakes the dead.

Feet that glow like furnace, bright.
Eyes that blaze with firelight.
The Last and First, a broken curse,
The feeling of a wrong made right.

A king upon a mighty throne.
A bloody lamb comes to atone.
Face like the sun, a battle won,
A prince returning for His own.

A lamp burns on a glassy sea.
Ten thousand souls on bended knee.
The death of fear, a song to hear,
The saints and sinners walking free!

Lent Activity Ideas

GIVING

1. Help someone in need
2. Do someone else's chores
3. Send someone an encouraging note
4. Say something kind to a family member or friend
5. Bake something for a friend or neighbor
6. Wash someone's feet
7. Put together "Blessing Bags" for those in need
8. Donate food to a Food Pantry

FAST FROM

1. TV and movies
2. Video games
3. Dessert
4. Sweets
5. Reading anything but the Bible

PRAYING

1. Praise God for who he is
2. Confess your sins to God
3. Thank God for the people in your life
4. Pray for someone who is sick
5. Kneel and pray
6. Pray for people who are suffering
7. Pray for someone who needs to know Jesus
8. Pray for your pastors
9. Take a family prayer hike

OTHER IDEAS

1. Read a Bible Story as a family
2. Make an Offering Jar
3. Watch a sunrise or sunset and wonder at the beauty from God.
4. Look for rainbows and remember God's Promise
5. Make a Prayer Jar
6. Make a Family Easter Banner
7. Make a Countdown Chain
8. Go on a walk and talk about Jesus's travels
9. Tell someone why you love Jesus
10. Make Resurrection Rolls