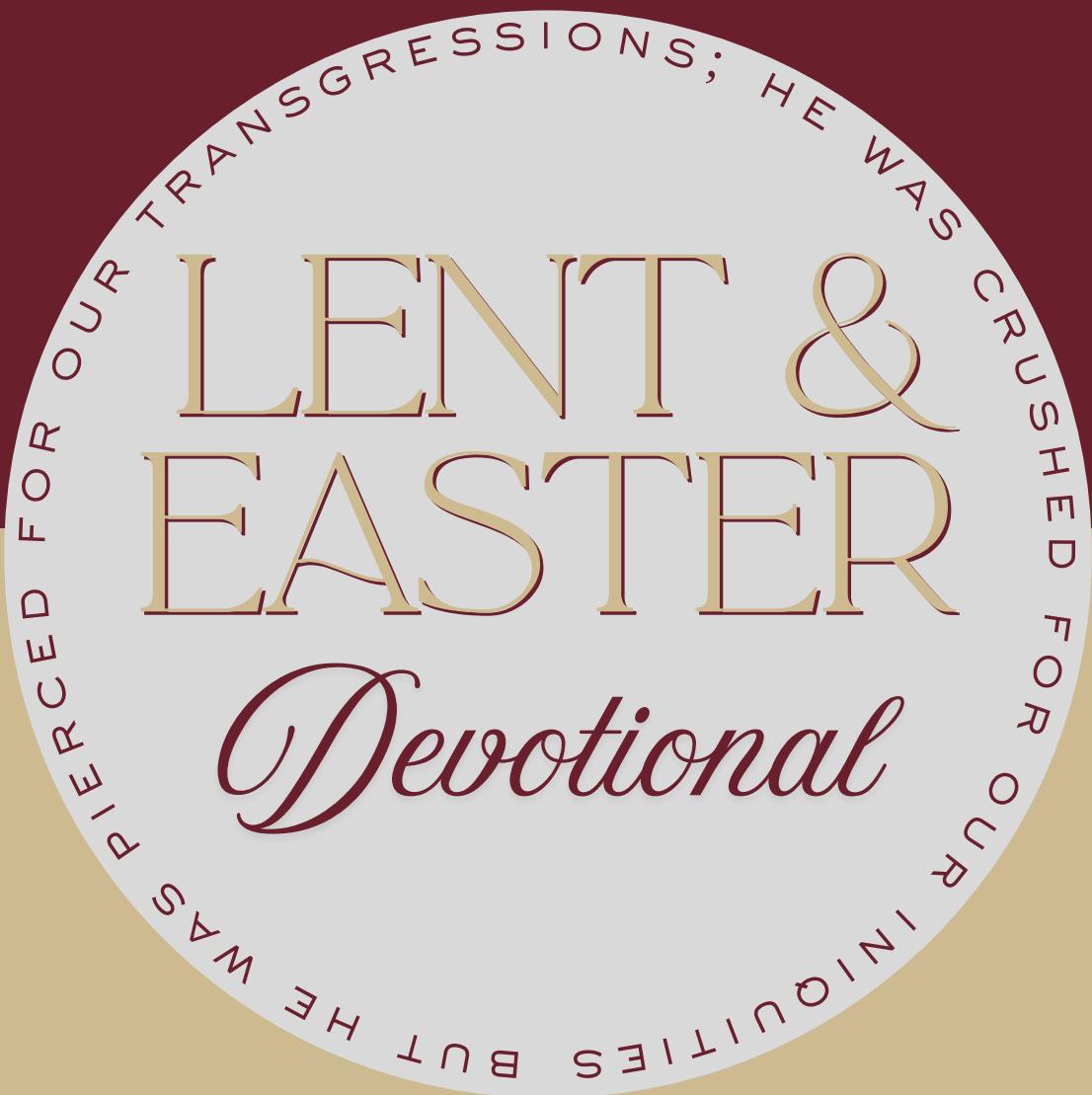




CANYON CREEK
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



Fast | Wilderness | Test | Thirst | Lament

Promise | Passion | Witness | Hope

How to Use this Devotional

LENT & EASTER

The death and resurrection of Jesus Christ stand at the center of the Christian faith. **Lent** is a forty-day season of preparation and repentance, beginning on Ash Wednesday and leading to Good Friday, the day Jesus was crucified. Many Christians choose to fast during Lent, following Jesus' example in the wilderness, though this practice is optional. **Easter** celebrates the resurrection of Jesus from the dead. Technically, every Sunday is a celebration of Christ's resurrection, which is why Sundays are not counted among the forty days of Lent. They are feasting days, not fasting days. This devotional spends two weeks after Easter Sunday, reflecting on the risen Christ.

SATURDAYS & SUNDAYS

You'll notice there are no devotionals provided for Saturdays or Sundays. You can use the free Saturday to make up any days you missed earlier in the week. And Sunday's devotional is corporate. Go to church and worship with God's people!

THEMES

Each week has a different theme. The first week of Lent focuses on the theme of **Fast**. How we return. The second week of Lent focuses on the theme of **Wilderness**. Where we wander. The third week of Lent focuses on the theme of **Test**. What reveals us. The fourth week of Lent focuses on the theme of **Thirst**. What we seek. The fifth week of Lent focuses on the theme of **Lament**. What we feel. The sixth week of Lent focuses on the theme of **Promise**. What God will do. The final week of Lent focuses on the theme of **Passion**. What Jesus suffered. The first week of Easter focuses on the theme of **Witness**. What we have seen. The second week of Easter focuses on the theme of **Hope**. What we await.

SCRIPTURE READING

Each devotional's Scripture reading is listed at the top right. The actual text is not printed in this booklet, so you will need to read it on your own before proceeding. We recommend using a physical Bible if you have one. Consider reading the passage out loud as well.

DEVOTIONAL

Each devotional has several parts. The largest is a reflection to read and consider. It will invite you into the world of the text's original author and audience, as well as its relation to Christ and our world today. Next you'll find two questions to help you reflect personally. Then a prayer prompt to guide your conversation with God. Finally, there is a quick activity to make a truth come alive.

AUTHORS

We are thankful for all the authors who contributed to this devotional. They are: Emmeline Chen, Matt Dombroski, Tori Dombroski, Karie Edwards, Eric Ford, Doug Hughes, Michelle Kiriakos, Adriane Marsh, Tricia Rohrs, Holly Timmons, and Kevin Timmons.

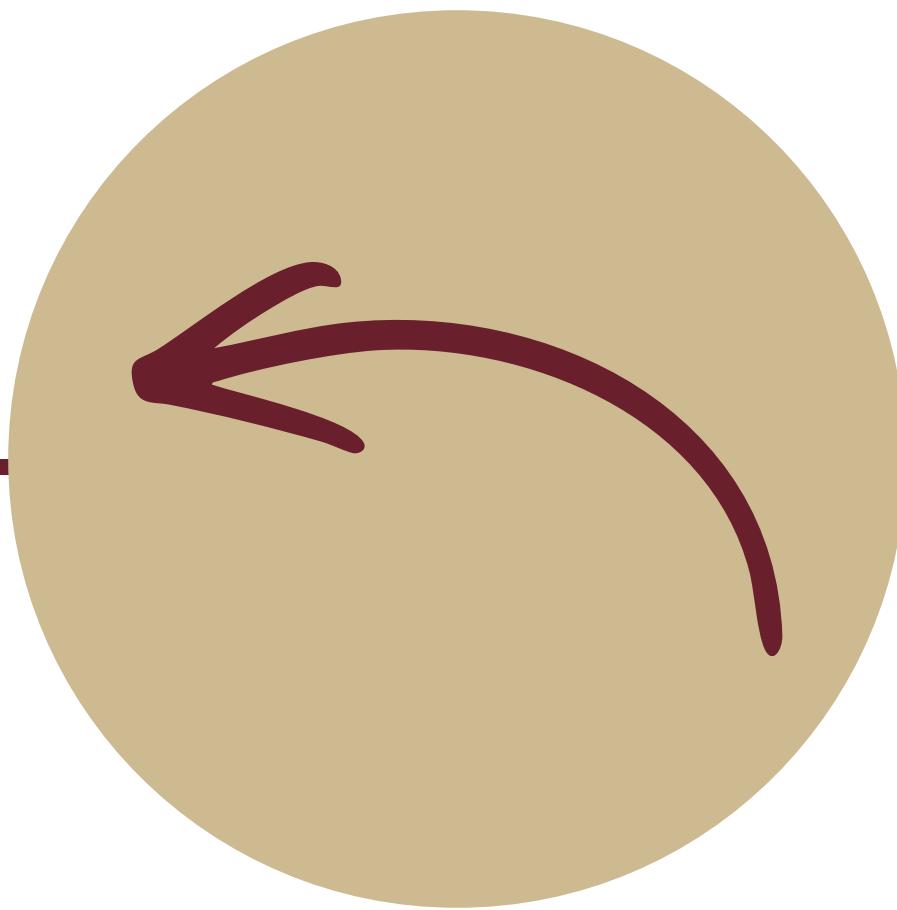
CONCLUSION

We pray that the Lord uses this devotional to draw you back to Christ in repentance and solidify the hope we have in his and our resurrection. As the Easter hymn says: "Love's redeeming work is done / Fought the fight, the battle won / Death in vain forbids him rise / Christ has opened paradise." May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing!

Lent 1

FAST

How We Return



Return to the Lord your God,
for He is gracious and merciful,
slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love.

JOEL 2:13

DAY 1 | ASH WEDNESDAY

Return to the Lord

JOEL 2:1-17

REFLECTION

This passage begins with the sound of a trumpet blowing in Zion—the place where the Lord sits enthroned. Zion is often another name for Jerusalem, the city where the temple stood as the dwelling place of God.

But this trumpet is not a call to praise or celebration. It is a warning. The inhabitants of the land are told to be alert, because something dangerous is approaching: the day of the Lord.

That day is described as dark and gloomy. Blackness spreads over the land and its people. An invading army is on the move—unlike any foreign army Israel has ever faced. This is not an enemy nation marching toward Jerusalem. It is the armies of the living God Himself. Fire surrounds them. They come with war horses and chariots. The earth quakes before them. Their sights are set on Zion, and nothing can stop their advance.

Why would the armies of the living God march against His own people? Why is the day of the Lord a threat to Jerusalem? Shouldn't Israel's enemies be the target of such judgment?

In a sense, they are—because Israel's greatest enemy is not some foreign nation, but sin. Israel's worldly enemies are sinful as well, and their day will come. But judgment begins with the house of the Lord. God's people have been unfaithful. They have not loved the Lord with all their heart, nor have they loved their neighbors as themselves. And so God warns them: the day of the Lord is near, blow a trumpet in Zion.

Yet even here, there is hope. God invites His people to return to Him, because He is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. He relents from disaster. They are not beyond repentance. They can return—with all their heart.

The Lord calls them to do this together, as a community. He commands them to weep and mourn over their sin, to consecrate a fast, and to gather the entire assembly—everyone from nursing infants to newlyweds. Nothing else in life is more important than returning to the Lord when our hearts have wandered far from Him.

We know even more than the ancient Israelites about the grace and mercy of God. We know Jesus—and the judgment and suffering He endured to save us. Has your heart drifted from Him? Has sin gained a foothold in your life? Return, even now, to Jesus. He is slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. Return to Him with all your heart.

ASK

1| Why is our own sin our greatest enemy?

2| In what ways has your heart drifted away from the Lord? Do you want to return to him?

PRAY

Pray a prayer of confession and repentance. Ask God to forgive you and help you to return to him.

DO

Pick something to fast from. Could be for one day, one week, or the entire lent season. Whenever you forgo it, tell the Lord that He is all you need.

DAY 2 | THURSDAY

True Fasting

ISAIAH 58:1-12

REFLECTION

This passage begins with an indictment. The charge? Outward piety without repentance, inward transformation, or resulting good works.

God condemns superficial religious observance by people who seek to earn His favor while hypocritically continuing to oppress others, quarrel and fight, accuse (“point fingers”), and speak wickedness. Their approach to God—including fasting—is self-centered, aimed at securing personal blessing rather than blessing others. In short, they display what Scripture calls “faith without works” (see James 2:14-17).

God then explains what true fasting actually is: breaking the oppressive yoke of sin and providing practical help to those in material need—food, shelter, and clothing. In the broadest sense, true fasting means caring for others as whole persons, both spiritually and physically. This runs directly against our natural self-centeredness. It requires deep, genuine repentance and a longing for spiritual transformation that can only be found in Jesus Christ.

Jesus perfectly embodied Isaiah’s description of true fasting. At the very beginning of His ministry, while teaching in the synagogue in His hometown of Nazareth, Jesus declared that He fulfilled Isaiah 61:

“The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor” (Luke 4:18-19).

We are called to imitate Jesus. But that is only possible if we truly repent of our self-centeredness, receive the forgiveness of our sins through Christ’s atoning work on the cross, and rely on the indwelling Holy Spirit to transform our motivations and actions.

We do not imitate Jesus in order to earn His favor. Rather, we are first called to receive God’s favor—His freely given grace—which then motivates us to imitate Jesus. In other words, good works, including sacrificial care for others, are the result of true faith, not the cause of it. They are the fruit, not the root, of salvation. This is the true fast that God desires for us.

“For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them” (Eph. 2:10).

ASK

1| What are some current examples of superficial religious practices?

2| How much is your faith centered on yourself rather than on others?

PRAY

Ask God to give you sensitivity and passion to help others, both spiritually and materially.

DO

Think of one person you can help more, then commit to doing it.

DAY 3 | FRIDAY

Your Father Sees in Secret

MATTHEW 6:1-8, 16-18

REFLECTION

Jesus warns us that God does not reward insincere faith, even when it appears to be accompanied by good works. If our motives are misplaced—such as giving to the needy in order to be honored by others—God does not reward those actions.

Instead, He rewards those who act from sincere faith, doing good not to be seen by others, but out of genuine love for God. In this passage, Jesus highlights three key practices of faith: generosity, prayer, and fasting.

Realistically, we often engage in these practices with mixed motives. We may love God and genuinely desire to honor Him, while at the same time feeling the pull of wanting to be noticed or affirmed by others.

To discern our true motives, we need honest self-reflection. We can ask ourselves: Would I still do this if no one were watching? Would I still do it if no one ever knew? Are we seeking to glorify God rather than ourselves? If we can answer “yes” to these questions, our motives are likely aligned rightly. Even so, Jesus encourages us to practice these acts in secret, guarding our hearts against temptation.

Jesus refers to those who perform acts of righteousness to be seen by others as hypocrites. He condemns doing good things for the wrong reasons. In His own day, this criticism was directed at the Pharisees and other religious leaders. In our own time, it can apply to leaders or individuals who engage in acts of justice or charity primarily to impress others or build influence, rather than to truly love and serve those in need.

This teaching also calls us to wisdom when observing the actions of others. It is not our role to judge another person’s heart. But when it becomes clear that someone is seeking self-glory rather than God’s glory, we may be called—gently and humbly—to come alongside them, offering correction and encouraging a more sincere, God-honoring posture.

ASK

1| Can you describe a time when you were tempted to engage in an act of righteousness to affirm yourself rather than God? What happened?

2| How does it feel when you do an act of righteousness with sincere motives of honoring God?

PRAY

Pray that God would help you discern and identify areas in your life where you engage in generosity, prayer, or fasting to impress others.

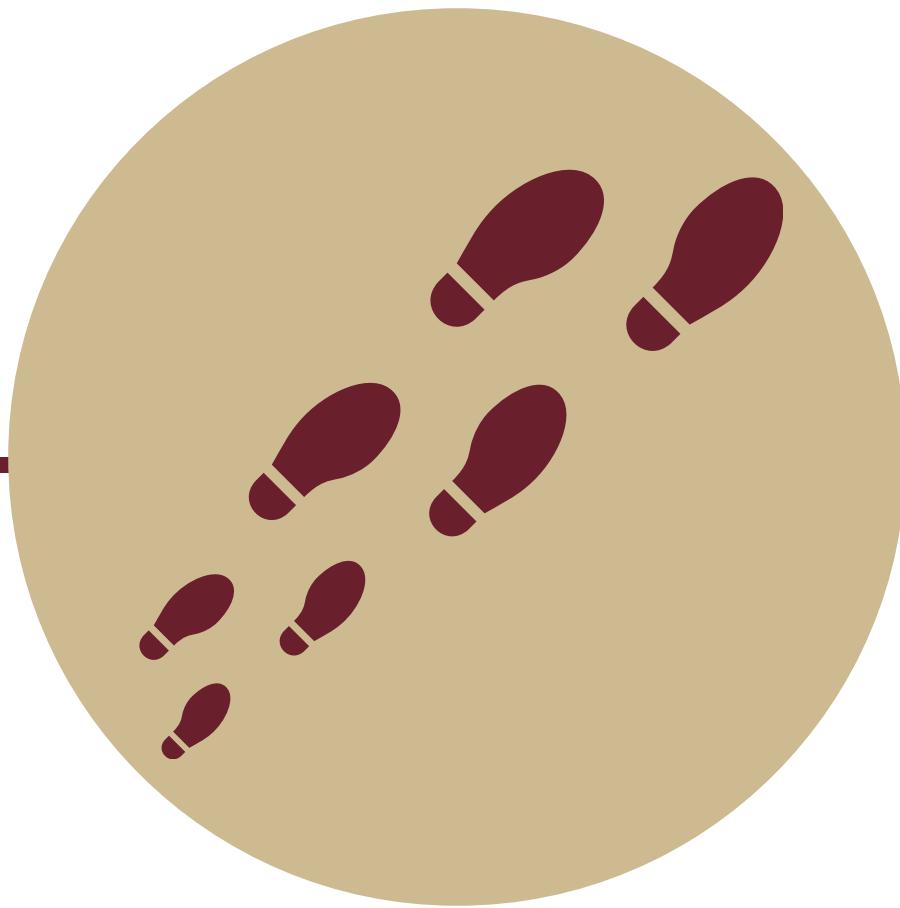
DO

Take some time to prayerfully reflect on things you are deeply grateful to God for. Write down at least ten of them. Pray to God silently in your room, thanking him for those things.

Lent 2

WILDERNESS

Where We Wander



He led you through the great and terrifying
wilderness... to do you good in the end.

—
DEUTERONOMY 8:15-16

DAY 5 | MONDAY

East of the Garden

GENESIS 3:8-24**REFLECTION**

We can trace the theme of wilderness all the way back to Adam and Eve being banished from the Garden of Eden. They began their lives in paradise, where everything was as it was meant to be. But when they sinned against God by eating the forbidden fruit, He sent them out of the garden—eastward, into the wilderness—to live out the rest of their days. God blocked the way back with a cherubim and a flaming sword. There was no human way to return to paradise. Humanity now lives in the wilderness.

In many ways, the curses described in this passage are a picture of life in the wilderness. Childbearing is painful. Husbands and wives experience conflict. Work becomes difficult. The ground resists our efforts and does not yield fruit without exhausting toil—and even then, the output never seems to match the input. And in the end, we die. We return to the ground as dust. This is what life is like outside the garden.

Yet even in the midst of judgment and exile, grace is present. God promises that one day an offspring of Eve will come who will crush the head of the serpent. This is often understood as the first announcement of the gospel in Scripture. Though humanity is sentenced to life in the wilderness for now, a day is coming when someone will lead us home to paradise—stepping on the serpent's head along the way. Life in the wilderness is painful, but good is promised in the end.

What's more, God gives Adam and Eve new clothing. After eating the fruit, they became aware of their nakedness, and it filled them with shame. Life in the wilderness often does the same to us—it

exposes our vulnerability and makes us painfully aware of our imperfections. In mercy, God clothes them with garments of skin.

Where did those skins come from? They could only have come from a slain animal. A death had to occur so that Adam and Eve could be covered.

And the same is true for us. The only way we can be clothed for our journey through the wilderness toward paradise is through death. And that death has already taken place. Jesus Christ died on the cross to clothe us in His righteousness—and He is the One who leads us home.

ASK

1| How does the world today demonstrate characteristics of the wilderness?

2| In what ways do you get a little too comfortable living in our world, forgetting that it's ultimately the wilderness?

PRAY

Ask God for specific things you need him to provide for you in the wilderness. Ask him to give you hope that there is good coming in the end.

DO

As you put on some article of clothing today (coat, shoes, etc) reflect on how it is protecting you from life in the wilderness.

DAY 6 | TUESDAY

Moses Flees to Midian

EXODUS 2:11-3:12**REFLECTION**

Moses seemed to have it all. Though he was a Hebrew, he grew up in the royal household of Egypt, raised by Pharaoh's own daughter. Every worldly need was provided for him.

Until one day, his temper got the better of him. When Moses saw an Egyptian beating a Hebrew—one of his own people—he looked around, made sure no one was watching, and killed the Egyptian. But he was seen. Word spread, and even Pharaoh heard about it and sought to kill him.

Moses was forced to flee into the wilderness, to the land of Midian. One day he had everything; the next, he had nothing. One day he had a home; the next, he was wandering in the wilderness. And yet, it is often in the wilderness—when we have nothing—that God does some of His deepest work.

In Midian, Moses soon encountered the priest of the land after helping his daughters draw water from a crowded well. The priest welcomed Moses into his home. In time, Moses married one of his daughters, and they had a son named Gershom—so named because Moses had become a sojourner.

Meanwhile, back in Egypt, the enslaved Israelites cried out to God for deliverance. God heard their cries and knew exactly whom He would use to lead His people to freedom: Moses.

Before his years in the wilderness, Moses had seen the oppression of his people and believed he could take matters into his own hands. That effort led only to exile. But after being stripped of privilege and quietly shaped over many years, Moses was finally ready to be used by God.

Through a burning bush, God called Moses and sent him back to Pharaoh to lead the Israelites out of slavery. Moses responded humbly, asking, "Who am I that I should go?" He understood now that, on his own, he was not sufficient for the task. This was precisely what God wanted him to see. And so God reassured him with a simple promise: "I will be with you."

Often, the same is true for us. It is only after we have been stripped of what we once relied upon and shaped through seasons in the wilderness that we are gently restored and prepared to join God in His work. And just as Moses heard God's promise, Jesus says to us, "I am with you always, to the end of the age" (Matt. 28:20).

ASK

1| Why do you think being formed by difficulty "in the wilderness" is a part of so many biblical stories?

2| When have you experienced a difficult season "in the wilderness?" How did it form you?

PRAY

Thank God for the good he did in your life through difficult seasons. Ask him to reassure you that he is with you always, especially if another seasons in the wilderness lies ahead.

DO

Do something difficult or inconvenient today. Take the long way home. Do something manually. Make something from scratch. Reflect on how hard work can be refining.

DAY 7 | WEDNESDAY

Crossing the Red Sea

EXODUS 14:1-4, 10-14, 29-31**REFLECTION**

God sent plagues upon Egypt to compel Pharaoh to release the Israelites from slavery. With God's mighty help, His people finally left Egypt and tasted freedom. But Pharaoh's heart hardened once more, and he pursued them. Once again, God stepped in to fight for His people.

With the Red Sea before them and Pharaoh's army closing in behind them, the Israelites were understandably terrified. They were keenly aware of their own limitations and unsure how they could survive both the natural barrier in front of them and the powerful enemy advancing from behind.

It is in this moment—trapped between the sea and the army, weighed down by fear and anger—that Moses rises into the leader God had called him to be, and the leader the people needed.

Moses calls the people to trust in God's power rather than their circumstances. He asks them to turn their fear into faith. The Israelites were limited—but God was not. Left to themselves, they would surely fail. But God's power never fails. He alone could part the waters of the Red Sea and then cause them to crash back down again.

And that is exactly what He did. God divided the sea so His people could walk through on dry ground. He protected them by allowing the waters to return, overwhelming the pursuing Egyptian army. Moses trusted God and followed His command, stretching out his staff over the sea—and God acted.

Faith placed in God is never misplaced, because He is good and powerful. Faith placed in ourselves will always fall short. It may seem difficult to imagine a greater display of God's power than the parting of the Red Sea—but God would later do something even greater. He sent Jesus.

In Christ, God fought the ultimate battle for us—the battle against sin and death. We could never save ourselves, so Jesus took our place, defeated sin, and conquered death itself. Faith in Him leads not to destruction, but to life. God fought for His people at the Red Sea. God fought for us on the cross. And God still fights for us today, in every battle we face and every wilderness we wander. Trust Him.

ASK

1| Why was it important for the people to know that God had saved them and they could not save themselves?

2| Is there a "Red Sea" or an "Egyptian Army" in your life currently? Where do you need to be "silent" and let the "Lord fight for you?"

PRAY

Thank God for His power and faithfulness in the battles you face. Ask Him to help you trust His strength rather than your own and to remember that He fights for you.

DO

Look at a picture that you took of a majestic scene from nature. Reflect and remember that God created this place and cared for you while you were in that place.

DAY 8 | THURSDAY

Turning Back to Egypt

NUMBERS 14:1-4, 26-35

REFLECTION

After God freed the Israelites from slavery in Egypt, Moses led them through the wilderness toward the Promised Land. When they finally arrived, the Israelites sent spies to explore the land. What they found was everything they had longed for during their journey: flowing water, abundant food, and the promise of rest.

God gave them one task in order to possess the land—to trust Him and drive out the people living there, confident that He would give their enemies into their hands. Once the land was taken, the Israelites would be free to enjoy its blessings. But instead of remembering the power of God—who had defeated the mighty Egyptian army and its chariots—the people focused on the strength of their opponents and their own weakness. Fear took hold, and they refused to move forward. They even spoke of returning to Egypt.

This desire to go back to Egypt was more than fear—it was a rejection of God Himself. Turning toward slavery was, in reality, turning away from the Lord. God declared to Moses that He would strike the people with a “great pestilence” and disinherit them for their unbelief, not only losing land, but also identity, belonging, and a future.

Moses interceded for the people, pleading with God to spare them. The Lord relented and did not disinherit Israel entirely. Yet there were still consequences. Every adult who had rejected God’s promise died wandering in the wilderness. Because they forgot God’s power, they chose homelessness and death over the inheritance and life God had offered them.

This story reminds us how easily our human perception of what is “good” can lead our hearts away from God. Fear distorts our vision and causes us to settle for less than what God intends.

But God does not leave us to ourselves. Through Jesus Christ, He gives us a far greater inheritance—His very presence and life (Rom. 5:15). In Christ, we are no longer slaves to sin, but slaves to righteousness (Rom. 6:1-23). The victory has already been won.

Like Israel, we are still called to step forward in faith—to enter into the promises God has secured for us and to receive the blessings He has prepared (Neh. 9:24). The inheritance is ours. The invitation remains. Will we trust Him enough to walk into it?

ASK

1| Is there a sin in your life that causes you to turn away from God and prevents you from harvesting the blessings that God has promised you?

2| What blessings would you be able to gather if this sin was not a strong influence or even a master in your life?

PRAY

Ask the Lord to show you if there are sins that cause you to turn away from Christ’s blessings. Confess what He brings these to mind, then ask the Lord to show you how to gather His blessings.

DO

Listen to the song “The House of God Forever” by Jon Foreman. What promises of God does the song express? Claim them as yours.

DAY 9 | FRIDAY

Exiled to Babylon

2 CHRONICLES 36:11-21**REFLECTION**

This passage records the Southern Kingdom of Judah's final fall. For hundreds of years, God had offered reconciliation through the prophets, patiently calling His people to return to Him. But Judah—and King Zedekiah—persistently rejected the Lord.

In the end, God handed them over to what they desired: life apart from Him and His commands. Without the Lord's protection, Judah was conquered by the Chaldeans and taken into exile for seventy years. Scripture notes that this exile also fulfilled the land's Sabbath rest—a sobering reminder that God's word always comes to pass.

From our modern vantage point, it can be tempting to ask, "Why didn't the people of Judah just follow God?" But we must pause and examine our own hearts. How often do we fail to live according to what God has clearly called us to do? In what ways are we, too, "exceedingly unfaithful?"

Perhaps we do not offer God our first fruits—of our time, by seeking Him daily or honoring Sabbath rest; or of our resources, by trusting Him with our finances. We may profess trust in God with our words, yet hesitate to trust Him with our decisions, our future, or our security. When we look honestly, we find that we are not so different from the people of Judah.

When we reject God and His ways, we choose a kind of exile for ourselves—a wandering in the wilderness without the shelter and protection that come from walking with Him. Sin separates, disorients, and leaves us exposed.

Yet even here, God's mercy shines. When all seems lost, God makes a way. Jesus enters the wilderness on our behalf and opens the path back to right relationship with the Father. This does not mean there are no consequences for sin; we may still experience seasons that feel like exile. But we are never abandoned.

In His perfect timing, the Lord restores. He leads His people out of exile and into true rest. Because of Christ, we can trust that God is faithful to make all things right—and to bring us home.

ASK

1| Have you ever taken or do you regularly practice taking a Sabbath? What does that look like?

2| How does it feel when you do take a Sabbath?

PRAY

Confess the ways in which you are 'exceedingly unfaithful'. Thank God for His Mercy.

DO

Take a Sabbath rest.

Lent 3

TEST

What Reveals Us



For you know that the testing of your faith
produces steadfastness.

JAMES 1:3

DAY 11 | MONDAY

The Testing of Jesus

MATTHEW 4:1-11

REFLECTION

In these passages, the devil devises a cruel plan to undermine God's work of human redemption. He attempts to lure Jesus into sin, which would disqualify Him as our Savior. The devil's strategy targets three key areas of temptation: (1) physical needs and desires, (2) possessions and power, and (3) pride. Scripture warns believers against these very temptations, as 1 John reminds us:

"Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world—the desires of the flesh and the desires of the eyes and pride of life—is not from the Father but is from the world." (1 John 2: 15-16)

Jesus did not give in to these temptations, and in doing so, He sets an example for us to resist worldly desires as well. As Hebrews 4:15 tells us, "He was tempted in every way, just as we are—yet he was without sin." Because the devil's plan failed, we have a Savior who truly understands our struggles. Jesus experienced the same kinds of temptations we face each day. He knows what we contend with and what we are going through. And because of this, He is able to help us in our own battles. We can rely on Him.

In the affluent San Ramon Valley, we may not often be tempted to sin in exchange for basic physical needs or to test God's ability to save us. But we are frequently tempted by material possessions and the desire for power—much like Jesus was when the devil offered Him the kingdoms of the world (Matt. 4:8-9). According to the devil, all Jesus had to do was bow down and worship him in order to receive them. But did the

devil truly have the power to give Jesus those kingdoms? He may have been lying about his authority and possessions.

In a similar way, we can be tempted by offers that seem too good to be true—an outrageous salary, stock options, benefits, or perks. Only later do we discover the strings attached: unreasonable work hours, a hostile environment, or pressures that test our ethics and morals.

If you find yourself in a situation like this, take heart. Jesus was tempted too. He understands the conflict you may be feeling. Turn to Him for strength and wisdom as you seek the right path forward. He loves you, and He is able to make your paths straight.

ASK

1| In what ways are you currently being tempted for physical needs, possessions, power, or pride?

2| What are some practical ways to combat the temptation to sin?

PRAY

Pray to God for strength in the midst of temptation. Ask God to help discern the pathway that would glorify God rather than ourselves.

DO

Talk with a trusted friend or mentor today about the ways you are tempted to sin. Ask them for their honest opinion about whether you give in to those temptations. Discuss with them ways you can hold each other accountable.

DAY 12 | TUESDAY

The Testing of Adam and Eve

GENESIS 2:15-17; 3:1-7

REFLECTION

Genesis 3 is one of the most sobering moments in all of Scripture. God had given Adam and Eve remarkable freedom in Eden: they could eat from any tree except one. The forbidden tree. It represented God's authority to define good and evil. For ancient Israel—and for us—the message is urgent: trust God's word completely, or face the consequences of choosing your own way.

The serpent's strategy has not changed. He begins with questioning: "Did God really say?" He moves to denial: "You will not surely die." And he ends with the promise of autonomy: "You will be like God." We still hear these whispers today. "Did God really say sex is only for marriage? Surely a loving God wouldn't ask you to give that up."

Notice how reasonable Eve's thinking seems. The fruit was good for food, pleasing to the eye, and desirable for gaining wisdom. Sin often comes dressed as something good—just not God's best or God's way. Like our first parents, we constantly weigh God's commands against our own judgment.

What is most devastating is this: Eve had everything—perfect communion with God, no sin nature, and an ideal environment—and she still doubted God's goodness. Adam heard God's command directly and still chose his own way.

We are their children, born with the same impulse toward independence. We are fallen, finite, fragile, and prone to failure. Every time we rationalize sin, we sew fig leaves. Every time we avoid confession, we hide from God in the garden. We cannot save ourselves from ourselves.

And yet—even here—grace breaks through. God comes looking for them. He does not abandon His creatures. He promises that the offspring of the woman will crush the serpent's head (Gen. 3:15)—the first whisper of the gospel.

Jesus is the Second Adam, who succeeds where the first failed. Where Adam grasped at equality with God, Christ "emptied himself" (Phil. 2:7). Where disobedience brought death, Christ's obedience brings life.

The gospel addresses the problem at its root. Through faith in Christ, we receive new hearts—hearts capable of trusting God's goodness. By the Spirit, "God is holding out on me" becomes "The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want." This is grace: God gives us hearts that can finally trust Him.

ASK

1| Where are you most tempted to evaluate God's commands by your own assessment rather than trusting His revealed will?

2| What does it feel like to fully depend on God's wisdom rather than your own, and what fears arise when you consider surrendering that control?

PRAY

Confess one area where you've been listening to the serpent's whisper: "Did God really say?" Ask Him to restore your trust in His goodness.

DO

Write down one of God's commands you find difficult, then spend five minutes asking God to help you trust that it flows from His love for you.

DAY 13 | WEDNESDAY

The Testing of Abraham

GENESIS 22:1-14**REFLECTION**

Abraham's wife, Sarah, was advanced in years, and the "way of women had ceased" for her. Yet God had promised Abraham that his offspring would be as numerous as the stars. By God's grace, Sarah gave birth to a son—Isaac—the heir through whom God's promise would continue to unfold.

Then God commanded Abraham to go to the land of Moriah and offer Isaac as a burnt offering. Scripture records Abraham's response not with protest or hesitation, but with quiet obedience. He rose early the next morning and set out on the journey. As they approached Moriah, Abraham saw "the place from afar." He placed the wood for the offering on Isaac's shoulders and instructed the servants to stay behind with the donkey.

Notably, Abraham told the servants that he and Isaac were going to "worship." For Abraham, obedience to God was worship. He carried the knife in one hand and the fire in the other. He built the altar, arranged the wood, bound Isaac, and raised the knife. At the last moment, God stopped him and provided a ram to be offered in Isaac's place.

This story is ultimately about trust and faith in God. Isaac trusted his father and carried the wood for the sacrifice himself. Abraham may or may not have fully grasped what obedience would cost him, but he trusted God enough to obey. He was willing to surrender the future he cherished because he believed in the faithfulness of the God who had promised it.

Because Jesus is the complete and final sacrifice for our sin, our sacrifices are different from

Abraham's. They are not about justification—our salvation is secure in Christ—but about sanctification. True worship today means placing on the altar the sins and attachments that hinder our growth in godliness. By the power of the Holy Spirit, we offer ourselves fully to the Lord.

May we aspire to be like Abraham—people of trust, faith, and obedience. As Scripture exhorts us: "Remember your leaders, those who spoke to you the word of God. Consider the outcome of their way of life, and imitate their faith" (Heb. 13:7).

ASK

1| What does this passage teach you about the connection between trust, obedience, and true worship?

2| Is there something God may be asking you to place on the altar—something you value deeply or hold tightly? What would it look like to trust Him with that surrender, believing in His faithfulness?

PRAY

Ask Jesus to help you to worship Him above all else with your actions, prayers, and singing.

DO

Read Hebrews 11:17-19.

DAY 14 | THURSDAY

The Testing of Israel

DEUTERONOMY 8:1-2, 11-20**REFLECTION**

Between their exodus from Egypt and their entrance into the Promised Land, the people of Israel wandered in the wilderness for forty years. In Numbers 14, God explains that this wandering was, in part, a judgment for Israel's desire to return to Egypt after He had freed them from slavery. In our passage, God adds another reason for those forty years: He led them through the wilderness to test them.

What was the test? It was to see whether they would remember the Lord their God. The measure was simple. If the Israelites remembered the Lord, they would keep His commandments. If they forgot God, they would not follow His rules and statutes.

Why does God test the Israelites? And why does He test anyone?

First, God's tests are meant to produce humility. They expose how limited we are and how dependent we are on God for every good thing. When we forget God, we are tempted to take credit for blessings we did not earn. When we remember the Lord, we give Him credit for the grace He has shown us. That posture is humbling.

Second, God's tests reveal what is in our hearts. Of course, God already knows our hearts perfectly. So the purpose of testing is not for God to discover something new, but for us to see what is truly within us. When life is going well, we often assume our hearts are healthy. When hardship comes, what is really going on inside us is revealed. Sometimes we discover our hearts are farther from God than we realized. Other times, we see

evidence that we have been walking closely with Him.

Finally, God's tests are for our ultimate good. In the moment, they may feel unpleasant or even painful, but God promises to use them for our benefit. If a test reveals something misaligned in our hearts, it is an invitation to return to the Lord. If it reveals faithfulness, it gives us reason to thank God for His sanctifying work in our lives.

The ultimate test-taker, of course, is Jesus. His test was far greater than any we will face—the suffering and death of the cross. And when He endured that test, it revealed what was in His heart: love for you. On the cross, Jesus remembered you. Will you remember the Lord?

ASK

1| When was a time that you were tested by the Lord? What came from it?

2| What is a sign that reveals your heart is far from God? What is a sign that reveals your heart is close to God?

PRAY

Confess any lack of humility in you currently. Ask God to help you see what is truly in your heart.

DO

As you are able, do some sort of exercise today until you reach your limit. What did that reveal?

DAY 15 | FRIDAY

The Testing of Your Faith

JAMES 1:2-18

REFLECTION

James instructs us to “count it all joy” when we face trials in our lives. This passage was originally addressed to believers experiencing real hardship—those who were marginalized, divided by wealth, and struggling with tensions between Jews and Christians. Their faith was being tested in ways that brought suffering, temptation, and uncertainty.

These words still speak powerfully to us today. James does not say if trials come, but when they come. Trials are a certain part of life in a broken world. What matters most, James reminds us, is not the hardship itself, but how we respond as we walk through it.

When difficulties arise, our instinct is often to turn inward—to rely on ourselves or attempt to control the outcome. Instead, James invites us to see trials as a source of joy, because God uses them to deepen our faith and draw us closer to Him. In these moments, we are given the opportunity to trust God more fully, seek His wisdom, and rest in His presence. Those who place their trust in the Lord can remain steadfast, even in the storm—choosing not to blame Him, but to lean on Him.

As we come before God with humble and repentant hearts, He meets us with grace and forgiveness. Through trials, God refines our hearts. This refining work is part of sanctification—the lifelong process of becoming more like Christ. We learn to release pride and self-sufficiency and to depend more fully on God and His Word.

Though this work continues throughout our lives, each trial becomes an opportunity for growth. As we trust God in every circumstance, we are drawn

closer to Him, bearing fruit in our thoughts, words, and actions. In all things, we can take comfort in knowing that our Lord walks with us—even in hardship.

ASK

1| What are some practical daily habits we can engage in to help us to rely on God?

2| How does it make you feel knowing you’re not alone in hardship, that He is with us?

PRAY

Thank God for walking with you trials both big and small. Ask him to help you trust him and lay your troubles at his feet, rather than relying on yourself.

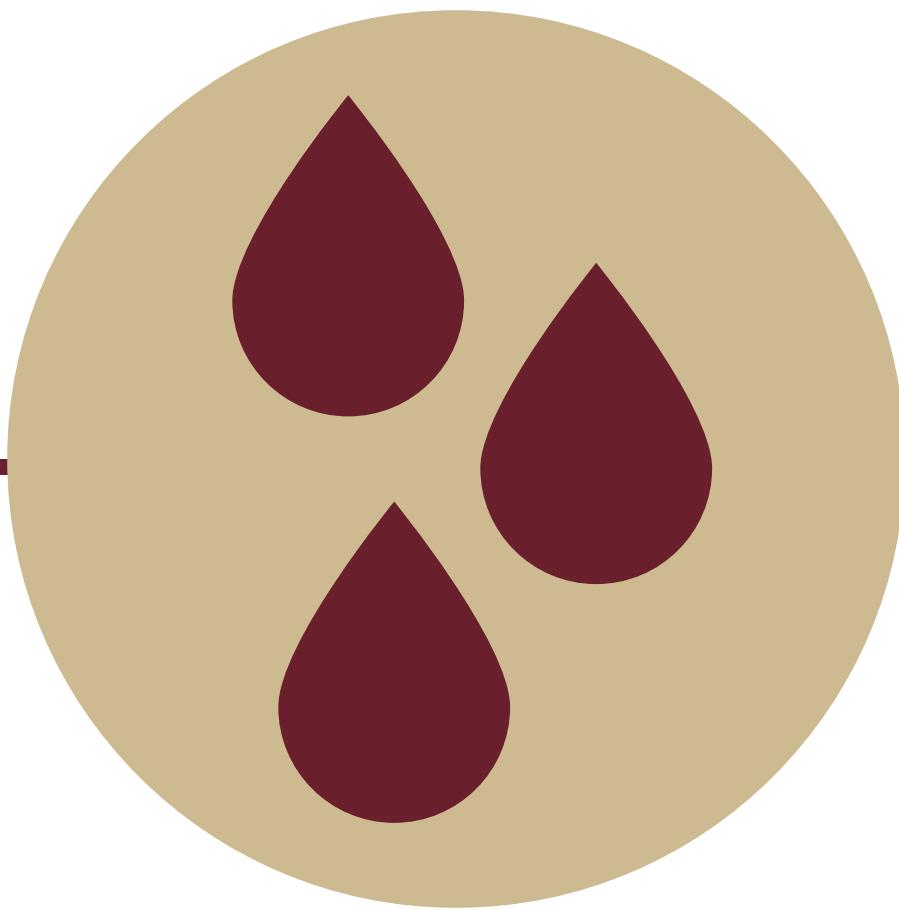
DO

Think about a current trial and how you see God’s hand in it. Journal throughout this trial, writing down prominent passages that help you. In the future look back on these circumstances and reflect how He was present with you every step of the way.

Lent 4

THIRST

What We Seek



My soul thirsts for God,
for the living God.
When shall I come and appear before God?

PSALM 42:2

DAY 17 | MONDAY

Water from the Rock

EXODUS 17:1-7**REFLECTION**

The Israelites were worried because they had no water to drink. This concern is understandable—water is a basic necessity, and without it they would eventually die.

But their worry goes beyond simple concern for survival. It turns into quarreling and grumbling. Moses even says that they are testing the Lord. How are they doing that?

First, the Lord had already provided abundantly for them. In Exodus 15, He made bitter water sweet. In Exodus 16, He provided bread from heaven. And before all of that, He parted the Red Sea so they could escape slavery in Egypt. God had repeatedly shown that He would care for them, especially when it came to their most basic needs.

Second, the people questioned God's motives. They accused Him of leading them out of Egypt only to let them die in the wilderness. This was not merely a complaint about circumstances—it was an accusation against God's character. What kind of God rescues people from slavery only to abandon them to death?

Psalm 95 tells us that in this moment the people hardened their hearts. Ironically, this is the same language used to describe Pharaoh and the Egyptians earlier in Exodus.

Eventually, Moses goes before the Lord—frustrated with the people and afraid they might kill him. Once again, the Lord responds with grace. He instructs Moses to strike the rock at Horeb, and when he does, water flows and the people drink.

Even when God's people are faithless, the Lord remains faithful (2 Tim. 2:13).

A similar episode occurs later in Numbers 20. This time, God tells Moses to simply speak to the rock so that water will flow. But Moses takes matters into his own hands and strikes the rock twice with his staff. Water still comes out, but Moses is told that he will not enter the Promised Land because he did not trust the Lord.

The point of these stories is clear: the Lord—and the Lord alone—is the true source of the water we need. The people should have trusted God from the beginning, and Moses should not have relied on his own strength. Their physical thirst was meant to point them to a deeper reality—their thirst for God. As Paul later wrote about this story, "They drank from the spiritual Rock that followed them, and the Rock was Christ" (1 Cor. 10:4).

ASK

1| In what ways is physical thirst a metaphor for spiritual thirst?

2| What do you thirst for that only God can provide? Where have you been seeking to have your thirst quenched instead?

PRAY

Confess when you have doubted God would provide what you need. Thank God for specific ways he has provided for you.

DO

Every time you take a sip of water today, thank God for quenching your thirst.

DAY 18 | TUESDAY

My Soul Thirsts for You

PSALM 63:1-8**REFLECTION**

David wrote Psalm 63 while he was in the wilderness of Judah—possibly during the time when he was fleeing Jerusalem after his son Absalom turned against him and led an uprising to seize David's throne (2 Sam. 15–18).

While hiding in the wilderness and uncertain about what the future holds, David clings to God. In a parched land with few resources, David recognizes that his deepest, most fundamental need is not physical, but spiritual. His soul thirsts and his flesh faints for the living God—who alone can satisfy the longings of his heart and soul.

David goes on to say that meditating on God's power, glory, and steadfast love gives him strength. Even in the wilderness, David is filled with joy. Remembering how God has been his help, he responds with praise. He reaffirms his faith in God and his lifelong commitment to worship Him.

Are you in a season of wilderness? Do you feel alone and stripped of your resources—disappointed or even betrayed by friends or family? Are you on the run emotionally or spiritually, feeling misunderstood, attacked, or afraid, longing for refuge and gracious acceptance? Or is your wilderness within—do you feel empty and distant from God, anxious and exhausted, longing for rest and restoration?

Take heart—God knows you intimately and understands your unique circumstances. Even more, He loves you completely and steadfastly and has promised to be our ever-present help.

Meditate on His great and faithful love for you. Draw close to Him, drink deeply, and allow Him to fill the dry places of your soul. Cling to our loving Father, rest in the shadow of His wings, and respond with joy.

ASK

1| How has God proven Himself to be faithful to you in the past?

2| How can you trust Him to be faithful and loving to you in your current circumstances?

PRAY

Thank God for the ways He has shown His great love for you. Ask Him to meet you in your time of wilderness and revive your parched soul.

DO

Drink a tall glass of water. As you drink it, meditate on Jesus' promise to be our Living Water, calling all who are thirsty to drink from Him and be satisfied. (John 7:37–38).

DAY 19 | WEDNESDAY

Come to the Waters

ISAIAH 55:1-9

REFLECTION

Through the prophet Isaiah, God calls out to the world, inviting us to quench our spiritual thirst by drawing close to Him. This invitation is for everyone—both those who feel impoverished, as though their resources and energy are depleted, and those who are frantically working, spending time and resources yet never finding true satisfaction for their souls.

Isaiah asks, “Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread, and your labor for that which does not satisfy?” (v. 2). Too often, we chase after what society tells us is important: power, money, comfort, and status. Even good things—like relationships with family and friends—can become idols if we seek them more than we seek God, or if we expect them to fulfill the deepest longings of our hearts.

But God offers a free gift—one that requires no money and no labor. All He asks is that we incline our ears: that we listen to His Word, draw near to Him, and accept His invitation to enter into the everlasting covenant made possible through Jesus’ sacrifice on the cross.

God’s invitation is extended both to those who do not yet know Him and to those of us who call ourselves Christ-followers but have wandered off the path. Our God is gracious and forgiving. Isaiah calls us to “return to the Lord” so that we may experience His compassion and have our sins pardoned—remembered no more.

This invitation and promise can almost seem too good to be true. We know our own hearts—how easily we are captivated by the next shiny thing in our field of vision, how readily we spend our time and energy pursuing success, entertainment,

material possessions, or even good food. Yet even when we attain these things, their allure fades, leaving us empty, disillusioned, and unsatisfied. Thankfully and mercifully, God always welcomes us back with open arms.

Why would the Almighty God extend His grace to us—mere mortals? Why would He choose to sacrifice His Son, Jesus, on our behalf to cover our sins?

Isaiah reminds us that God’s thoughts are not our thoughts, and His ways are not our ways (v. 8). Simply put, God’s ways are higher than ours. For reasons beyond our understanding, He has chosen to love us, sending Jesus to make a way for us to accept His invitation to be with Him for all eternity.

This is the good news. Thanks be to God for the gift of His Son, Jesus.

ASK

1| What have you been chasing after with your time and resources?

2| How is God calling you to return to Him?

PRAY

Confess that you have spent your time, energy, and resources chasing after things that do not satisfy. Thank God for His great love for you and for welcoming you back with forgiveness.

DO

Listen to the song, “We Are Hungry” by Passion (Tommy Difato), and reflect on the lyrics. Acknowledge that you need more of God, and ask Jesus, the Living Water, to rain down on you and to fill you with His breath of life.

DAY 20 | THURSDAY

The Woman at the Well

JOHN 4:5-42

REFLECTION

There were people who encountered Jesus without even realizing they were looking for Him. In this story, Jesus is traveling from Judea to Galilee and intentionally passes through Samaria. This matters because Jews typically avoided interaction with Samaritans. Yet Jesus stops there, sits by a well, and asks a Samaritan woman for a drink. Though He asks her for water, He is the one who offers her something far greater—living water.

The woman soon realizes that Jesus knows everything about her, including her sin. Though they had never met, Jesus knew her deeply. He knew she had been married five times, and He knew what her heart truly needed. She was thirsty—but not just for physical water. She needed living water.

Jesus explains it this way: “Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, but whoever drinks of the water that I will give him will never be thirsty again. The water that I will give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life.” We need water to live on this earth, but we need living water to live forever. Every person Jesus met—and every person we meet—needs this water.

In this encounter, Jesus transforms the woman’s heart and soul. She gives Him water from the well, and He gives her living water—the Holy Spirit dwelling within her. This living water fills her emptiness and quenches the deep thirst in her heart. It connects her to God, surrounds her with His presence, and grows her love for Him.

Before meeting Jesus, what was this woman using to fill that emptiness? What—or whom—was she loving in place of God? Jesus knew all of it. And instead of condemning her, He offered her what she truly needed—something better than all the substitutes she had been relying on.

Our lives may look very different from the Samaritan woman’s, but the need is the same. We, too, are tempted to fill our emptiness with people, places, or things that were never meant to satisfy us. None of them can give us lasting life.

Jesus can. He still offers living water. Ask Him to fill you with His Spirit. Ask Him to quench your thirst with the water that leads to eternal life.

ASK

1| How did Jesus know that the Samaritan woman needed living water? Why did the Samaritan woman need living water?

2| How has the living water changed your life? What does it mean to you to have it?

PRAY

Thank God for the living water He offers through Jesus and for the gift of the Holy Spirit. Ask Him to help you seek Him daily and to guide you in every part of your life.

DO

Make a simple drawing of the well where Jesus met the Samaritan woman. Reflect on why it was important that Jesus and the woman met at this specific place.

DAY 21 | FRIDAY

Flee from Idolatry

REFLECTION

The conclusion of this passage is straightforward: flee from idolatry. Why? Because idolatry leads to destruction, as illustrated by Israel's history of unfaithfulness in the wilderness.

God delivered the Israelites from oppression and slavery in Egypt through a series of mighty acts. He guided them with a pillar of cloud by day, parted the Red Sea, and provided manna and water in the desert. Yet despite God's clear, tangible presence and abundant blessings, many of the Israelites grew ungrateful—some even longing to return to slavery. They participated in idol worship, sexual immorality, and bitter grumbling against God. As a result, an entire generation died in the wilderness before ever reaching the Promised Land.

Paul points to this history as a warning for the Corinthians—an example meant to instruct and caution them. At first, we might think we don't need such a warning. After all, we would never engage in that kind of behavior, especially idolatry. We tend to picture idols as carved or cast images worshiped by ancient cultures—golden calves or pagan deities. But an idol is anything we elevate above God, anything that becomes our highest priority.

Some desires are clearly destructive: the pursuit of unrestrained pleasure through sex, drugs, or alcohol; greed; or the ruthless pursuit of power. More subtly—and often more dangerously—our idols can be good things: achievement, education, health, career advancement, artistic expression, even philanthropy. These good gifts cross the line when they become ultimate things—when they take first place in our lives. No wonder Paul wisely

1 CORINTHIANS 10:1-14

cautions, "Let anyone who thinks that he stands take heed lest he fall." Cultural conformity and pride can easily blind us to our own idolatry.

In the end, our idols will never deliver what they promise, no matter how persuasive the advertising campaigns, self-help books, or carefully curated social media posts that fuel our expectations. Instead, they leave us empty and broken. Tragically, many people come to realize this too late—sometimes only at the end of life. Others never do.

As Blaise Pascal observed so insightfully, "There is a God-shaped vacuum in the heart of each man which cannot be satisfied by any created thing but only by God the Creator, made known through Jesus Christ."

ASK

1| What do you think is our society's most prevalent idol?

2| On close personal reflection, what do you struggle most with as a competitor to God for the top priority in your life?

PRAY

Confess to God your struggles to keep him first in your life. Repent of the priorities you have placed ahead of him. Ask for his power to reorder your passions and priorities in line with his will. Be thankful for his grace and forgiveness.

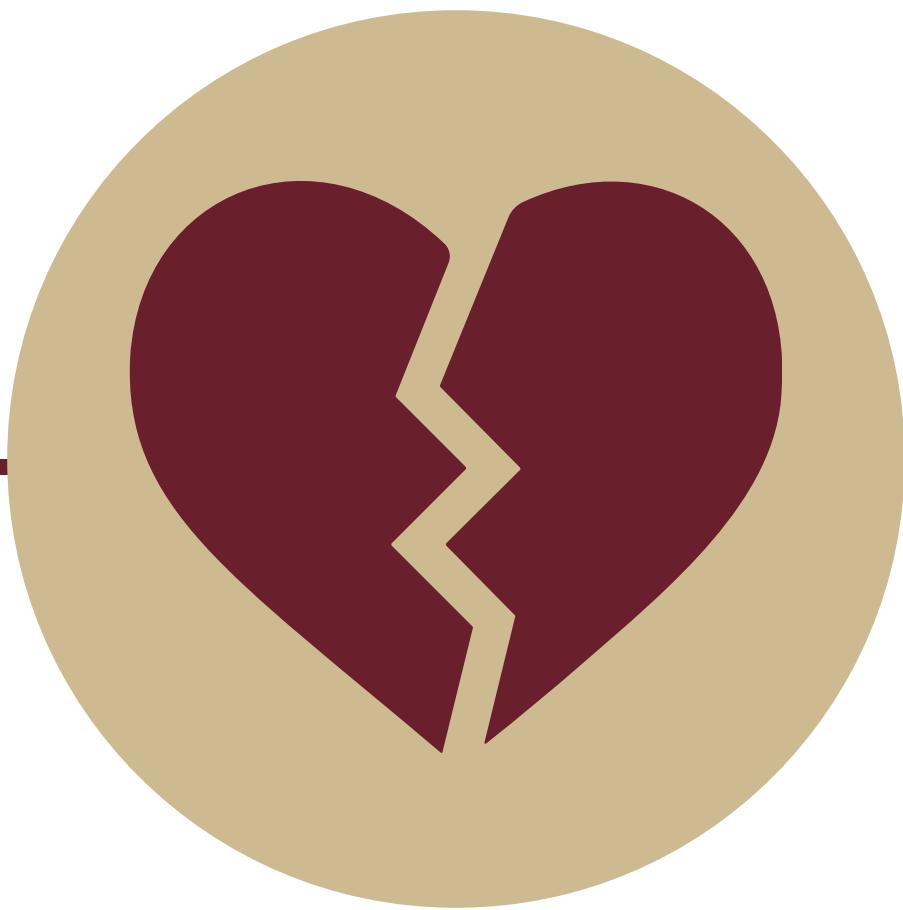
DO

On a note pad or post-it, write the priority that most competes with God for top place in your life. Then strike a big X through it.

Lent 5

LAMENT

What We Feel



The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit;
a broken and contrite heart, O God,
you will not despise.

PSALM 51:17

DAY 23 | MONDAY

Godly Grief

REFLECTION

Paul addresses the grief the Corinthians experienced after receiving a previous letter he had written to them. At first, Paul regretted causing them pain. But now he no longer regrets it—in fact, he rejoices. Why would Paul rejoice over their grief?

He explains that there are two kinds of grief. The first is worldly grief. This kind of grief is centered on the world—on its approval, values, and desires. When we fail to meet the world's expectations or lose what the world prizes, we may experience worldly grief.

For example, the world highly values reputation. If we do something wrong and are exposed, we may feel grief—not because we have sinned against God or harmed our neighbor, but because our reputation has been damaged. That is worldly grief. Paul says this kind of grief ultimately leads to death, because it does not result in repentance or restoration with God.

The second kind is godly grief. Godly grief produces repentance, which leads to salvation. This is the kind of grief Paul saw in the Corinthians, and it is why he rejoiced. Their grief was not the end goal—repentance was. And repentance leads to life.

Whatever Paul wrote to them caused real sorrow, but it did not stop there. Their grief led them to recognize how they had sinned against God and others, and it moved them to genuine remorse and change. In the end, their grief was godly—and it was good for them.

2 CORINTHIANS 7:8-12

Even though Christians are no longer of this world, we can still struggle with a form of worldly grief known as legalism. How can we tell if that is happening in our own hearts? Pastor Timothy Keller puts it this way: "Legalistic remorse says, 'I broke God's rules,' while real repentance says, 'I broke God's heart.'"

Which one best describes your grief—concern over breaking God's rules, or sorrow over breaking His heart?

Godly grief leads us to Jesus, who bore our sin and our sorrow on the cross. Because Christ has already paid the price for our failure, we can repent without fear and return to God with confidence and hope.

ASK

1| What are signs that you personally are experiencing worldly grief? What about godly grief?

2| How does God's grace and mercy help you to experience godly grief?

PRAY

Confess the ways your grief is worldly at times. Thank God that repentance is possible and ask him to deepen your godly grief.

DO

Write down the forms of worldly grief you confessed on a piece of paper. Read them out loud. Tear up the paper and throw it away.

DAY 24 | TUESDAY

Blessed are the Forgiven

PSALM 32:1-11

REFLECTION

Psalm 32 gives us a deeply personal glimpse into the cost of hidden sin and the freedom found in confession. Written by King David, this psalm was intended as a song of instruction for the people of Israel, helping God's covenant people understand the blessing of repentance and forgiveness in their relationship with Him.

David describes the physical and emotional weight he carried while remaining silent before God: "When I kept silent, my bones wasted away through my groaning all day long" (vv. 3-4). His words remind us that unconfessed sin does not stay buried—it presses down on our hearts, our minds, and even our bodies.

We still use similar language today. When guilt lingers, we say it is "eating us up inside." David's experience shows us why. Sin separates us from God, and that separation brings unrest. The turning point in Psalm 32 comes when David stops hiding and begins confessing. Owning his sin and turning back to God brings immediate relief. What once felt heavy is lifted, and agony gives way to joy.

This freedom is made complete through Jesus Christ. He took upon Himself the punishment we deserve—for our past, present, and future sins. Because of His sacrifice, forgiveness is not something we earn; it is something we receive by grace. Christ suffered so that we might rejoice.

Yet living in a broken world can make forgiveness difficult to accept. Human forgiveness often comes with conditions or lingering consequences, and we may struggle to believe that God's grace is truly complete. Psalm 32 calls us to a faith like David's.

After confessing his sin, David rejoices: "Be glad in the Lord, and rejoice, O righteous, and shout for joy, all you upright in heart!" (v. 11).

What a blessing it is to live forgiven—free, restored, and right with God.

ASK

1| How can understanding the gospel clarify the difference between the world's view of forgiveness versus godly forgiveness?

2| How does it make you feel that God forgives all sin, even sin we repeat again?

PRAY

thank God for His patience and forgiveness. Confess any sin you are carrying, and ask Him to help you return to Him daily for repentance and renewal.

DO

Throughout the day, intentionally turn your heart toward God in both praise and confession. Practice this daily for one week, allowing it to become a steady rhythm in your life. As you do, pay attention to your words, thoughts, and actions, and invite God into each moment.

DAY 25 | WEDNESDAY

Have Mercy on Me

PSALM 51:1-17

REFLECTION

David composed this psalm after the prophet Nathan confronted him about his adultery with Bathsheba and his role in arranging the murder of her husband, Uriah the Hittite (2 Sam. 12:1-14). The psalm reveals David's deep remorse for the pain his actions caused. He pleads with God to cleanse him and to "blot out" his iniquities. The psalm also provides a clear pattern for confession and repentance: appealing to God's mercy (vv. 1-2), acknowledging that sin is ultimately against God (vv. 4-5), requesting forgiveness (vv. 7-10), calling for restoration (vv. 11-12), and committing to a changed life that helps others turn from sin (vv. 13-15).

When we commit deep and serious sin against our neighbor and against God, we can feel profoundly separated from Him. We long for a renewed sense of God's presence and for true cleansing that leads to a restored life. David gives voice to this longing. He feels alone and deeply troubled by the separation his sin has created. Yet in this psalm, he commits himself to teach transgressors God's ways (v. 13), to sing aloud of God's righteousness (v. 14), and to declare God's praise publicly (v. 15). He promises not only personal repentance, but a renewed mission—turning others away from sin and back toward God. God often uses deeply broken people who sincerely seek His mercy to advance His purposes, and David stands as a powerful example.

Verses 16-17 may seem to diminish the importance of sacrifices and burnt offerings, but David's point is deeper. He insists that a broken and contrite heart—the inner posture of humility and repentance—is what truly matters to God. This

challenges us as well. We can deceive ourselves into thinking we are right with God simply because we confess our sins regularly or attend worship services. But if we are not genuinely broken by our sin and do not truly desire restoration with God, we are only going through the motions. In that case, we are no better than the Pharisees of Jesus' day, who practiced outward acts of repentance without grasping God's deeper purposes.

The good news is that Jesus' grace and mercy are freely offered to all who confess their sins and truly desire a restored relationship with Him.

ASK

1| What does it look like for you to have a fresh sense of God's presence and a renewed life that is right with God?

2| What are some unconfessed sins in your life separating you from a right relationship with God? What would it look like for you to bring those to God and have him wash you whiter than snow?

PRAY

Confess these sins to God and ask for God to renew His relationship with you. Ask God what actions you can take to glorify God for restoring your life.

DO

Recall a moment in your life when you deeply felt God's presence. Think about some actions you can take over the next week to rekindle that relationship with God. If you have never had this feeling, ask God to show you His presence, renew your life, and inspire you to glorify God.

DAY 26 | THURSDAY

I Cry Out Day and Night

PSALM 88:1-18

REFLECTION

Psalm 88 leads us into one of the darkest places in Scripture. Unlike other psalms of lament, it never turns toward resolution or relief. There is no clear note of hope at the end—only pain, loneliness, and unanswered questions. For many readers, that makes this psalm unsettling. Why would God include a prayer like this in His Word?

The psalmist cries out to God “day and night,” describing a soul overwhelmed with trouble and pressed to the brink of death. He feels forgotten, cut off, and buried in darkness. Even more troubling, he believes God Himself has placed him there. His suffering is not explained, softened, or justified. It is simply laid bare before the Lord.

What makes Psalm 88 remarkable is not that the psalmist feels hopeless—but that he keeps praying. Though he feels abandoned by friends, loved ones, and even God, he still directs his anguish toward the Lord. He does not hide his pain, suppress his questions, or pretend to be strong. He brings his despair honestly into God’s presence.

This teaches us something vital about faith. Faith does not require us to feel hopeful in every season. Sometimes faith looks like continuing to speak to God when hope feels absent. Psalm 88 shows us that deep spiritual darkness does not disqualify us from prayer. In fact, God invites us to bring our pain to Him exactly as it is.

There is also a quiet victory in this kind of prayer. Satan’s ancient accusation is that people only seek God when they benefit from Him. But here is a prayer offered when there is no apparent reward—

no comfort, no clarity, no relief. Still, the psalmist turns toward God. Even lament is worship.

For Christians, Psalm 88 ultimately points us to Jesus. On the cross, Jesus cried out, “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?” He entered the deepest darkness so that we never would be truly abandoned. Because Christ was forsaken for us, God promises, “I will never leave you nor forsake you” (Heb. 13:5).

When pain feels unbearable and hope feels distant, we are not asked to manufacture light. We are invited to bring our darkness to God—and to trust that Jesus can handle our most desperate and unpolished prayers.

ASK

1| Why would continuing to pray when you feel hopeless still be worshipful and victorious?

2| How does it make you feel that Jesus still wants to hear your most desperate and unpolished prayers of lament?

PRAY

Lament something before the Lord. Be brutally honest about how you feel.

DO

The next time you’re tempted to resolve emotional discomfort with cheap platitudes, don’t. Sit in the tension of lament.

DAY 27 | FRIDAY

Yet I Will Rejoice

REFLECTION

The book of Habakkuk opens with a complaint to God from the prophet Habakkuk on behalf of the people of Judah. Surrounded by violence, destruction, and injustice, Habakkuk cries out, asking how long God will allow such suffering to continue (Hab. 1:1–4).

God's response is unexpected. Rather than immediately relieving the suffering, He reveals that He is raising up the Babylonians (Hab. 1:5–11) to carry out judgment against Judah—a people who have turned away from Him, worshiping idols and even sacrificing their children to pagan gods.

Habakkuk is troubled and responds with another complaint. How could a good and holy God use a nation as cruel and wicked as Babylon to accomplish His purposes (Hab. 2:12–13)?

God answers by assuring Habakkuk that His justice will not fail. The righteous will live by faith, and the Babylonians themselves will one day be judged for their sin. God reminds Habakkuk of His majesty, holiness, and sovereign authority. He answers to no one, and His plans are never thwarted.

At this point, nothing has changed outwardly. The people are still suffering, and injustice still fills the land.

But Habakkuk has changed. Though the book begins with complaint, it ends in prayer and praise. As Habakkuk reflects on who God is, he realizes that worship is the only fitting response. No longer defined by his circumstances, he declares that even if his world collapses—if crops fail, livestock perish, and all earthly security is stripped away—he

HABAKKUK 3:17-19

will still rejoice in the Lord and take joy in the God of his salvation (Hab. 3:17–19).

Are you discouraged by the suffering you see and experience in the world? Do you wonder why God allows injustice to persist? Take heart in this promise: God's justice is coming, and the righteous will live by faith. The God who created you and loves you is faithful. He is mighty to save.

Do you trust God only when life is going well? Or can you, like Habakkuk, choose joy in God even when everything seems to be falling apart? Follow Habakkuk's example and spend time meditating on God's goodness, faithfulness, wisdom, and love. When we wander, God patiently draws us back to Himself—ultimately through the sacrifice of His Son, Jesus Christ, who took upon Himself the judgment we deserve.

ASK

1| What circumstances make you doubt God's love or sovereignty in your life?

2| In what area of your life is God calling you to trust in His goodness and love for you?

PRAY

Confess to God that you struggle to trust Him when things in your life are not going the way you had hoped. Ask Him to help you trust Him in all areas of your life.

DO

Write down something that you are struggling to trust God about. Entrust it to God's hands by placing the piece of paper in your Bible.

Lent 6

PROMISE

What God Will Do



Behold, the days are coming, declares the Lord,
when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of
Israel and the house of Judah.

JEREMIAH 33:14

DAY 29 | MONDAY

The Lord's Chosen Servant

ISAIAH 42:1-9

REFLECTION

This passage is the first of four poetic “Servant Songs” in the book of Isaiah. In our Advent devotional, we considered this passage in a broad sense—reflecting on Jesus’ intimate relationship with the Father, His mission, His character, and God’s glory and sovereignty over creation and history. As we now turn our attention to Lent and Easter, we will focus more closely on Jesus’ mission.

The Servant’s mission is stated clearly from the outset: “He will bring forth justice to the nations.” This justice extends far beyond the way we commonly understand it in our court systems—as punishment for wrongdoing. It goes further, restoring the damage caused by sin. It unwinds the distortions and brokenness of our world and points toward the ultimate re-creation of all things as God intended them to be—a world where sin, sorrow, and tears are no more. This vision is affirmed in verse 9 of the passage, which anticipates the final renewal described in Revelation 21:5: “Behold, I am making all things new.”

While this passage does not explain in detail how the Servant will accomplish His mission, it does announce its central theme: the Father will give the Servant “as a covenant for the people, a light for the nations.” This covenant will differ from the Law given to Moses for Israel. It will be a new covenant—worldwide in scope—bringing freedom from spiritual bondage: “to open the eyes that are blind, to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon, from the prison those who sit in darkness.”

Verse 4 also foretells the Servant’s steadfast resolve to complete His mission. Though He knew He would endure physical torture, an agonizing death on the cross, and the far greater burden of bearing the punishment for our sins, “He will not grow faint or be discouraged till He has established justice in the earth.” During His final week, Jesus went to Jerusalem fully aware of what awaited Him there, yet He was not deterred. The writer of Hebrews describes Him as “the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God” (Heb. 12:2).

Tomorrow’s devotional will turn to the final of Isaiah’s four Servant Songs, further explaining how the servant will accomplish his mission.

ASK

1| What current injustice in our world do you most want to see abolished?

2| Have you ever backed away from doing something important that you should have done? What were the consequences? How do you feel about it now?

PRAY

Give praise to God for the boldness of his plan to bring ultimate justice to the world. Thank Jesus for his resolute determination to accomplish his mission.

DO

Examine a map of the entire world and reflect on the scope of Jesus’ mission.

DAY 30 | TUESDAY

Pierced for Our Transgressions

ISAIAH 52:13-53:12

REFLECTION

With astonishing precision, this passage foretells the final days of Jesus, evoking visceral horror. As Jesus entered Jerusalem for the last time, fickle crowds turned violently against Him. He was truly “despised and rejected by men,” as the people shouted, “Crucify him!” In the Garden of Gethsemane, He was emotionally devastated—a true “man of sorrows...acquainted with grief.”

After His arrest, Jesus endured sham trials before both Jewish leaders and Roman authorities. Yet, “He opened not his mouth; like a lamb that is led to the slaughter, and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent, so he opened not his mouth.” He was “oppressed and afflicted,” suffering horrific physical and emotional abuse. What followed was one of the most gruesome methods of execution ever devised. As Isaiah foretells, the Servant was “marred beyond human semblance,” “pierced,” “crushed,” “stricken,” and ultimately “cut off” from the land of the living.

Yet the most terrible suffering Jesus endured was not physical, but spiritual. “He was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities.” “He bore the sin of many and makes intercession for the transgressors.” “It was the will of the Lord to crush him; he has put him to grief; when his soul makes an offering for guilt.” “The Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all.” This is why Jesus cried out from the cross, “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?” For our sake, He bore God’s righteous wrath and experienced momentary separation from the Father. And yet, with His final breath, He declared, “It is finished.” The offering for guilt was complete. “He bore the sin of many and makes intercession for the transgressors.”

Even specific details of Jesus’ death are foretold: “They made his grave with the wicked and with a rich man in his death.” He was crucified between criminals and buried in the tomb of a wealthy man—Joseph of Arimathea.

The prophecy both begins and ends in victory. Having conquered sin and death, Jesus will be “high and lifted up, and shall be exalted.” The Father “will divide him a portion with the many, and he shall divide the spoil with the strong.”

How, then, should we respond to Isaiah’s prophecy? With a nearly unfathomable, heart-melting mixture of horror, awe, gratitude, and worship!

ASK

1| What part of Isaiah’s prophecy is the most remarkable to you?

2| What part of the prophecy moves you the most?

PRAY

Thank Jesus for his willingness to be stricken and crushed for your transgressions. Thank him also that he has, and continues to make intercession for you.

DO

Look up the word “intercession” in the dictionary and use it in a sentence that applies to you personally.

DAY 31 | WEDNESDAY

A Righteous Branch

JEREMIAH 33:14-18

REFLECTION

The prophet Jeremiah writes during one of Israel's darkest moments. The people have been sent into exile—a just judgment for their unfaithfulness and for turning their hearts away from the Lord. Yet even in judgment, God speaks words of hope. He reassures His people that He remains faithful and will fulfill every promise He has made.

God tells them that a time is coming—not yet, but surely coming—when He will cause a righteous Branch to spring up from David's line. This King will succeed where Israel's worst kings failed and where even their best kings fell short. He will execute true justice and righteousness, and His kingdom will dwell in lasting security.

God's promise goes further. When this righteous Branch comes, David's throne will never again stand empty. And the sacrifices for sin—which had ceased when the temple in Jerusalem was destroyed—will never be interrupted again.

For generations after the exile, Israelites likely wondered whether certain leaders or kings might be the long-awaited Branch Jeremiah foretold. But none fulfilled the promise—until Jesus came.

Jesus explicitly identifies Himself with this prophecy. In Revelation 22:16, He declares that He is both the root and the branch of David. In His humanity, He descends from David; in His divinity, He precedes him. God's plan of redemption was not a reaction to Israel's failure—it was established from eternity past, long before David ever lived.

Even so, Jesus fulfills Jeremiah's prophecy in an unexpected way. Many in His day anticipated a

restored earthly kingdom, a physical throne in Jerusalem, and a temple that would stand forever. None of that came to pass as they imagined. The earthly throne was never installed, and the temple was destroyed only decades after Jesus' death.

Yet the promise was fully kept. Jesus reigns on the true throne of David—the heavenly throne—where He rules over all creation. And His sacrifice for sin endures forever. As Scripture declares, "When Christ had offered for all time a single sacrifice for sins, he sat down at the right hand of God" (Heb. 10:12).

God is faithful. His promises never fail, even when they unfold in ways we do not expect.

ASK

1| How are we in a similar position as Jeremiah's audience, waiting for God's promises to be fulfilled? How is our position different?

2| What promises of God that remain to be fulfilled do you look forward to the most?

PRAY

Praise God for being faithful even when we are faithless. Ask him for help trusting that he will fulfill all that he has promised.

DO

Use an internet browser to image search "tapestry front and back." Reflect on how the back of a tapestry often looks chaotic and unexpected, while the front is intentional and beautiful.

DAY 32 | THURSDAY

The Valley of Dry Bones

EZEKIEL 37:1-14

REFLECTION

In Ezekiel 37, the prophet is brought by the Lord to a valley filled with dry bones. Not bodies. Not recently deceased remains. Just bones—scattered, exposed, and long dead. It is a scene of total hopelessness, like a forgotten battlefield or a mass grave. Nothing could live here again.

Then God speaks. He commands Ezekiel to prophesy to the bones, declaring, “I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live.” The word for breath is the same word used for Spirit. God promises that His own life-giving Spirit will do what no human effort ever could.

As Ezekiel obeys, the valley begins to change. Bones rattle and come together. Tendons form. Flesh appears. Skin covers them. But they are still lifeless—until God breathes into them. Then, suddenly, what was once dead becomes alive. The valley stands full of living, breathing people—an exceedingly great army.

God explains the meaning of the vision. His people believed their hope was gone, that they were cut off and beyond restoration. But God says He will open their graves, put His Spirit within them, and they will live. What looks final to us is never final to Him.

This same truth carries into the New Testament. Paul writes, “You were dead in your trespasses and sins... but God made us alive together with Christ” (Eph. 2:1, 5). If you belong to Christ, you have already experienced resurrection. The Spirit who raised Jesus from the dead has raised you from spiritual death—and He will one day raise your body as well.

Where does life feel absent to you right now? What feels dry, lifeless, or beyond hope?

Maybe it is a relationship that feels irreparably broken. Maybe it is a pattern of sin that has clung to you for years. Maybe it is exhaustion, depression, or a numbness that has settled deep into your soul. Dead things tend to stay dead—unless the Spirit of God intervenes.

And He can. The Holy Spirit brings life where there is death. He restores what seems beyond repair. He renews hearts, heals wounds, and resurrects hope. There is no place too dry, no situation too far gone, no life beyond His reach. The Spirit who raised Jesus can bring life—here, now, even today.

ASK

1| In what other ways is life arising from nothing a part of the Christian faith?

2| How does the resurrection of Jesus Christ give you hope for the areas of your life that feel dead?

PRAY

Confess ways you place limits on what you believe God can do. Ask God to bring life to something that feels dead to you right now.

DO

Plant a seed today. Look forward in hope to life springing forth from seemingly nothing.

DAY 33 | FRIDAY

The Resurrection and the Life

JOHN 11:17-44

REFLECTION

When Jesus arrives in Bethany, Lazarus has been dead for four days. Any hope of rescue seems long gone. Martha and Mary are grieving, confused, and likely wounded by what feels like Jesus' indifference.

We know from the preceding verses that Jesus had a close relationship with Mary, Martha, and Lazarus. So when Jesus did not come quickly to heal Lazarus, it appeared that He had not made him a priority—contrary to what we might expect in a loving relationship. Yet John carefully highlights something striking: “Now Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus. So, when he heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed two days longer” (John 11:5–6). To the original audience, this would have been jarring. Love, in their minds, should have produced urgency. But Jesus’ delay is not a failure of love; it is an expression of it. Moved by His perfect love, Jesus does something far greater than healing Lazarus from illness—He raises him from the dead and reveals Himself as the Resurrection and the Life.

Martha believes in a future resurrection, but Jesus gently redirects her hope from a distant promise to a present Person (vv. 24–25). Resurrection is not merely something Jesus brings; it is who He is. For those first witnesses, Lazarus’ restored life was a sign pointing beyond itself—to the far greater miracle of Christ’s own resurrection still to come.

This passage speaks powerfully to us in our own seasons of waiting. When prayers seem unanswered and God feels silent, we are quick to assume absence or indifference. Our limitations are exposed—we are finite, impatient, and inclined

to measure God’s love by the speed of His response. Unable to see what God is doing, we can feel alone and forgotten.

Yet Jesus does not remain distant. He weeps at the tomb and draws near to us in our suffering. He enters fully into grief, even while knowing resurrection is only moments away. And ultimately, He will walk toward His own grave so that death will not have the final word for us. The delay that brought life to Lazarus would soon cost Jesus His own life.

During Lent, we learn to trust the love of a Savior whose timing is perfect, whose compassion is real, and whose power brings life where we see only death.

ASK

1| How does Jesus’ statement “I am the resurrection and the life” reshape the way we understand both suffering and hope?

2| Where are you tempted to interpret God’s silence or delay as a lack of love?

PRAY

Pray in trust and surrender, thanking Jesus for His steadfast love and asking for faith to rest in Him while you wait.

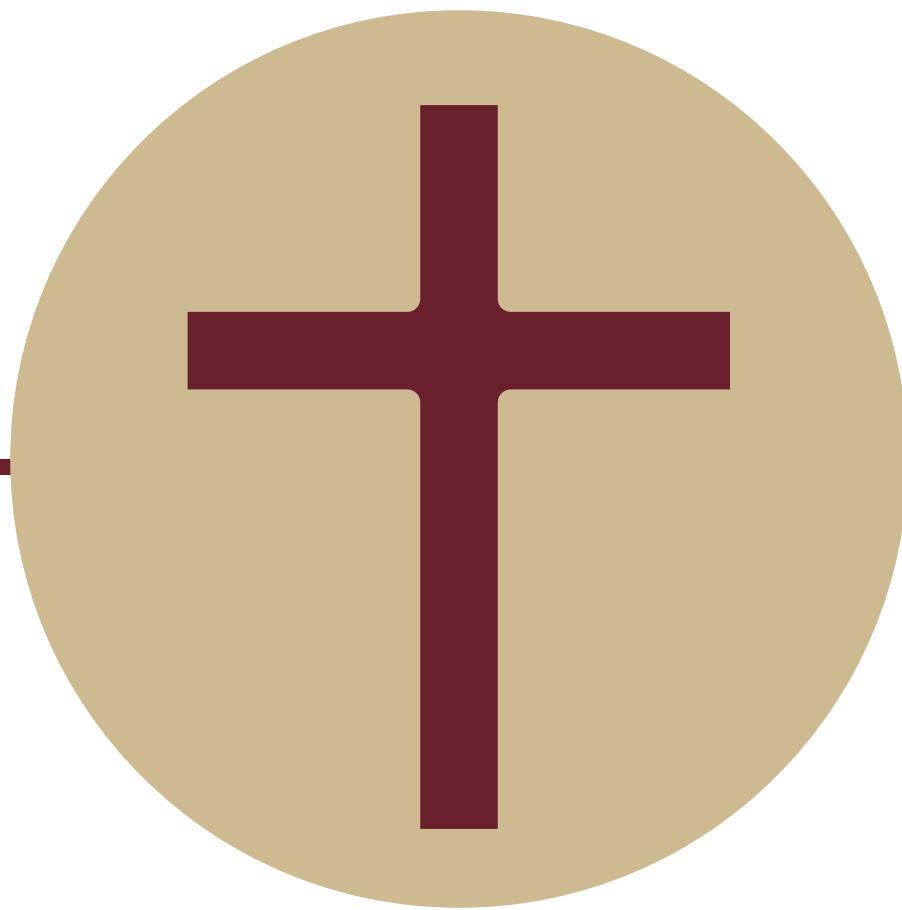
DO

Write down one prayer you feel God has delayed in answering, and beneath it write: “Jesus, You are the resurrection and the life.” Read it aloud today.

Lent 7

PASSION

What Jesus Suffered



Having loved His own who were in the world,
He loved them to the end.

JOHN 13:1

DAY 35 | MONDAY

Mary Anoints Jesus

JOHN 12:1-11

REFLECTION

The week Jesus would be crucified began with an anointing. Mary, the sister of Martha and Lazarus, hosts Jesus for dinner. Martha is serving, as usual (see Luke 10), and Lazarus is reclining at the table with Jesus. He had just been raised from the dead, after all (John 11).

Where is Mary? She is at Jesus' feet. But this time, not simply learning from Him (again, see Luke 10). This time she is there to anoint Him. She takes a pound of expensive ointment and pours it on Jesus' feet, wiping them with her hair. The entire house is filled with the fragrance of the oil. It is a deeply moving scene—especially in light of Lazarus's resurrection just one chapter earlier.

One person present, however, is not moved. Judas Iscariot—the disciple who would later betray Jesus—criticizes Mary's act. He asks why the ointment was not sold and the money given to the poor. But his concern is not genuine. John tells us that Judas was in charge of the moneybag and regularly helped himself to what was put into it.

Jesus immediately comes to Mary's defense. He tells Judas to leave her alone. What she has done is good and right. All the time Mary spent learning at Jesus' feet had borne fruit—she understood what was about to happen. Jesus had spoken openly, more than once, about His coming death. Mary believed Him. And so she anoints Him in preparation for the day of His burial.

In response to Judas's objection, Jesus says that there will always be opportunities to serve the poor, but that His time on earth is drawing to a close. This verse has sometimes been misused to

suggest that Christians need not care for the poor. Jesus' own life and ministry make that interpretation impossible. But it does teach us something about priority. Worship comes before even the best good works. And as Frederick Dale Bruner observes, "this week Jesus is the poorest man in Bethany." He is already divesting Himself of everything, moving steadily toward the cross, where He will give His life as a substitute for sinners.

What better use could there be for costly oil than to anoint the feet of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ?

ASK

1| Why is there a tension between doing good works for Jesus and worship of Jesus? How can it be resolved?

2| What do you personally find beautiful about Jesus that would move you to anoint his feet?

PRAY

Pray a prayer of adoration that gives Jesus honor for being more valuable to you than anything else.

DO

Lay something valuable at the feet of Jesus. Could be something in your heart, or sacrificing financially for the sake of an organization that ministers in the name of Jesus.

DAY 36 | TUESDAY

The Son of Man Lifted Up

JOHN 12:20-36

REFLECTION

Isaiah's "Servant Songs," which we reflected on last week, are now rapidly coming into focus. In a matter of days, Jesus will be "pierced for our transgressions" and "crushed for our iniquities." The Father will give His Servant "as a covenant for the people, a light for the nations." In today's passage from John 12, Jesus claims to be that light—the One who "will draw all people to [himself]" when He is "lifted up" on the cross.

Jesus makes an astonishing opening statement to the Gentile Greeks who are seeking Him: "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified." He adds, "For this purpose I have come to this hour." He then asks that the Father be glorified, and God responds with a thunderous voice heard by the crowd. This moment captures one of the great paradoxes—and wonders—of our faith: through the unfathomable physical and spiritual suffering of Jesus on the cross, both the Father and the Son are glorified.

How can this be? Because the judgment for our sin is placed upon Jesus, sin and death are defeated. At last, Jesus—the "seed of the woman"—crushes the head of the serpent (Genesis 3:15). As Jesus declares, "Now will the ruler of this world be cast out." God's eternal plan of redemption is accomplished. How glorious is that!

Once again, we see Jesus' unwavering resolve to fulfill His mission. Even though His soul is troubled, He willingly becomes "a grain of wheat [that] falls into the earth and dies," so that it may "bear much fruit." What unfathomable love He has shown us. And in this passage, Jesus issues a clear and urgent call: follow Him, serve Him sacrificially,

and "believe in the light, that you may become sons of light."

These are not the words of a merely good teacher or an inspired moral example—categories to which many try to limit Jesus. No mere human could sanely make such claims of authority, purpose, and glory, willingly submit to the horrors of crucifixion, and then rise from the dead three days later. These are the words and works of the God-man, the Christ, Isaiah's promised Servant, the long-awaited Messiah.

Jesus is the Savior of all who believe in Him and receive His freely given forgiveness. Through Him, we are adopted as children of God—sons and daughters of light.

ASK

1| How do you personally grapple with the paradox of Jesus and the Father being glorified through Jesus' suffering and death?

2| Of the many claims and statements Jesus makes in this passage, which one moves you the most?

PRAY

Thank Jesus for not shying away from his purpose. Praise God for his eternal plan of redemption.

DO

Draw or envision a cross surrounded by images of glory.

DAY 37 | WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 1

One of You Will Betray Me

JOHN 13:21-30

REFLECTION

Judas may have felt disillusioned because Jesus spoke of a very different kind of king than the one he expected. He may also have been trying to test Jesus—perhaps even attempting to force His hand, pushing Him to use His power to save Himself and, in Judas' mind, the rest of humanity. We don't ultimately know what motivated Judas to turn against Jesus, but both Judas and Satan misunderstood a crucial truth: Jesus' death was central to God's redemptive plan. Satan tempted Judas to betray Jesus (see verse 2), and although Satan is said to have "entered into him" in verse 27, this does not absolve Judas of responsibility for his sin. Judas had already betrayed Jesus in his heart long before he took the actions that led directly to Jesus' arrest and crucifixion.

The lesson for us is sobering. We do not always understand God's plan, and sometimes we are uncomfortable with the path God leads us down. When we question God's motives or reject His plan in favor of our own, we open ourselves to temptation. We attempt to seize control rather than trust Him. Left unchecked, this posture leads not to life, but to sin and death.

It is also striking that Judas' behavior blended in so closely with that of the other disciples that none of them realized to whom Jesus was referring. Sometimes false disciples or false teachers are not obvious. While it is not our role to judge hearts, we are called to remain watchful and discerning, grounded in God's truth.

Another profound lesson in this passage is that Jesus knew Judas would betray Him—yet He did not stop him. And He never stopped loving him.

Jesus knows every way we will fail or wound Him, and still He loves us fully. He offers forgiveness to all who genuinely turn to Him in repentance.

The contrast between Judas and Peter is instructive. Both men sinned by turning away from Jesus. But Judas did not grasp Jesus' unconditional love or his own need for forgiveness, and his story ends in tragedy. Peter, though deeply flawed and shaken by his failure, turned back to Jesus. He embraced grace, recognized his need for a Savior, and was restored to become a leader in the early church.

Both paths are before us. Which will you choose?

ASK

1| Can you identify a time when you were tempted to question God's plan for your life? How did you handle that situation?

2| What are some practical ways we can renew our relationship with Christ when we are tempted?

PRAY

Give praise and thanks to the Lord for forgiving your sins. Ask God for strength in the face of temptations and discern areas in your life where you struggle to turn your life over to God.

DO

Read Matthew 26:69–27:10 and John 21. Create a two-column list—one for Judas and one for Peter—and note each man's actions, thoughts, feelings, and prayers after betraying or denying Jesus. Reflect on their different responses to Christ and pray about what you notice.

DAY 38 | MAUNDY THURSDAY

Jesus Washes Feet

JOHN 13:1-17, 31-35**REFLECTION**

John is the only Gospel writer who records Jesus washing His disciples' feet. Throughout his Gospel, John emphasizes Jesus' personal encounters and intimate conversations. While the Synoptic Gospels—Matthew, Mark, and Luke—share many of the same events and focus heavily on the institution of the Lord's Supper, John highlights unique moments from the evening Jesus spent with His disciples. In what is known as the Upper Room Discourse (John 13-17), John includes the powerful and surprising account of foot washing.

John tells us that Jesus took on the role of a servant and humbly washed the disciples' feet. In Jesus' day, people wore sandals while walking dusty, unpaved roads, so it was customary to wash one's feet before reclining at a meal. This task was considered menial—reserved for servants or slaves. The disciples must have been stunned to see their Lord and Teacher kneel before them and perform such a lowly act.

Why would Jesus choose this posture in His final days? Jesus was doing more than offering a lesson in humility. He was revealing His upside-down model of servant leadership (John 13:12-17), and He was also pointing to something deeper. When Jesus tells Peter that washing is necessary, He connects the physical act of cleansing feet with the spiritual cleansing of sin (John 13:8), foreshadowing His imminent death on the cross.

Jesus calls His followers to serve in the same way—to give of ourselves sacrificially, even when the task feels uncomfortable or beneath us. He also calls us to serve those who may oppose or hurt us, just as He washed the feet of Judas. In doing so, we

reflect the love of Christ to others made in God's image.

Finally, this moment reminds us of our own need for cleansing. The dirt on the disciples' feet points to the deeper stain of sin in every human heart—something only Jesus can wash away. Through His death on the cross, He cleanses us completely and calls us to live in humble, loving service to one another.

ASK

1| How does Jesus washing the disciples' feet serve as a picture of His sacrifice on the cross?

2| How can I better emulate the humble, servant-hearted love of Jesus in a consumerist culture that asks, "What's in it for me?"

PRAY

Thank God for Jesus' humble service and His sacrifice on the cross. Confess your sin, receive His forgiveness, and ask for a heart that extends that same love to others.

DO

If you feel comfortable, wash the feet of a loved one today. If they feel comfortable, let them wash your feet as well.

DAY 39 | GOOD FRIDAY

The Crucifixion

JOHN 18:1-19:42**REFLECTION**

Good Friday forces us to slow down and look directly at the cross. These chapters walk us through the final hours of Jesus' life, and it is sobering. Jesus is betrayed, arrested, questioned, mocked, beaten, and condemned. Though completely innocent, He is handed over to be executed as a criminal. And yet, throughout the entire account, Jesus is never out of control.

Standing before Pilate, Jesus makes it clear that His kingdom is not of this world. He does not plead His case. He does not call down angels. He does not resist. John shows us something profound: Jesus is not merely a victim of injustice—He is willingly laying down His life. As He Himself said earlier, no one takes it from Him; He gives it.

The irony of this scene is everywhere. Soldiers crown Him with thorns, mocking His kingship, while unknowingly proclaiming the truth. Pilate presents Jesus to the crowd saying, "Behold your King," and though meant sarcastically, it is a declaration truer than Pilate could imagine. Even the inscription on the cross—"Jesus of Nazareth, King of the Jews"—stands as an unintended confession.

As Jesus hangs on the cross, John is careful to show us that Scripture is being fulfilled in detail: the soldiers casting lots for His garments, His thirst, His bones left unbroken. Nothing is random. Nothing is wasted. This is the culmination of God's plan of redemption, unfolding exactly as promised.

And then come the final words: "It is finished." Not "I am finished," but it is finished. The work is complete. The debt of sin has been fully paid. The

judgment we deserved has been borne. When Jesus bows His head and gives up His spirit, it is not a defeat—it is a victory accomplished through suffering love.

The Crucifixion forces us to deal with a tension. On the one hand, our salvation was costly. It required the blood of the Son of God. But on the other hand, it also assures us that God loved us so much he was willing to pay the cost of our sin. In fact, he planned it.

On Good Friday, we do not rush to resurrection; we linger at the cross. We remember both the weight of our sin and love of Jesus. "Behold the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world."

ASK

1| How does meditating on Jesus' crucifixion crystalize the seriousness of sin and the costliness of grace?

2| What part of Jesus' suffering was hardest for you to read? Why?

PRAY

Confess that you are a sinner. Lament that the death of Jesus was even necessary to forgive you.

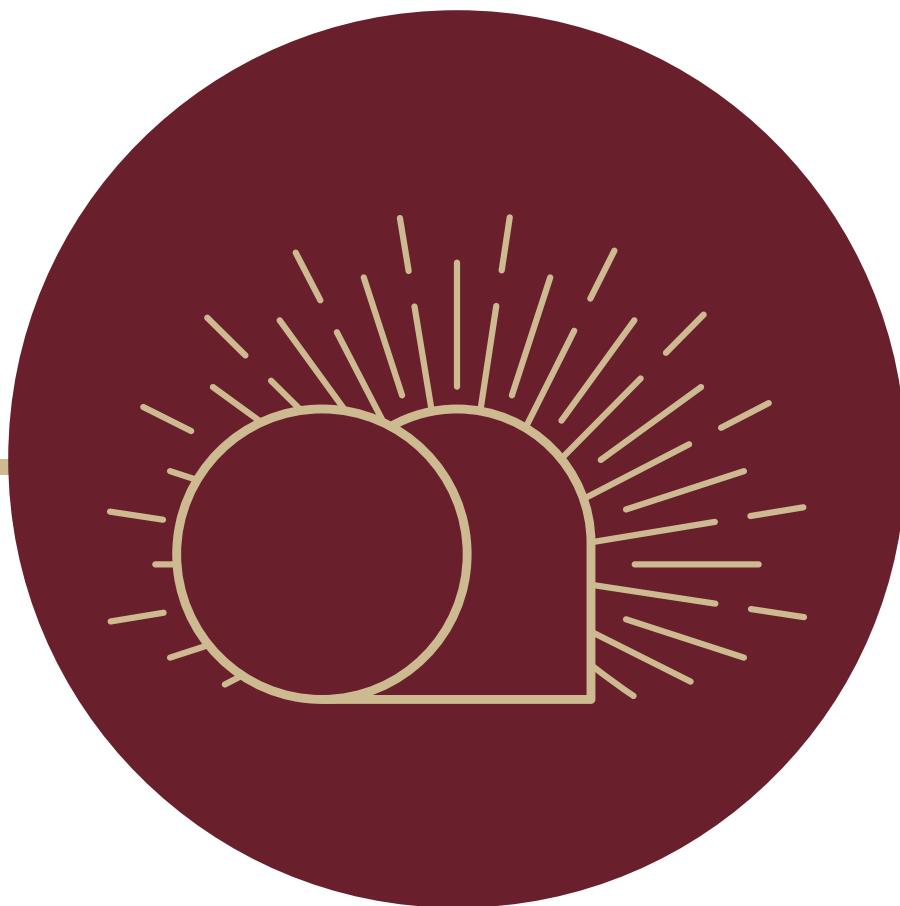
DO

If you have a cross in your home, remove it from its place or cover it with a dark cloth until Sunday.

Easter 1

WITNESS

What We Have Seen



You are witnesses of these things.

LUKE 24:48

DAY 2 | MONDAY

The Resurrection

LUKE 24:1-12

REFLECTION

Luke tells the resurrection story in a surprisingly quiet way. There are no trumpets or immediate appearances of the risen Jesus. Instead, it begins early in the morning, with grief still in the air. Several women come to the tomb carrying spices, prepared to care for a dead body. As far as they know, the story is over.

But the stone is rolled away. The tomb is empty. And instead of a body, they hear a voice ask a question the premise of which must have blown them away: "Why do you seek the living among the dead?" Jesus is alive?

Luke is intentional about who these first witnesses are. They are women—Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and others. In the ancient world, women's testimony was not considered reliable. If you were inventing a resurrection story to persuade skeptics, this is not how you would tell it. Yet God chooses these women to be the first witnesses and, in turn, the first messengers of resurrection.

That tells us something about God. He does not operate according to human hierarchies of power or credibility. He entrusts the most important news in history to those the world is most likely to overlook. Resurrection not only turns death upside down; it turns everything upside down.

When the women report what they've seen, the apostles don't believe them. Luke says their words seem like "an idle tale." Dead people stay dead. They weren't dumb. Still, Peter runs to the tomb, sees the linen cloths, and leaves marveling—not yet understanding, but no longer able to dismiss them.

If Jesus has risen—and he has—everything changes. Death is not final. Sin does not have the last word. Fear no longer defines the future. Resurrection means God has accepted Jesus' sacrifice and begun His new creation in the middle of the old one.

The women came expecting to honor a dead Jesus. They left carrying news that would change the world. That is what the resurrection does: it meets us in our grief, overturns our expectations, and invites us to live as people shaped by hope, because God raises the dead and keeps His promises.

"Christ the Lord is risen today, Alleluia!"

ASK

1| Do you find the historical resurrection of Jesus something easy or difficult to believe? Why?

2| If Jesus really has risen from the dead, what does that change for you personally?

PRAY

Praise God that he has defeated sin and death. Give thanks for the resurrection hope and future you have in Christ.

DO

Listen and sing along to "Christ The Lord Is Risen Today" by Keith & Kristyn Getty.

DAY 3 | TUESDAY

Thomas Doubts

JOHN 20:24-29

REFLECTION

Jesus has been crucified, and His disciples—now eleven after Judas' betrayal—have gone into hiding. Fearful of the Jewish authorities, they gather behind locked doors.

While ten of the disciples are together, Jesus suddenly appears among them. He shows them His hands and His side, still bearing the marks of the crucifixion. Their risen Lord stands before them.

Thomas, however, is not present. When the others tell him that they have seen the Lord, he refuses to believe. He insists, "Unless I see in his hands the mark of the nails, and place my finger into the mark of the nails, and place my hand into his side, I will never believe" (v. 25).

One week later, Thomas is with the others in the same locked room. Once again, Jesus appears. This time, He addresses Thomas directly, inviting him to touch His wounds. Faced with the risen Christ, Thomas responds in worship: "My Lord and my God!" (v. 28).

There are several important lessons in this passage. First, Thomas did not trust the eyewitness testimony of his closest friends. Yet the other disciples did not reject or exclude him, and Thomas did not walk away from the community. Instead, he stayed. They remained together, even in doubt. This teaches us not to fear honest questions or struggles with belief—whether in others or in ourselves. Doubt does not disqualify us from seeking Jesus.

Second, Jesus meets Thomas exactly where he is. He does not scold or shame him for his unbelief. Instead, He graciously invites Thomas to examine the very evidence he said he needed. Jesus is patient with sincere seekers and compassionate toward those who wrestle with faith.

Finally, Thomas' doubt gives way to worship. When he encounters the risen Christ, his confusion turns into a bold confession of Jesus' true identity—Lord and God.

If you are struggling with doubts, or if someone you love is questioning faith, do not be afraid. Bring your questions honestly before God. Continue to seek Jesus in prayer and in community. The risen Christ welcomes all who seek Him, and He remains faithful to reveal Himself in His time and grace.

ASK

1| In what areas do you doubt God's love for you?

2| How can you respond to Jesus in worship for being the Almighty Resurrected King?

PRAY

Thank God for loving you just as you are. Bring your doubts to Him, and ask Him to bless you with clarity and a deeper faith.

DO

Enter a question about God plus "Tim Keller" into a web browser. Read or listen to the Biblical insights that Pastor Keller had about your question.

DAY 4 | WEDNESDAY

Peter Restored

REFLECTION

After Jesus' resurrection, His third reunion with the disciples takes place on the shore of the Sea of Tiberias. He meets them in the midst of their ordinary work—fishing. There, Jesus has a deeply personal conversation with Peter. We all understand the power of a second chance, and many of our favorite stories are built around redemption. This is Peter's story of a second chance.

Peter had denied Jesus three times during His trial—an act of fear, betrayal, and deep sin. One of Jesus' closest friends had publicly disowned Him. Imagine, then, Peter's emotions as Jesus restores him: the weight lifted, the healing, the gratitude, the overwhelming realization of grace. In that moment, Peter truly encounters the mercy of God. Jesus gives him not only forgiveness, but a renewed purpose—and He does the same for us.

Jesus begins by asking Peter three times if he loves Him, mirroring Peter's three denials. Jesus does not ask because He needs Peter's love. Rather, He invites Peter to speak it aloud—for Peter's sake. Jesus is worthy of love regardless, but Peter's confession restores his relationship with Jesus and reorients his heart toward the calling God has for him.

Each time Peter affirms his love, Jesus responds with a mission: "Feed my lambs," "Tend my sheep," and "Feed my sheep." Jesus, the Good Shepherd who laid down His life for His sheep (John 10), entrusts Peter with continuing His work. Peter is called to care for others, to share Jesus' Word and love with God's people.

Because Peter personally experienced Jesus' grace and forgiveness, he was able to extend that grace to others. Having seen the risen Christ, he helped others see Him too. Jesus loved Peter, and Peter learned to love others in return.

God offers us the same gift: forgiveness, restoration, and a second chance after failure. He also invites us to continue His mission. What will you do with your second chance? Love Jesus. Serve His people. Extend grace to others. We may not have seen Jesus as Peter did, but we know Him—and we are called to help others see Him as well, our Redeemer and Restorer.

ASK

1| What did Jesus tell Peter to do after Peter said he loved Him? Why did He give Peter this mission?

2| How do you feel about the second chance that Jesus gives you? How does it inspire you to live?

PRAY

Thank God for the ways He has forgiven, restored, and given you a second chance. Ask Him to help you live out His mission by sharing His grace and redemption with others.

DO

Think of a story of second chances from a book, movie, or TV show. Reflect on the second chances of the characters. Reflect on how God has given you a second chance.

JOHN 21:15-19

DAY 5 | THURSDAY

The Road to Emmaus

LUKE 24:13-35

REFLECTION

Two of Jesus' followers are leaving Jerusalem and walking toward Emmaus, weighed down by disappointment. They had hoped Jesus would be the kind of king they expected, but His crucifixion shattered their expectations and seemed to extinguish their hope. So when Jesus appears and walks alongside them, they do not recognize Him.

Like these disciples, we can miss what Jesus is doing in our lives and in the world when we become consumed by disappointment, worry, frustration, anger, or pain. When our focus narrows to what has gone wrong, we may overlook the presence of Christ walking with us. Yet this passage invites us to keep looking for Jesus, even in the midst of confusion and loss. We may discover that His work does not align with our expectations, but it is always faithful and purposeful.

The Old Testament Scriptures foretold Jesus' ministry, suffering, death, and resurrection, yet these disciples misunderstood those promises. They expected a political or military Messiah who would redeem Israel from earthly oppression, not a suffering servant who would redeem humanity from the slavery of sin. As they walk, Jesus patiently explains how the Scriptures pointed to a Messiah who must suffer before entering into glory. One can imagine the richness of this conversation as Jesus opened the meaning of the Law, the Prophets, and the Psalms to them.

Even today, despite having the full witness of Scripture, many struggle to recognize their need for this Savior. Like Thomas, these disciples needed to encounter the risen Jesus in order to believe. Now, guided by the Holy Spirit, believers

are called to bear compassionate witness—living, speaking, and loving in ways that help others see Christ more clearly.

When Jesus breaks bread with them, their eyes are opened. They recognize the risen Lord, and suddenly everything makes sense. Their hearts burn within them as they realize how Jesus had been revealing Himself through the Scriptures all along. Immediately, they return to Jerusalem to share the good news with the other disciples, who confirm that the Lord has appeared to Simon too.

This story reminds us that faith is meant to be lived out in community. As Jesus opens our hearts to understand His Word, we are called to share what we have seen and heard. When Christ brings Scripture to life within us, our hearts, too, should burn with joy—and move us to tell others what He has done.

ASK

1| Can you identify a time in your life when God was working in your or someone else's life, but you did not recognize it at the time? What happened?

2| How does it feel when you recognize the work God has done in your or someone else's life?

PRAY

Pray to God that He will open up your eyes to recognize the blessings and work He has done in your life and the lives of those you care about.

DO

Write down at least 10 examples of the work that God is doing in your life or in the life of others.

DAY 6 | FRIDAY

The Great Commission

MATTHEW 28:16-20

REFLECTION

We arrive at Matthew's grand finale: the Great Commission. Jesus has conquered death and now gathers His disciples on a mountain in Galilee. One detail is especially striking—they worshiped Him, but some still doubted. Even after witnessing the resurrection, uncertainty lingers. Yet Jesus does not wait for perfect faith. He sends them anyway.

For Matthew's original readers, this moment was huge. Jesus declares that all authority in heaven and on earth belongs to Him—authority that belongs to God alone. He commands His followers to make disciples of all nations, not only Israel. And He promises His abiding presence to the very end of the age. In a few sentences, Jesus redefines both their identity and their mission.

The Great Commission is not reserved for spiritual elites or professional ministers. It is given to ordinary believers. Making disciples happens in the rhythms of everyday life: speaking about Jesus with neighbors, teaching children the faith, inviting friends into Christian community. It is less complicated than we often assume.

Still, many of us hesitate. We feel unqualified, too busy, or afraid of saying the wrong thing. We worry we don't know enough, that we'll be asked questions we can't answer, or that our own struggles disqualify us. Like the disciples, we believe and doubt at the same time.

How can we invite others to follow Jesus when we are still learning to follow Him ourselves? We are easily discouraged by awkward moments. We are aware of our sin and shortcomings. We are unable

to change hearts or manufacture faith. The Great Commission feels impossible.

But Jesus begins with a promise before He gives a command: "All authority has been given to me." The mission rests on His power, not ours. And He ends with another promise: "I am with you always." He does not send us alone.

The same resurrection power that defeated death fuels our witness today. When we share the Gospel, we rely not on our eloquence but on the Holy Spirit at work. This is grace: Jesus sends doubters, empowers the fearful, and remains with the inadequate. The question is not whether we are good enough—but whether we will trust the One who sends us.

ASK

1| What specific fear or excuse keeps you from talking about Jesus with people in your everyday life?

2| How does knowing Jesus promises to be with you change the way you feel about stepping out in faith?

PRAY

Thank Jesus that His authority is bigger than your fears, and ask Him to help you notice His presence with you today.

DO

Identify someone you will take steps of faith toward in order to share the Gospel with them.

Easter 2

HOPE

What We Await



And he who was seated on the throne said,
“Behold, I am making all things new.”

REVELATION 21:5

DAY 9 | MONDAY

The Ascension

ACTS 1:1-11

REFLECTION

After His resurrection, Jesus spent forty days with His disciples, teaching them about the kingdom of God and proving He was truly alive. Their hope had been restored, but their expectations were still misplaced. They asked Jesus if this was the moment He would restore the kingdom to Israel. They imagined a political victory, a national revival, an immediate resolution to their troubles.

Jesus gently redirected them. The kingdom He came to establish was far bigger than they imagined, and it would not arrive all at once. Instead of giving them a timetable, He gave them a calling. They would receive power when the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they would be His witnesses—starting where they were, in Jerusalem, and extending to the ends of the earth.

Then something unexpected happened. As they watched, Jesus was lifted up, and a cloud took Him out of their sight. He ascended into heaven.

At first, the ascension can feel like a loss. Why would Jesus leave when the mission was just beginning? But Acts makes clear that His departure was not Jesus abandoning the world—it was his enthronement as Lord over all creation. He was lifted up to the place of honor, seated at the right hand of the Father as King.

The ascension changes everything. It means Jesus is no longer limited to one place, but reigns over all. It means He is present with His people everywhere through the Holy Spirit. It means He now intercedes for us as our advocate before the Father. And it means that heaven is open to

humanity, because our Savior has risen with a body like ours and gone there first.

The disciples stood staring into the sky until two angels reminded them that Jesus would return in the same way He departed. Until then, they were not to wait idly, but to live faithfully—bearing witness to the truth that Jesus is already King.

This is our calling too. We are not trying to lift Jesus up; He is already lifted up. We are simply called to lift our eyes, set our hope on Him, and live in light of His reign. With our words and our lives, we bear witness to what is already true: Jesus is Lord, and His kingdom has begun.

ASK

1| When you imagine Jesus right now, where is He and what is He doing?

2| What difference does it make to our participation in Jesus' mission that he is already enthroned as king?

PRAY

Pray a prayer of adoration, emphasizing that Jesus is your king. Ask for him to empower you to participate in his mission on earth.

DO

If you are able, bow down on your knees as you pray today.

DAY 10 | TUESDAY

Resurrection of the Dead

1 CORINTHIANS 15:12-28, 50-58

REFLECTION

1 Corinthians 15 is the resurrection chapter. Paul refuses to let the resurrection be softened or overspiritualized. Some in Corinth were willing to believe in Jesus as a spiritual influence or a moral guide, but they struggled with the idea of a bodily resurrection. Paul will not allow that move. If there is no resurrection of the dead, he says, then Christ has not been raised. And if Christ has not been raised, our faith is empty, our preaching is useless, and we are still in our sins.

For Paul, resurrection is not a metaphor. It is not the soul escaping the body, nor is it merely Jesus living on in the hearts of his followers.

Resurrection means God raising real, physical bodies from death. If God did not do that with Jesus, then Christianity collapses.

But Christ has been raised. And not only raised—Paul calls Him the “firstfruits.” That means the resurrection of Christ is not an exception; it is the first of more to come. What happened to Jesus will happen to those who belong to Him. His resurrection is the beginning of God’s renewal of the whole creation, not a one-off miracle.

This has implications for how we view our lives now. Our bodies are not disposable or temporary containers for something more spiritual. They matter. What we do in them matters. How we treat them matters. The Christian hope is not escape from physical existence, but its redemption. The future God promises is not less embodied, but more—imperishable, glorified, and fully alive.

Paul ends with defiance. “Death is swallowed up in victory.” Death still feels powerful. We still grieve.

Bodies still fail. But death no longer reigns. Its power has been broken by the resurrection of Jesus, and its final defeat is coming.

That is why Paul can say, “Be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord.” Resurrection hope does not make us passive; it makes our lives more meaningful. Nothing done in Christ is wasted. Every act of faithfulness echoes into eternity.

The resurrection of the dead means your story does not end in decay. God will raise you. He will make all things new—starting with a risen Christ, and ending with a renewed creation where death no longer has the last word.

ASK

1| How does a future bodily resurrection change how we think about our embodied life now? Why?

2| What part of God’s creation makes you sit in awe and wonder of him?

PRAY

Confess the ways you approach this current embodied life passively. Ask God to help you live today in light of your future resurrection.

DO

Do something physical today and imagine what it would be like with a resurrected and glorified body.

DAY 11 | WEDNESDAY

The Coming of the Lord

1 THESSALONIANS 4:13-18

REFLECTION

Paul writes to the Thessalonian church because they are grieving. People they love—brothers and sisters in Christ—have died, and they are confused and afraid. Did these believers miss out on the return of Jesus? Has death somehow undone the promises of God?

Paul does not shame their grief. He does not tell them to “move on” or to pretend it doesn’t hurt. Instead, he reframes their sorrow. “We do not want you to be uninformed,” he says, “so that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope.” Notice what he does not say. He does not say Christians do not grieve. He says we do not grieve without hope.

Christian grief is real grief. Death is an enemy. Separation is painful. Jesus Himself wept at the tomb of Lazarus. Faith does not numb sorrow. But it does transform it.

Paul grounds that hope in a historical reality: “For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again...” Everything hinges on that “since.” Because Jesus truly died, and because He was truly raised, death no longer has the final word. Those who have died in Christ are not lost, forgotten, or left behind. They will be raised.

When Christ returns, Paul says, the dead in Christ will rise first. Then those who are still alive will be caught up together with them to meet the Lord. The point is not the mechanics, but the outcome: “And so we will always be with the Lord.” Separation ends. Communion is restored. Death’s fracture is healed.

This hope changes how we grieve now. We still cry. We still ache. We still feel the weight of absence. But our tears are not in vain. They are filled with hope. We bury our dead facing the future, not the past.

Paul ends with a simple instruction: “Therefore encourage one another with these words.” Resurrection hope is meant to be shared, especially in moments of loss. When grief threatens to lead us into despair, we remind one another that Jesus is coming again, that the dead will rise, and that we will be with the Lord forever.

We grieve. But not like those with no hope. Because the story does not end at the grave.

ASK

1| Why does Paul ground Christian hope for those who have died in the historical death and resurrection of Jesus?

2| Where are you experiencing grief right now, and how does the promise of being “with the Lord forever” bring even a small measure of comfort?

PRAY

Grieve before the Lord pain that you feel from the difficulties and tragedies of this life. Express your hope in the future coming of the Lord.

DO

Reach out to someone who is grieving—or quietly carrying sorrow—and offer your presence, a listening ear, or a simple prayer of grief with hope.

DAY 12 | THURSDAY

A New Heaven and a New Earth

REVELATION 21:1-5

REFLECTION

Revelation 21 gives us a breathtaking look at our true hope as Christians. God has promised that He will make all things new, and that those who belong to Him will dwell in the house of the Lord forever (Psalm 23). Even more astonishing, God declares that His dwelling place will be with us.

This theme of God dwelling with His people runs throughout the entire story of Scripture. God walked with humanity in the garden. He travelled with Israel in the tabernacle, then moved into a permanent home in the temple in Jerusalem. He came near through Christ's incarnation. He now lives within believers through the Holy Spirit. And finally, in the new heavens and new earth, God will dwell fully and forever with His redeemed people.

What Revelation describes is not the shallow picture of eternity our culture often imagines—floating on clouds or endlessly strumming harps. Instead, it is the complete renewal of our world and our lives. Creation itself will be transformed. It is a return to Eden, yet something even greater: the fulfillment of God's redemptive plan that began the moment sin entered the world. The garden becomes a city, rich with life, purpose, and beauty.

While we do not know exactly what this renewed reality will look like, we are assured that it will surpass our imagination—because God Himself is more glorious than we can comprehend. He also promises something deeply personal: He will wipe away every tear. Every sorrow, every loss, and every wound that still brings deep pain will be healed in His presence. God will truly bring beauty from ashes (Isaiah 61:3).

What a hope we are given. Though it was our sin that fractured the world, God's story does not end in brokenness. He will make all things new, restore all that was lost, and dwell with His people forever.

ASK

1| Why do you think God uses the illustration of a bride and bridegroom?

2| What is something in your life that has caused tears that you are most looking forward to the Lord to redeem?

PRAY

Praise God for his beautiful plan of restoration. Thank Him for redeeming all things. Pray He will come quickly.

DO

Repeat out loud throughout the day, 'Behold, He is making all things new!'

DAY 13 | FRIDAY

The Heavenly City

REVELATION 21:22-22:5

REFLECTION

This passage offers us a glimpse of heaven. Much of the imagery may be difficult to imagine, because we live in a broken world—while the heavenly city is entirely free from sin, brokenness, and anything unclean.

John begins by telling us there is no temple in the city, because the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are the temple (see John 1:14; 2:19–21). There is also no night, and no need for the sun or moon to give light, because the glory of God illuminates everything. Nothing unclean—and no one who practices what is detestable—will enter the city. John is describing an ideal city where God's presence fills every space with light. Believers from every nation live together there, united in worship of God and the Lamb.

The river of the water of life flows through the city, echoing the living water Jesus offered the Samaritan woman (John 4:10–14). This river sustains an unending stream of blessing for the city's inhabitants (see Ezekiel 47:1–12). On either side of the river stands the tree of life, recalling the same tree found in the Garden of Eden before the fall (Genesis 2:8–10).

Humanity was banished from Eden because of Adam and Eve's sin (Genesis 3:17). But in John's vision, the city is free from all that is cursed or defiled, restoring what was lost. Where once God's presence was too holy for sinful humanity to behold—as with Moses, who could not see the Lord's face and live (Exodus 33:20–23; 34:29–35)—now God's redeemed people will see Him face to face. They will bear His name and belong fully to Him.

In describing this heavenly city, John weaves together imagery from earlier prophetic visions throughout Scripture, reinforcing the trustworthiness and continuity of his vision. What emerges is a picture of perfect unity between God and His people—a place of love, abundance, and joy. God's people worship Him continually, living forever in the radiant light of His glorious presence.

ASK

1| What is most interesting or intriguing to you about John's description of the heavenly city in Revelation?

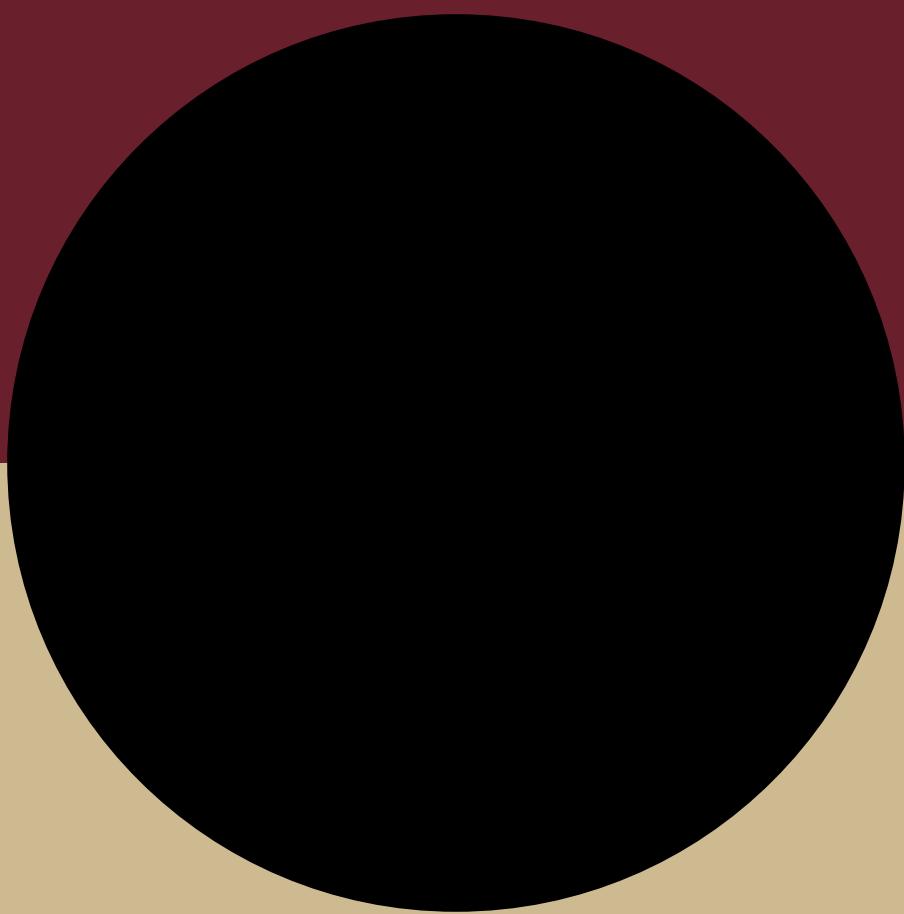
2| What feelings or emotions does this imagery conjure up for you? Is this a place where you would ultimately like to reside? Why?

PRAY

Give praise and adoration to God for His blessings in this life and the promise of the heavenly city in the next life. Praise God for the things you are most looking forward to in this heavenly city.

DO

Draw your own picture of the heavenly city based on John's description. Keep it somewhere safe, and return to it—along with Revelation's words—whenever you need to be reminded of God's promises.



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