

# REMEMBER

A 40 DAY EASTER AND LENT DEVOTIONAL

# Day 1 | Wednesday, March 2

## *Psalm 90:3-4*

You turn people back to dust, saying, "Return to dust, you mortals."

A thousand years in your sight are like a day that has just gone by, or like a watch in the night.

For the Lord, a thousand years can be only a day gone by. So imagine how short this devotional of 40 days could seem! It may be difficult at times for you to keep it going, but once you complete it, your understanding of God and His love for you will have grown so much. Lent is a time for believers to reflect on their mortality, sin, and the need for a Savior. It begins with a special day called Ash Wednesday. If you have ever been to a bonfire, you may not think very much about the ash forming beneath the fire. But, if you stick around to help clean up the fire pit, you will realize how dusty ash can be. Ash and dust make it hard to breathe. They stick to your clothes and make a mess of things. From a human perspective, dust and ash are rarely useful and even border on an annoyance.

However, in Genesis 2:7, God forms Adam from the dust of the Earth. He doesn't use plants, animals, or water. Instead, He forms a body from dust and puts His own breath into the man, and that man comes to life. If you are a Christ-follower, you have been promised by God that you will be raised from the dust on the Final Day and given a new body built for eternity (Philippians 3:20-21). Yes, even if your body decays for centuries, God can still reclaim you!

Throughout this devotional, you will be pushed to acknowledge both the reality of death and the hope of eternal life in Christ. In this balance, give worship and praise to God, and do not be afraid to ask questions when you don't quite understand. Any mentor, parent, teacher, or friend who is more mature in their faith would likely love to help you know more about God.

Questions:

1. What excites you about the 40-day Easter and Lent Devotional?
2. What worries you about the 40-day Easter and Lent Devotional?
3. List at least two people that you can ask for help if you run into something confusing in this devotional. If you don't have 2, pray that God will lead the right people into your life, and write that prayer below.

# Day 2 | Thursday, March 3

## Proverbs 27:1

"Do not boast about tomorrow, for you do not know what a day may bring."

There is an old saying that we "shouldn't count our chickens before they hatch." There is great wisdom in this, because it hits on a common flaw in human understanding. Sometimes we take a 'likely' outcome and believe that it is the only outcome. Imagine the chicken farmer that bragged to their friends about the 22 chickens they had on the way, only to realize much later that over half of their eggs wouldn't hatch. Kind of embarrassing, right?

Unfortunately, all of us can fall into this trap, especially when it comes to our faith. Perhaps it starts with an innocent prayer, asking for a specific outcome to a tough situation. We might say, "Lord, I have the perfect fix- and I know that You will do it this way, because I've thought it through, and this is the only way for all of this to work out." And slowly, we start to believe that the only way for God to be "really God" is if A, B, and C, occur. After a while, our faith is built on what God can do for us tomorrow, rather than what He has already accomplished for us.

Don't get me wrong- God will do incredible things today, tomorrow, and every day! But this devotional is designed for us to look at what He has already accomplished. Over the next month or so, you are going to Remember. The world is full of false predictions. Why not spend your time reflecting on the message that has altered the future entirely? The Gospel of Jesus Christ! After you finish this devotional, may your life reflect Paul's words in Galatians 6:14, "But far be it from me to boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world."

### Questions:

1. Think of a time when you have been certain about a future event, only to be let down when it didn't go exactly as planned. How did that make you feel?
2. Why could it be more life-changing to tell someone about why Christ-followers celebrate Easter than what money-making stocks they should invest in for maximum return?
3. What are some things that you can boast about according to the Bible, and what shouldn't you boast about?

# Day 3 | Friday, March 4

## **Romans 3:23**

"for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,"

You might be wondering why sin is such a big deal if we all do it. And, most sane people don't openly consider themselves a god, because they already know they fall short of "god" status. We're only human, and God has bigger things to care about, right? Wrong!

God's plan for humankind has always been to fellowship with us. In the Garden, God walked with Adam and Eve. When Israel wandered the desert, God was present in the Ark of the Covenant to remind His people that He was walking with them. Even now, Jesus promises his followers that He is making a place for us in His Father's house (John 14:2). But because God is so glorious, there are rules for hanging out in His presence. God's glory is so powerful that sin is destroyed in His presence. Not erased... destroyed. And that can lead to danger if we as sinners enter into God's presence without being made righteous.

But despite the sin and God's glory mismatch, the Lord still desires for us to be in His presence. Think about it: in the Old Testament, there are countless laws about cleansing yourself before you enter the congregation for worship. These laws were not so that God could prove how harsh and in control He was. Instead, they were invitations to His people. Kind of like, "Before you come into my house, do (insert ritual). It will temporarily cleanse you of sin, and then you will be safe in my presence. Because I really want to hang out with you, and I don't want you to perish in the process."

This is why the work of Christ is important. In Him, we are made completely clean of sin, FOREVER. Even the sins you don't know you have yet! This removal of our unrighteousness means that we can enter into God's presence unafraid, and rejoice in His glory whenever we please.

### Questions:

1. If you were explaining God's glory to a family member, how would you do it?
2. God's power over sin is lethal. Why do you think He wants His people to understand that?
3. How can understanding sin and its impact on the world help us understand Easter?



# Day 4 | Saturday, March 5

## *Psalm 7:9*

"Oh, let the evil of the wicked come to an end, and may you establish the righteous— you who test the minds and hearts, O righteous God!"

Throughout this Lent devotional, you will spend time examining your own heart. Lent is a time where we submit ourselves to God and commit to sacrificing the things that hold us back from Him. In Psalm 7:9, the Psalmist asks God to examine the hearts and minds of those around him. And he cries out to God, "let the evil of the wicked come to an end."

Sin not only impacts your relationship with God, but the relationships you have with everyone around you. A single lie to a family member can break down trust in the whole family. Speaking harsh words to a friend could end your friendship and hurt your witness to them. Displaying greed, malice, or impatience are not parts of a personality that you are "stuck with" but rather parts of your soul that seek to do harm and only maintain your happiness. If you wouldn't want to be around a person like you, then you might be the drama!

Today, spend some time asking God to reveal the ways you have sinned against Him and others. Don't be afraid of the conviction that the Holy Spirit brings. When your eyes are opened to the sin in your life, it gives you the opportunity to repent and grow more like Christ. Examining your heart and mind with God regularly will strengthen your relationship with Him. And when we display more and more of Christ to the world in our words and actions, we take part in God's mission to reconcile the world to Himself.

### Questions:

1. What sin has the Lord revealed in your life that you hope to overcome?
2. Imagine that you have a friend who is struggling with a sin that you have not been as tempted by. How would you counsel them?
3. The Holy Spirit resides in Christ-followers. What are some ways He helps us identify the sin in our life?

# Sunday, March 6

During Lent, you will use every Sunday as a day to learn with your fellow believers. Take some notes below from church, your Sunday School class, or even your family Bible Study.



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# DAY 5 | Monday, March 7

## *Psalm 7:9*

"Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly handling the word of truth."

Confession and repentance. Both involve a presentation to God that, for better or worse, displays our heart to Him. In confession, we present God with an acknowledgment of our sin. God does not need this confession to know what we have done, but it is an important practice in the Christian faith. Imagine that a friend does something that wrongs you. Their confession is not necessary for you to know what they've done. However, there is something about confession that brings two people closer together after a conflict.

Repentance is the same way. If presenting a confession to God acknowledging that we need His forgiveness, then repentance is a presentation of our desire to be more like Him. Below is a prayer of confession that you can use at any time. Below is a prayer of confession based on 2 Timothy 2:15.

Lord God,

Every day that I live, I want to rest in the knowledge that You love me.

My sin burdens me, and I present it to You now, and ask for your forgiveness. I pray now, Holy Spirit of God, that you would show me the areas where I should repent so that I can be like one approved. Help me handle Your truths rightly, and teach me to live without shame.

Thank you, Jesus Christ, for the work You did on the cross. It has set me free from sin and made me righteous before God. I pray that You will lead me in the ways of righteousness and give me the strength to let go of the things that no longer have power over me.

In Your Heavenly Name, I pray,  
Amen