

# Lent

A SEASON OF REPENTANCE

Harvest Church of Memphis 2018



# What Is Lent?

---

What is Lent? Many of you may have heard of Lent or even been in a church that marked it as an important season on the Christian calendar, but what is the true purpose of Lent? Outside of the church, lent has been adopted by culture at large as a time of “giving something up” or denying yourself something for the purpose of self-discipline. But the true meaning of Lent is much deeper and more focused than the simple act of denial.

Lent is the 46-day period (excluding Sundays) on the Christian calendar that spans from Ash Wednesday to Easter morning. It is a period of time where believers enter into a season of fasting and focus as we seek to draw our attention to the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus.

Our hope is that during this Lent season, your family would truly enter into the tradition of Lent by establishing a rhythm of consistency. We encourage you to spend time considering how and when you will pursue the joyful disciplines of reading, praying, meditating and fasting during the season.

*\*The song listed each week is taken from Hymns for the Christian Life by Keith and Kristyn Getty.*

# Weekly Fasts

---

Each week, we have suggested an area of fasting to apply to our lives. Fasting is a tangible, physical activity that points to our spiritual longing to be rooted in Jesus alone and find our true comfort to our life in Christ. Rather than simply subtracting something from our lives, this is an opportunity to add something greater. These particular fasts were chosen because each represents a common comfort our culture runs to for distraction. We should consider ways in which we can leverage the fast to engage in deeper prayer, study, community, meditation, etc.

Although encouraged to pursue a complete fast on many of the weeks (i.e., abstaining completely from the area of the week), weeks 1 and 6 are not expected to be absolute fasts. Week 1 involves a fast from food. You may choose to fast from one meal a day; others will do an entire day; others still might choose a fast of multiple days. Week 6 involves a fast from sleep. You are neither expected nor encouraged to abstain from sleep for the entire week. However, the hope is that we might set our alarms an hour or two earlier, stay up an hour or two later and devote one entire night or morning to prayer. Plan ahead to the degree to which you will engage in the fast on those two weeks.

Additionally, consider the possibility of building each week upon the next. For instance, you could continue the Week 1 fast into Week 2 and so forth to eventually do all six fasts together. Again, this is not intended to be a burden, but rather an opportunity and should be stewarded as circumstances allow. May we being to prepare our hearts accordingly

**Week 1:** Food

**Week 2:** Television and Movies

**Week 3:** Social Networking and Internet

**Week 4:** Caffeine and Sweets

**Week 5:** Radio and Music

**Week 6:** Sleep

# Mark Reading Plan

---

Take a journey with us as we behold Jesus' last week in the Gospel of Mark. We desire that you meditate daily on Jesus as he voluntarily became a substitute and sacrifice for the sins of the world. As we intentionally examine Jesus' last week, we pray that our affections would be stirred to praise and honor the One who left heaven to rescue and redeem a lost and traitor race. Also, we encourage you to bring an unbeliever alongside you to witness the most excellent story ever told! We pray that this journey proves incredibly fruitful as we fix our eyes on the Author and Perfector of our faith.

February 14 – Mark 8:27-30  
February 15 – Mark 8:31-38  
February 16 – Mark 9:1-8  
February 17 – Mark 9:9-13

February 19 – Mark 9:14-29  
February 20 – Mark 9:30-37  
February 21 – Mark 9:38-50  
February 22 – Mark 10:1-12  
February 23 – Mark 10:13-16  
February 24 – Mark 10:17-31

February 26 – Mark 10:32-34  
February 27 – Mark 10:35-45  
February 28 – Mark 10:46-52  
March 1 – Mark 11:1-10  
March 2 – Mark 11:11-19  
March 3 – Mark 11:20-26

March 5 – Mark 11:27-33  
March 6 – Mark 12:1-12  
March 7 – Mark 12:13-17  
March 8 – Mark 12:19-27  
March 9 – Mark 12:28-34  
March 10 – Mark 12:35-40

March 12 – Mark 12:41-44  
March 13 – Mark 13:1-8  
March 14 – Mark 13:9-13  
March 15 – Mark 13:14-23  
March 16 – Mark 13:24-31  
March 17 – Mark 13:32-37

March 19 – Mark 14:1-9  
March 20 – Mark 14:10-21  
March 21 – Mark 14:22-31  
March 22 – Mark 14:32-42  
March 23 – Mark 14:43-52  
March 24 – Mark 14:53-65

March 26 – Mark 14:66-72  
March 27 – Mark 15:1-15  
March 28 – Mark 15:16-20  
March 29 – Mark 15:21-32  
March 30 – Mark 15:33-41  
March 31 – Mark 15:42-47

Easter Sunday – Mark 16:1-8

# Jesus Storybook Bible Reading Plan

---

We've also put together a daily reading plan for families that takes you on a wonderful journey from the beginning of time right up to Easter day using The Jesus Storybook Bible by Sally Lloyd-Jones. Every single story whispers his name — the Rescuer. Join us in reading along as we head towards Easter. We will trace the wonderful plan of God who didn't just look down at the mess we made but came down as a Rescuer to save us.

February 14 – The Story and the Song (p.12)

February 15 – The beginning: a perfect home (p. 18)

February 16 – The terrible lie (p. 28)

February 17 – A new beginning (p. 38)

February 19 – A giant staircase to heaven (p. 48)

February 20 – Son of laughter (p. 56)

February 21 – The present (p.62)

February 22 – The girl no one wanted (p. 70)

February 23 – The forgiving prince (p. 76)

February 24 – God to the rescue! (p. 84)

February 26 – God makes a way (p. 92)

February 27 – Ten ways to be perfect (p. 100)

February 28 – The warrior leader (p. 108)

March 1 – The teeny, weenie...true king (p. 116)

March 2 – The young hero and the horrible giant (p. 122)

March 3 – The Good Shepherd (p. 130)

March 5 – A little servant girl and the proud general (p. 136)

March 6 – Operation: “No More Tears!” (p. 144)

March 7 – Daniel and the Scary Sleepover (p. 152)

March 8 – God's messenger (p. 160)

March 9 – Get ready! (p. 170)

March 10 – He's here (p. 176)

March 12 – The Light of the whole world (p. 184)  
March 13 – The King of all kings (p. 192)  
March 14 – Heaven breaks through (p. 200)  
March 15 – Let's go! (p. 208)  
March 16 – A little girl and a poor frail lady (p. 214)  
March 17 – How to pray (p. 222)

March 19 – The Singer (p. 228)  
March 20 – The Captain of the storm (p. 236)  
March 21 – Filled full! (p. 244)  
March 22 – Treasure hunt! (p. 250)  
March 23 – The friend of little children (p. 256)  
March 24 – The man who didn't have any friends (p. 264)

March 26 – Running away (p. 272)  
March 27 – Washed with tears (p. 280)  
March 28 – The Servant King (p. 286)  
March 29 – A dark night in the garden (p. 294)  
March 30 – The sun stops shining (p. 302)  
March 31 – God's wonderful surprise (p. 310)

Easter Sunday – Happy Easter!

# Week 1: Introduction

---

## Reading:

*But the news about him spread even more, and large crowds would come together to hear him and to be healed of their sicknesses. Yet he often withdrew to deserted places and prayed.*

- Luke 5:15-16

*Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, he got up, went out, and made his way to a deserted place; and there he was praying.*

- Mark 1:35

*He went out and made his way as usual to the Mount of Olives, and the disciples followed him. When he reached the place, he told them, "Pray that you may not fall into temptation." Then he withdrew from them about a stone's throw, knelt down, and began to pray, "Father, if you are willing, take this cup away from me—nevertheless, not my will, but yours, be done."*

- Luke 22:39-42

## Devotional:

The demands on Jesus' time were great. Everyone wanted to see Him. Everyone wanted to be healed by Him, and there was always more work to be done. However, Jesus knew that doing things for God could never be replaced by actually spending time with God himself. Jesus modeled for us the ongoing need for our hearts to connect with God away from all the demands of our daily lives. This reminds us that we are in a living relationship with a living God that longs to be with us.

As we enter into this Lent season, let's follow the pattern of Christ and intentionally mark off times this week to pull away from normal rhythms and seek God in solitude. The Bible talks about meditating on God's Word and His laws throughout Scripture. The word "meditation" means to have thoughtful contemplation or reflection for a period of time. Psalm 1:2 says

the man is blessed “whose delight is in the Lord’s instruction, and he meditates on it day and night.” Biblical meditation involves a private time of quiet, thoughtful concentration upon God’s Word and prayer.

We are seeking to shape our time of preparation for Easter morning by fasting from different components of our normal lives and asking the Spirit to empower us to feast on the food of adoration, confession, thanksgiving, supplication, and mission. Over the next 5 weeks, this devotional guide will be focusing on one of these components of our spiritual walk, and it is our hope and prayer that this Lent season will be one that draws our hearts nearer to Christ as we respond to the reality of His life, death, and resurrection.

### **Discussion Questions**

- What can we learn from Jesus about “withdrawing” to pray?
- What are some things in your life that have become idols?
- How can you replace those idols in your life

### **Prayer:**

Father, we pray for sweet fellowship with you this week. We pray for your spirit to make us aware of how we might seek you in solitude as we prepare our hearts for Lent. We are grateful that you are a God that wants to be with us and that you have made a way for us to be with you through your son Jesus Christ. Amen.

**Song:**

Nothing But The Blood by Keith and Kristyn Getty

What can wash away my sin?  
Nothing but the blood of Jesus  
What can make me whole again?  
Nothing but the blood of Jesus

For my pardon this I see;  
Nothing but the blood of Jesus  
For my cleansing this my plea;  
Nothing but the blood of Jesus

Nothing can for sin atone  
Nothing but the blood of Jesus  
Naught of good that I have done  
Nothing but the blood of Jesus

This is all my hope and peace  
Nothing but the blood of Jesus  
This is all my righteousness  
Nothing but the blood of Jesus

Glory! Glory! This I sing  
Nothing but the blood of Jesus  
All my life my cry shall be  
Nothing but the blood of Jesus

Chorus:  
O precious is the flow  
That makes me white as snow  
No other fount I know  
Nothing but the blood of Jesus

**Recommended Fast:**

Food

## Week 2: Adoration

---

### Reading:

*1 I exalt you, my God the King,  
and bless your name forever and ever.*

*2 I will bless you every day;*

*I will praise your name forever and ever.*

*3 The Lord is great and is highly praised;  
his greatness is unsearchable.*

*4 One generation will declare your works to the next  
and will proclaim your mighty acts.*

*5 I will speak of your splendor and glorious majesty  
and your wondrous works.*

*6 They will proclaim the power of your awe-inspiring acts,  
and I will declare your greatness.*

*7 They will give a testimony of your great goodness  
and will joyfully sing of your righteousness.*

*8 The Lord is gracious and compassionate,  
slow to anger and great in faithful love.*

*9 The Lord is good to everyone;  
his compassion rests on all he has made.*

*10 All you have made will thank you, Lord;  
the faithful will bless you.*

*11 They will speak of the glory of your kingdom  
and will declare your might,*

*12 informing all people of your mighty acts  
and of the glorious splendor of your kingdom.*

*13 Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom;  
your rule is for all generations.*

*The Lord is faithful in all his words  
and gracious in all his actions.*

*14 The Lord helps all who fall;  
he raises up all who are oppressed.*

*15 All eyes look to you,  
and you give them their food at the proper time.*

*16 You open your hand  
and satisfy the desire of every living thing.*

*17 The Lord is righteous in all his ways  
and faithful in all his acts.*

*18 The Lord is near all who call out to him,  
all who call out to him with integrity.  
19 He fulfills the desires of those who fear him;  
he hears their cry for help and saves them.  
20 The Lord guards all those who love him,  
but he destroys all the wicked.  
21 My mouth will declare the Lord's praise;  
let every living thing  
bless his holy name forever and ever.*

- Psalm 145

### **Devotional:**

Many Biblical prayers follow a format that is known as the “ACTS” format for prayer. Each letter in the word “ACTS” stands for a different portion of prayer, in the order in which they should be prayed: Adoration, Confession, Thanksgiving, and Supplication. Following this model can greatly enrich your own prayer life as it guides us toward a healthy and balanced prayer life. The first one we will learn about is Adoration. When we think of adoration, we often think of deep love, devotion and respect, but adoration also implies worship, praise, and exaltation.

As we begin our prayers, it is helpful to remember who God is and what He has done for us. God is the Creator of all things. He is infinite and eternal, which means He has no beginning and no end. The Psalmist wrote: “Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever you had formed the earth and the world, from everlasting to everlasting you are God.” (Psalm 90:2) God also gives us life through His Son Jesus. Martin Luther once said that the gospel, in a nutshell, is found in John 3:16, “For God so loved the world that He gave his only begotten son, that whoever believeth in should not perish but have eternal life.” We are also told in Ephesians chapter 2 that this gift was free! (v. 8-9)

As we think about who God is and what he has done, we naturally adore Him. When we pray adoringly to God, it simply means that we love him because of who He is and what He has freely given to us. Think about how you feel when someone gives you a gift. You might feel gratitude and thankfulness. You also feel loved and you love the one who gave the gift as well. Adoration is a way

that we express to God that He is worthy of our praise, worship and love. Do not confuse adoration with thanksgiving that we will learn about in a couple weeks. The purpose of adoration is not to remind God about Himself, but instead, the purpose of adoration is to help remind yourself of the wonderful majesty of who God is. By reviewing God's majesty, it helps to put you in a prayer frame of mind.

## **Discussion Questions**

- What are some ways in which you can express love, respect, and devotion to God?
- Is there anything in your life that you adore more than God? What is it?
- How can you adore God more this week in your everyday life?

## **Prayer:**

Lord, we praise your name for sending Jesus to make it possible for us to have eternal life. You are a great and loving Father who cares about us. Thank you God, that you have always cared for us and that you are a good and kind Father. We love you God, and we lift up your name for all that you are and all that you do. We worship you and adore you. In Jesus name, Amen.

## **Song:**

The Perfect Wisdom of Our God by Keith and Kristyn Getty

The perfect wisdom of our God,  
Revealed in all the universe:  
All things created by His hand,  
And held together at His command.  
He knows the mysteries of the seas,  
The secrets of the stars are His;  
He guides the planets on their way,  
And turns the earth through another day.

The matchless wisdom of His ways,  
That mark the path of righteousness;  
His word a lamp unto my feet,

His Spirit teaching and guiding me.  
And oh, the mystery of the cross,  
That God should suffer for the lost  
So that the fool might shame the wise,  
And all the glory might go to Christ!

Oh grant me wisdom from above,  
To pray for peace and cling to love,  
And teach me humbly to receive  
The sun and rain of Your sovereignty.  
Each strand of sorrow has a place  
Within this tapestry of grace;  
So through the trials I choose to say:  
Your perfect will in your perfect way.

**Recommended Fast:**

Television and Movies

## Week 3 – Confession

---

### Reading:

- 1 Be gracious to me, God,  
according to your faithful love;  
according to your abundant compassion,  
blot out my rebellion.*
- 2 Completely wash away my guilt  
and cleanse me from my sin.*
- 3 For I am conscious of my rebellion,  
and my sin is always before me.*
- 4 Against you—you alone—I have sinned  
and done this evil in your sight.  
So you are right when you pass sentence;  
you are blameless when you judge.*
- 5 Indeed, I was guilty when I was born;  
I was sinful when my mother conceived me.*
- 6 Surely you desire integrity in the inner self,  
and you teach me wisdom deep within.*
- 7 Purify me with hyssop, and I will be clean;  
wash me, and I will be whiter than snow.*
- 8 Let me hear joy and gladness;  
let the bones you have crushed rejoice.*
- 9 Turn your face away from my sins  
and blot out all my guilt.*
- 10 God, create a clean heart for me  
and renew a steadfast spirit within me.*
- 11 Do not banish me from your presence  
or take your Holy Spirit from me.*
- 12 Restore the joy of your salvation to me,  
and sustain me by giving me a willing spirit.*
- 13 Then I will teach the rebellious your ways,  
and sinners will return to you.*

- Psalm 51:1-13

## **Devotional:**

Last week, we learned about the “ACTS” format for prayer and that the first letter stands for Adoration. This week, we will look at the “C”, which stands for Confession. Simply put, confession is the act of telling God about the sins that you have committed and asking for forgiveness.

We often hear people say that God cannot love us any more than he does at this moment. This statement, although biblically true, can mislead Christians to think that our actions cannot displease God. Think of a father who loves his child unconditionally, but feels pain and sadness when his children disobey him. Like this father, God the Father, who loves his children even more, feels displeasure when they walk in disobedience to his Word. At the same time, unconfessed sin causes God’s children to groan inwardly which robs them of their joy in Christ. But what does a Christian do, who finds themselves hiding unconfessed sin? God has graciously given his people the discipline of confession.

Confession is the act of acknowledging and repenting of one’s sin to God. David says in Psalm 51:4, “Against you—you alone—I have sinned and done this evil in your sight.” There is also a horizontal aspect of confession as we confess our sins to one another. James 5:16 says, “Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, so that you may be healed.” God graciously uses these confessions to bring his people into amazing restoration. This confession and restoration ultimately point the believer to the cross of Christ where the Son of God died once and for all, the righteous for the unrighteous. 1 John 1:9 says, “If we confess our sins, he is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. God’s people can have great confidence that they are cleansed from all their unrighteousness, and God cannot love them any more than he does right now because of their advocate Jesus Christ. Let’s spend time confessing our sins to one another and to God with the assurance that we will be restored and refreshed through Jesus Christ.

## Discussion Questions

- Is there any unconfessed sin in your life?
- To whom do you regularly confess your sin? If not, then who would be a good person to start?

## Prayer:

Lord, we come to you to confess our sins. We are unclean, and all our righteous acts are like filthy rags. We all shrivel up like a leaf, and like the wind, our sins sweep us away. We ask that you would forgive us for our sins. Forgive all of our sins, both known and unknown. Forgive all of our sins of this day, week, year, and life. You are a merciful and righteous God. We thank you for your continual forgiveness of our sins. In Jesus name, Amen.

## Song:

Kyrie Eleison by Keith and Kristyn Getty

As we come before You  
With the needs of our world,  
We confess our failures and our sin,  
For our words are many  
Yet our deeds have been few;  
Fan the fire of compassion  
Once again.

When the cries of victims  
Go unheard in the land,  
And the scars of war refuse to heal,  
Will we stand for justice  
To empower the weak  
Til their bonds of oppression  
Are no more?

If we love our God with all our  
Heart, mind, and strength,  
And we love our Neighbors as ourselves,  
Then this law of love  
Will heal the nations of earth,

And the glory of Christ Will be revealed.

Lord, renew our vision  
To be Christ where we live,  
To reach out in mercy to the lost;  
For each cup of kindness  
To the least in our midst  
Is an offering of worship  
To the throne.”

Chorus:

Kyrie eleison; have mercy.  
Christe eleison; have mercy.  
Kyrie eleison; have mercy.  
Christe eleison; have mercy.

**Recommended Fast:**

Social Networking and Internet

# Week 4 - Thanksgiving

---

## Reading:

*For we know that the one who raised the Lord Jesus will also raise us with Jesus and present us with you. Indeed, everything is for your benefit so that, as grace extends through more and more people, it may cause thanksgiving to increase to the glory of God. Therefore we do not give up. Even though our outer person is being destroyed, our inner person is being renewed day by day. For our momentary light affliction is producing for us an absolutely incomparable eternal weight of glory.*

- 2 Corinthians 4:14-17

## Devotional:

This week, we will look at the “T” in “ACTS,” which stands for Thanksgiving. This is when you thank God for what He has done. Like adoration, thanksgiving helps to remind you of the things that God has done for you. It pleases God when you thank Him for the blessings He gives you. During thanksgiving, you show that you are attentive to the work that God is doing in your life, and that you are grateful. The below story will help you see what it means to be thankful.

A man named Patrick was born March 16, 1990 with a rare disorder that affected his brain as well as his body. In the hospital, the doctor told his parents that he wouldn't live longer than six months. Unsatisfied with this diagnose, they sought another opinion. Another doctor found in Patrick's body a healthy heart so he didn't want them to worry about the deformities but rather be thankful for his strong heart. As time went on, His parents were very aware this could be his last day but they continued to thank God for what they called “Miracle Moments”.

Sometimes he went for days unable to keep food down but his mom would thank God that at least he didn't have a fever. Patrick was unable to use words but his parents thanked God that he would make a grunt or a moan. Some of the best moments were when he formed his lips into a slight smile. His parents thanked

God so much for Patrick's life that they didn't dwell on his possible death. They kept an attitude of thanksgiving knowing when God called him home, he would be whole in His presence.

In the above passage from 2 Corinthians, Paul was under mental and physical persecution, trial, and suffering because of his faith in Jesus. However, he knew that it was temporary and helping to spread the gospel to more and more people. The way he endured encouraged others to be thankful. Paul knew that his physical body was going to die, but it didn't matter since his inner being was growing in Christ. His outlook toward his conditions changed because his mind was focused on things eternal rather than temporal. Just as Christ was raised from the dead, he too would be raised into His presence when he died. As believers we can be thankful that this life is not our home, these trials will one day end, and in the presence of Christ we will eventually stand.

Paul continually teaches us that one surprising aspect of thanksgiving is that it's for all circumstances, not just one big meal a year. In 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18, Paul writes, "Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you." Giving thanks in all circumstances is especially difficult while undergoing suffering. So how can we be thankful when there's something that hurts so much? We can give thanks in the midst of suffering because it is meant to enlarge our faith in God.

## **Discussion Questions**

- How can you live life differently in light of the story we read above?
- What are some ways you are thankful to God today?

## **Prayer:**

Lord, help us to be thankful during the hard times and give us the grace to recognize the miracle moments where you are at work in our lives. Allow our thanksgiving to be a witness of the power of the resurrected Savior Jesus Christ. Thank you for what you have already done in our lives. Thank you for your faithfulness in keeping promises in our lives. Help us live with a thankful heart. Amen.

**Song:**

My Heart is Filled with Thankfulness by Keith and Kristyn Getty

My heart is filled with thankfulness  
To Him who bore my pain;  
Who plumbed the depths of my disgrace  
And gave me life again;  
Who crushed my curse of sinfulness  
And clothed me in His light  
And wrote His law of righteousness  
With pow'r upon my heart.

My heart is filled with thankfulness  
To Him who walks beside;  
Who floods my weaknesses with strength  
And causes fears to fly;  
Whose ev'ry promise is enough  
For ev'ry step I take,  
Sustaining me with arms of love  
And crowning me with grace.

My heart is filled with thankfulness  
To him who reigns above,  
Whose wisdom is my perfect peace,  
Whose ev'ry thought is love.  
For ev'ry day I have on earth  
Is given by the King;  
So I will give my life, my all,  
To love and follow him.

**Recommended Fast:**

Caffeine and Sweets

# Week 5 – Supplication

---

## **Scripture:**

*This is the confidence we have before him: If we ask anything according to his will, he hears us. And if we know that he hears whatever we ask, we know that we have what we have asked of him.*

- 1 John 5:14-15

## **Devotional:**

This week, we will look at the last letter in “ACTS,” which stands for Supplication. Supplication is a form of prayer in which the Christian humbly and earnestly asks God to provide something, either for yourself or on behalf of someone else. It is one of the greatest privileges of the believer! To come before the God of the universe with the things that we want and present our requests to him! After you go through the other steps in this method of prayer—adoration, confession, and thanksgiving—you will be in a humble state of mind when your requests to God will be more meaningful. It is also important that your requests not simply be requests for yourself, but that you ask God for things for others as well.

When we ask God for things that we need, several things happen. First, we are actively recognizing that God is the giver of all things and is sovereignly in control of everything that happens. We are also admitting our own inability to change things or do things on our own. We are in effect saying, “God, I can’t do this, but I know that you can!” It pleases God when we recognize that he is the great creator and provider of all that we need!

When it comes to supplication, many will ask, “what should we ask God for?” The passage we read today says that we should ask for things that align with God’s will. Things that God loves and desires. Pray for God to be glorified in the world and in the situations of your life, for people that don’t know Christ to trust in him, for your growth in Christlikeness and breaking away from sin, for God’s kingdom to advance on the earth, and for your daily provisions.

## Discussion Questions

- How should we approach God in our prayers?
- What are things we can ask God for?
- What does each letter in “ACTS” stand for? What do they each mean?

## Prayer:

God, we ask that you would grow our hearts for you and that you would transform us into your image today. We pray for those that are hurting or going through sickness or disease—that they would be healed and encouraged and drawn closer to Christ. We ask that the gospel would grow and spread in countries around the world that have very few Christians in it. We pray that God would be glorified in the world that he created! Amen.

## Song:

Before You I Kneel by Keith and Kristyn Getty

Before You I kneel, my Master and Maker,  
To offer the work of my hands.  
For this is the day You've given Your servant;  
I will rejoice and be glad  
For the strength I have to live and breathe,  
For each skill Your grace has given me,  
For the needs and opportunities  
That will glorify Your great name.

Before You I kneel and ask for Your goodness  
To cover the work of my hands.  
For patience and peace to shape all my labor,  
Your grace for thorns in my path.  
Flow within me like a living stream,  
Wear away the stones of pride and greed  
'Til Your ways are dwelling deep in me  
And a harvest of life is grown.

Before You we kneel, our Master and Maker;  
Establish the work of our hands.  
And order our steps to seek first Your kingdom  
In every small and great task.  
May we live the gospel of Your grace,  
Serve Your purpose in our fleeting days,  
Then our lives will bring eternal praise  
And all glory to Your great name.

**Recommended Fast:**

Radio and Music

# Week 6 – Mission

---

## Scripture:

*You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt should lose its taste, how can it be made salty? It's no longer good for anything but to be thrown out and trampled under people's feet. You are the light of the world. A city situated on a hill cannot be hidden. No one lights a lamp and puts it under a basket, but rather on a lampstand, and it gives light for all who are in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.*

- Matthew 5:13-16

## Devotional:

Lent is a great time for us to consider our mission in life. In this season, we get to look back and remember what Jesus did for us on the cross, and we get to celebrate that He did not stay in the grave but rose again and conquered death. In John 17:18, Jesus says that we are sent into this world in the same way or just as He was sent into this world by His Father. Jesus came with a job to do and as He is preparing to finish his mission in life, He tells the disciples and us as well that we have the same mission that He had. The question that is important for us to understand if we desire to do the mission God has called us to is how do we join Him in the mission that He has to seek and save that which is lost?

Our mission, like Jesus, is to get close to those who need Him. That means that we do not just stay in the salt shaker with the other Christians, but we leave where we are comfortable to serve the purpose we were made for. We love and invest deeply in the lives of those around us who need Jesus just like we do. Like salt, we get to protect the world from rotting and bring flavor to those around us. When people see us, they should notice how different we are and yet still want us around, just like they did with Jesus. We are not to become like the world, but to remain salty, to remain different while at the same time loving and involving ourselves deeply in the lives of those who need Christ. We are also the light. Jesus' is ultimately the light of the

world, but His light in us shines to reveal what is true as well as show the way forward. Jesus' light in us reveals the sin of this world, and they don't like it. It also shows us the way toward true life that is only found in Christ.

The beatitudes that come right before this (Matthew 5:1-12) and all of Jesus teaching changes us into those who are salt and light to a world that is stuck in darkness. May God use this season of Lent to remind us of the mission that He invites us into. God makes us different, but not separate from this world. May we, like Jesus, see the people around us as those who need Christ and love them enough to risk our comfort that they might know true comfort in Christ.

The fast this week is sleep. Get up a little earlier or go to bed a little later and spend that extra time praying for those who do not yet know Christ or investing time building a relationship with those people during the time you would usually spend otherwise.

## **Discussion Questions**

- Who are some people you know who don't know God that you can pray for?
- What are some ways in which we are different from the world?
- How can we carry out Jesus' mission to make disciples of all nations?

## **Prayer:**

Lord, we pray that you would make us more like yourself. Help us to see those around us as you see them. Hear our prayer for those who do not know you. We ask that they may come to a saving knowledge of the truth and that Your Name may be praised among all peoples of the world. Lead, guide, and direct us in the days ahead. Amen.

## **Recommended Fast:**

Sleep

## **Song:**

In Christ Alone by Keith and Kristyn Getty

In Christ alone my hope is found;  
He is my light, my strength, my song;  
This cornerstone, this solid ground,  
Firm through the fiercest drought and storm.  
What heights of love, what depths of peace,  
When fears are stilled, when strivings cease!  
My comforter, my all in all—  
Here in the love of Christ I stand.

In Christ alone, Who took on flesh,  
Fullness of God in helpless babe!  
This gift of love and righteousness,  
Scorned by the ones He came to save.  
Till on that cross as Jesus died,  
The wrath of God was satisfied;  
For ev'ry sin on Him was laid—  
Here in the death of Christ I live.

There in the ground His body lay,  
Light of the world by darkness slain;  
Then bursting forth in glorious day,  
Up from the grave He rose again!  
And as He stands in victory,  
Sin's curse has lost its grip on me;  
For I am His and He is mine—  
Bought with the precious blood of Christ.

No guilt in life, no fear in death—  
This is the pow'r of Christ in me;  
From life's first cry to final breath,  
Jesus commands my destiny.  
No pow'r of hell, no scheme of man,  
Can ever pluck me from His hand;  
Till He returns or calls me home—  
Here in the pow'r of Christ I'll stand.



HARVEST CHURCH