

## Lenten Devotional

It is no coincident that in the Christian calendar “Lent” usually begins near the end of winter as the days slowing become longer and lighter. The word lent comes from the Old English word “lengten” which means “spring” – that time of year when the new life begins to spring out of the ground.

Lent is the time of year that Christians have historically set aside in order to take stock of our own hearts, to repent or our sins and anticipate the light that Jesus is bringing into the world. To often in our daily lives we rush around from one pressing appointment or task to the other and rarely do we slow down enough to check in with ourselves and see if we have closed our ears to the truth or allowed our hearts to grow slightly cold. We need periodic seasons where we purposely set aside time to dedicate ourselves anew God.

It is our prayer that you would journey with us from Ash Wednesday to Easter being reminded of the of the brokenness of humanity, but as the days grow brighter, you would also experience a greater sense of God’s redeeming love and grace.

In order to help you focus on Christ during this Lenten season we have created several recourses to help you. We have outlined a reading plan that will take you through all Four of the New Testament Gospels in forty days. And we have also created a weekly Lenten devotional that will help you move with Jesus through the Gospel of Luke. As you read and pray through the stories of Jesus’ life and sacrifice allow the word of God to soften your heart, enrich your mind and give you a sense of holy anticipation as we near Resurrection Morning.

## CONNECT GROUP STUDY

**Big Idea:** God’s plan is for us to enjoy the God quality life Jesus came to bring. This God quality life includes financial wisdom and blessing. God wants you to experience true riches of life. He wants something for you, not from you. When God is in the equation, we experience much more than we expected.

### CONNECT:

Would you rather work on complex math-related problems, such as calculating estimates for a building project, or serve as a counselor at a camp for kids or teens? Why?

Who is the most generous person you know? What have you learned from them about giving?

**EXPLORE:** Read Luke 6:38, Galatians 6:7 and Matthew 19:29. These verses teach us the principles of sowing and reaping.

In what ways have you experienced the principles of sowing and reaping? Examples can come from anywhere from gardening to giving.

How have you seen God multiply what you have given?

What are you currently sowing and reaping? What seeds should you be sowing that you are not?

Read 2 Corinthians 9:6-11. Paul describes three truths about giving in this passage.

What does your heart currently look like when it comes to giving? How can you develop a more cheerful heart when you give? What would it take for you to give until it’s fun?

Why is it important to give with a cheerful heart?

What are some ways you have benefited from the generosity of others?

How have you become more like Christ as a result of your giving?

**APPLY:** Put this message into action by giving something away this week. It doesn’t matter if your gift is big or small. Ask God to show you what He wants you to give and who He wants you to give it to.

**PRAYER:** Ask God to show you the seeds He wants you to be planting right now in your life. Commit to sow those seeds. Confess the things that keep you from giving in the way God desires. Ask Him to help you remove those things from your life.



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Dave Beroth, Lead Pastor

Notes available via the live feature on YouVersion.com

**The Big Idea: What you keep is all you have; what you give God multiplies.**

*Luke 6:38 Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.*

**A. Principles of Sowing and Reaping**

**1) You reap \_\_\_\_\_ you sow.**

*Galatians 6:7 Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows.*

**2) You reap \_\_\_\_\_ more than what you sow.**

*Galatians 6:8-9 <sup>8</sup> Whoever sows to please their flesh, from the flesh will reap destruction; whoever sows to please the Spirit, from the Spirit will reap eternal life. <sup>9</sup> Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.*

*Matthew 19:27-29 <sup>27</sup> Peter answered him, "We have left everything to follow you! What then will there be for us?"*

*<sup>28</sup> Jesus said to them, "Truly I tell you, at the renewal of all things, when the Son of Man sits on his glorious throne, you who have followed me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel. <sup>29</sup> And everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or wife or children or fields for my sake will receive a hundred times as much and will inherit eternal life.*

**B. Giving Truths**

**1) Your \_\_\_\_\_ matters when you give.**

*2 Corinthians 9:6-7 <sup>6</sup> Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. <sup>7</sup> Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.*

**2) You cannot \_\_\_\_\_ God.**

*2 Corinthians 9:8-10 <sup>8</sup> And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work. <sup>9</sup> As it is written:*

*"They have freely scattered their gifts to the poor; their righteousness endures forever."*

*<sup>10</sup> Now he who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will also supply and increase your store of seed and will enlarge the harvest of your righteousness.*

**3) God's \_\_\_\_\_ is at work through your generosity.**

*2 Corinthians 9:11-14 <sup>11</sup> You will be enriched in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God.*

*<sup>12</sup> This service that you perform is not only supplying the needs of the Lord's people but is also overflowing in many expressions of thanks to God. <sup>13</sup> Because of the service by which you have proved yourselves, others will praise God for the obedience that accompanies your confession of the gospel of Christ, and for your generosity in sharing with them and with everyone else. <sup>14</sup> And in their prayers for you their hearts will go out to you, because of the surpassing grace God has given you.*

*<sup>15</sup> Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!*

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What is the Holy Spirit teaching you through this message?

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How will you apply this lesson?

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