

THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN IS LIKE
Walk Through Lent with Jesus' Parables

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INTRODUCTION

Lent has many meanings to many people, varying by denomination and personal beliefs. This particular devotional is for everyone. It's a journey through some of Jesus' parables that offers a simple practice to prepare our hearts for Easter. We'll intentionally focus on the Lord daily, making moments in our ordinary but busy days to pause and be with Him.

We'll begin on Ash Wednesday by reading a short parable, followed by a few thoughts, a prayer, and a simple activity that helps us move God's Word from our heads to our hearts. Though it might be tempting to skip that last part, consider how tangible observations allow us to really take in and retain things. They slow us down for a little bit so we can experience the Lord beyond what we read.

Weekdays are much simpler. There are printable cards for you to carry with you or place somewhere you will see often during the day. Each one contains a verse, a quick thought, and a short prayer prompt. This is designed for us to include the Lord in our everyday activities, perhaps talking to Him during a commute, waiting in line, on a long phone hold, eating lunch, cleaning the kitchen, or winding down. Ponder what's on the card multiple times, taking Jesus along with you through the whole day. This is not a complex in-depth study, but an invitation to be close to God during a meaningful season. He has much to show us.

Sundays are like Ash Wednesday, highlighting a parable that sets the tone for the week. On these days of (sometimes the best we can do is attempted) rest, we'll take an extra moment or two to spend time with Jesus.

I pray you are blessed through Lent, dear friend. May you find Christ in His stories and discover the kingdom of God in our midst.

February 14th, Ash Wednesday

Read: The parables of the Hidden Treasure and Priceless Pearl

- Matthew 13: 44-46

The kingdom of God is like a treasure, these parables say. Its value and our potential desire for it are symbolized by two similar characters. But what is the kingdom, exactly? Why do they pursue it so passionately?

During this season of Lent, we join these treasure-hunters and seek God's kingdom ourselves. The mystery of a promised future that's simultaneously in our midst baffles the mind. It reminds us that we have much to understand and even more to look forward to in eternity. But first, we must start looking.

These short stories begin with the men finding the field treasure and the pearl, but what brought them to their incredible discovery? That's where we find their differences. The man in the field might have stumbled upon the treasure unexpectedly while the second man was actively looking for fine pearls. But they were both paying attention.

This is the part where we do a quick check of our own attention. Whether we accidentally stumble upon a glimpse of God's kingdom or intentionally search, we don't want to overlook it. Right now, in this moment, we declare that we're seeking God's kingdom, open our eyes, and direct our focus to the true treasure of Christ. He says that when we seek Him, He'll be found, and He's not hiding. We have so much to look forward to.

PRAY: Ask the Lord for eyes to see, ears to hear, and an open heart ready to receive Him. Talk to Him about what you might expect in the next few weeks and what could be surprising as you spend time with Him.

LIVING IT: Begin a 24-hour scavenger hunt for things that you can connect to God. Write down anything you see and how it reminded you of Him. Examples: clouds/creation, cross/salvation, food/meals with Jesus, a specific Bible story, or the wedding feast described in Revelation. This begins our practice of paying attention. If it's helpful, set reminders on your phone to stop and look around!

February 15th:

But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. – Matt 6:33

What am I worried that I would lose
if I really put God first?

Lord, help me balance priorities, responsibilities, and everything that fills my life. Show me what it looks like to seek You. Thank You for being there all along.

February 16th:

For God, who said, “Let light shine out of darkness,” made his light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of God’s glory displayed in the face of Christ. But we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us. – 1 Corinthians 4:6-7

Consider how different we are from Christ, yet we have the treasure of His Spirit within us.

God, show me the treasure of Your kingdom. Give me understanding as You guide me. Walk with me today.

February 17th:

At once I was in the Spirit, and there before me was a throne in heaven with someone sitting on it. And the one who sat there had the appearance of jasper and ruby. A rainbow that shone like an emerald encircled the throne. – Revelation 4:2-3

God gave John a vision of heaven, including the beauty of Jesus. Take a moment to imagine what we will see in the heavenly days.

Jesus, You are the true treasure that I seek in this season. I want to take a moment to praise You, worship You, and behold Your glory while looking forward to seeing You fully one day.

February 18th

Read: The parable of the Sower – Matthew 13:1-23

It's so helpful when Jesus explained His parables, isn't it? This story is often discussed among modern believers, encouraging listeners to have hearts that are "good soil." Jesus said that this meant "someone who hears the word and understands it." That sounds great, but how do our hearts become "good soil?"

When we look at literal soil, we learn that it needs to have good texture and hold water well. Organic matter and microorganisms are vital to the health of the dirt and the plants that live there. Other elements, such as the acidity of the soil, also contribute to its well-being. Of course, the earth in a garden needs to be maintained as the plants use its nutrients. This is done by testing the soil to monitor its quality and addressing its needs. It often requires adding compost or fertilizer, preventing the dirt from becoming compact, or even giving it time to rest while the worms and other organisms keep the ecosystem healthy.

Our hearts also need nurture and tending to be spiritually healthy. Are we open to receiving Christ, the Living Water, or have we become compact and closed off through disappointment, despair, or anger? Meanwhile, as actual soil contains much life, are our hearts living fully by giving and receiving love? How often do we examine ourselves to test what kind of "soil" would represent us? Do we allow God's Word to feed us, restoring what has been depleted when we neglect our time with Him? How often do we rest from our frantic productivity and let Him restore us?

Good soil doesn't happen by accident and a garden needs care. When we allow God to nurture our hearts and provide life-giving spiritual nutrients, we hear the Word and begin to understand it. Before we know it, we become fruitful as He does beautiful things with our lives.

PRAY: Creator of actual gardens and caretaker of my heart, help me recognize which "soil" describes me right now. Come nurture my spirit so that I can hear and understand Your Word.

LIVING IT: Plant something if possible. Big or small, indoors or out, high maintenance or easy to tend- any time in the dirt will do. Think about the parable as you observe the soil and make your plant comfortable. Not sure you're up for plant care? Take a quick trip to a local garden center to browse or walk anywhere and observe flowers, plants, trees, and of course, the ground. Pay attention to what you see, smell, hear, and even touch while savoring this quiet time with God, pondering His Word.

February 19th:

The Lord does not look at the things people look at. People look at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart. – 1 Samuel 16:7b

What might God see when He looks at my heart? How can I see others with His perspective?

Lord, give me a glimpse of Your point of view. Grant me heart-vision so that I can love more like You.

February 20th:

Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me. – Psalm 51:10

What is cluttering my heart and weighing down my spirit right now?

God, I'm giving You my heart and asking for Your nurture, healing, and restoration.

February 21st:

Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. – Deuteronomy 6:5

How am I doing on loving God with my whole self? Is something holding me back?

Holy Spirit, be near and help me fully love You with everything I have. Strengthen my weaknesses and overcome any fear or hesitation in me.

February 22nd:

The Lord is close to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit. – Psalm 34:18

What hurts my heart?

Jesus, I need Your compassion. Please be close to me and hold me safely near Your heart.

February 23rd:

May these words of my mouth and this meditation of my heart be pleasing in your sight, Lord, my Rock and my Redeemer. – Psalm 19:14

What words and thoughts haven't been so pleasing lately?

Lord, I confess these to You. My Rock and my Redeemer, I earnestly pray this scripture, asking for Your help as You refine my heart.

February 24th:

You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart. – Jeremiah 29:13

How am I actively seeking God today?

Almighty God, help me learn from Your people long ago as they returned to You. I want to seek You with all my heart, eagerly anticipating the joy of finding You.

February 25th

Read: The Parable of the Pharisee and Tax Collector– Luke 18:9-14

While some people were concerned with spiritual perfectionism, Jesus pointed out that they were imperfect in a very big way: they were proud and disingenuous in their prayers. They talked to God more about what other people did wrong as if the comparison gave them extra holy points. But the guy who had the bravery to genuinely open his heart to God “went home justified” before Him.

God isn't looking for us to impress Him. Instead, He wants our honesty. We are invited to be our authentic selves with Him, not put on a show or even present something like a polished resume. After all, He's all-knowing and sees our hearts, so we can't hide anything. Meanwhile, how can we begin to heal if we refuse to acknowledge what's truthfully happening?

The idea of showing up as our real, flawed selves to a holy, righteous God can be intimidating. Yet, we can trust our good and compassionate Heavenly Father with our deepest vulnerabilities. He welcomes our sincere prayers in our own words, not something fancy or formal or that we mimic from someone else. He wants our genuine hearts, no matter how messy or complicated, and He loves us completely.

It's beautiful that God loves and accepts us as His beloved children, not based on anything we have done or didn't do. He's working in our hearts as He grows and matures us, but His love is not based on our progress. We can trust His goodness and approach Him as our authentic selves. This is another beautiful glimpse of the kingdom of God.

PRAY: Merciful Lord, this is me, as I am, before You. Thank you for being trustworthy and compassionate. Help me be who You created me to be in the freedom of being honest with You.

LIVING IT: Write a letter to God, intentionally being authentic and honest. Ask questions, tell Him how you really feel about things happening, share anything that's on your mind- even “stream of consciousness” writing is ok. When it's done, seal it in an envelope, then label and date it. You might save it in a journal, tuck it in your Bible, or make a reminder to reread it in a year (and perhaps write another letter then).

February 26th:

You have searched me, Lord, and you know me. You know when I sit and when I rise; you perceive my thoughts from afar. You discern my going out and my lying down; you are familiar with all my ways. Before a word is on my tongue you, Lord, know it completely. – Psalm 139:1-4

What does it mean to me that God knows me so intimately?

Thank You, God, for being so near and so caring. Help me know You better while resting close to You.

February 27th:

But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. –

Romans 5:8

Think about how Christ didn't wait for us to "be better" before He provided salvation. How do I feel about that?

Jesus, my heart is full of gratitude. Help me see Your unconditional love and humbly find my security in You.

February 28th:

Search me, God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting. – Psalm 139:23-24

Am I overlooking any wrongs that have become ordinary to me?

God, show me what You see in my heart and bring me into Your light.

February 29th:

The Lord is near to all who call on him, to all who call on him in truth. – Psalm 145:18

Does the Lord feel near or far to me today? What does it mean to "call on Him in truth?"

God, You hear when I call. Fill me with Your truth.

March 1st:

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. – 1 John 1:9

What is weighing on me and needs confession?

Heavenly Father, sometimes it's hard to tell You how I've messed up. But I believe Your promises and have faith in Your forgiveness and love. Let's talk about my heart today.

March 2nd:

But I trust in your unfailing love; my heart rejoices in your salvation. – Psalm 13:5

God's love never ever fails. How do I honestly respond to His compassionate salvation?

Jesus, You give me hope. Please calm any anxiety over my mistakes or disobedience. Remind me of the joy found in You.

March 3rd

Read: The Parables of the Mustard Seed and Yeast - Matt 13:31-34 or Mark 4:30-34

It can be easy to focus so much on our own relationship with God that we forget to turn around and look at our neighbors. But the kingdom of God is much bigger than our own experiences and beyond what we can imagine.

Jesus again used examples that His listeners would find relatable. They saw mustard plant throughout the landscape around them and they frequently baked bread as a dietary staple. These illustrations would quickly remind them of something that begins small and grows exponentially. Also, both mustard and yeast start out easily contained, but then expand to reach others. Soon, birds rest in the mature tree and a family has bread for supper.

Today, we might describe this phenomenon as something that goes viral online, a trend that takes off, or dandelions on suburban lawns. However we picture God's kingdom spreading, we know that it's not merely limited to our own hearts. We are meant to share with our neighbors as His kingdom affects every part of our collective lives. Unlike earthly rulers, God reigns with justice, grace, and faithfulness. As we live according to His principles, we are part of the kingdom's expansion!

We can see how the kingdom has grown on earth since Jesus walked the roads of Galilee. Yet, how much have our eyes overlooked? What is happening that can only be seen from a heavenly perspective? What will we witness in the days, years, and eternity to come? But for today, we can share some bread with a neighbor and watch God's kingdom continue to reach His precious children.

PRAY: King of Kings, we pray Your will is done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us eyes to see Your hand in everything around us as well as Your vision of the glory to come.

LIVING IT: Research various mustard seeds and how they grow and mature. Engage your mind with this topic and try to put yourself in the place of the disciples as they listened to Jesus. Then, (Option A) bake bread using a simple recipe in a cookbook or online. If you're not ready for the kitchen, try (Option B): go to a bakery or store and carefully select a fresh loaf of bread. Eat it by itself, with butter, with soup, or as a sandwich while appreciating its taste, smell, texture, and other details.

March 4th:

Once, on being asked by the Pharisees when the kingdom of God would come, Jesus replied, "The coming of the kingdom of God is not something that can be observed, nor will people say, 'Here it is,' or 'There it is,' because the kingdom of God is in your midst." – Luke 17:20-21

Where have I witnessed or experienced God's kingdom?

Jesus, show me what You meant when You said God's kingdom is in our midst. Help me better understand.

March 5th:

"This, then, is how you should pray: "Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. – Matthew 6:9-10

Has the Lord's Prayer become overly familiar and lost its meaning to me? What do the words truly say?

Our Heavenly Father, Your name is holy. May Your kingdom be on earth and Your ways be done like they are in heaven. Thank You for providing everything we need, and for forgiving us. Help us to forgive others as well. Keep us far from temptation and anything evil. Yours is the kingdom, all the power, and all the glory forever.

March 6th:

In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven. – Matthew 5:16

How can I shine God's light today?

Heavenly Father, thank You for filling me with Your light. Show me how to live today so that the people around me see You.

March 7th:

"A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another." – John 13:34-35

Who in my life is easy to love?
Who challenges me?

Holy Spirit, fill me with divine love.
Inspire me with various ways to share it with others,
from my family and friends to my enemies.

March 8th:

How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of those who bring good news, who proclaim peace, who bring good tidings, who proclaim salvation, who say to Zion, "Your God reigns!" – Isaiah 52:7

Would I describe my feet as beautiful based on this description?

God who reigns, direct my footsteps and give me the boldness to proclaim peace, good tidings, salvation, and Your kingdom.

March 9th:

Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age." – Matthew 28:18-20

How can I live as a disciple here and now?

Lord, equip me for Your kingdom mission. Give me focus on what is most important to You and strength to follow Your instructions. But first, help me follow You as a dedicated disciple.

March 10th

Read: The Parable of the Good Samaritan- Luke 10:25-37

Jesus compared three different men to help us understand that loving our neighbor requires action more than merely affection. We need to first truly see our neighbor, then acknowledge any needs, and finally provide support to the best of our capacity.

But how do we learn how to love like this? Jesus Himself modeled compassion as He taught and healed. God is love, says 1 John 4:16, and therefore whoever lives in love lives in God. The parable of the Good Samaritan is more than an example to follow; it's also a glimpse of God and His kingdom.

Like the Samaritan, God is a rescuer. But His rescue is much, much greater. Historically, He has saved His people repeatedly through the ages- from the Lord leading a mass exodus from bondage in Egypt to Jesus lifting a sinking Peter from the waves, we have endless examples of physical rescue. Greater still is the salvation provided by Christ's death and resurrection, a rescue that lasts more than a moment, but through eternity.

God's love is active, not passive. Life in His kingdom is surrounded by His compassion and also equips us to extend such love to our neighbors. Through this, we can see how He is in our midst right now.

PRAY: Lord, we thank You for Your love that rescues. Fill us with so much of Your compassion that we can share it abundantly in Your kingdom life.

LIVING IT: Find a way to care for someone this week. Try to avoid only donating to a charity, as that can be impersonal. Ideas include: taking a meal to someone who needs encouragement, sending a physical card or care package, volunteering in your community, giving a listening ear to a friend in need, or any other way to connect with someone. Take time to consider the ways God has cared for you in the past and how He's caring for you now.

March 11th:

I call on you, my God, for you will answer me; turn your ear to me and hear my prayer. Show me the wonders of your great love, you who save by your right hand those who take refuge in you from their foes. – Psalm 17:6-7

How do I need God to rescue me today?

God, thank You for being present and hearing my call.
Show me Your great love as I take refuge in You.

March 12th:

Surely God is my salvation; I will trust and not be afraid. The Lord, the Lord himself, is my strength and my defense; he has become my salvation.” – Isaiah 12:2

What do I currently fear?
Look for God’s rescue there.

Savior, help me trust You when I am afraid. You go before me with great strength and protect me.
Help me see that.

March 13th:

For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.
– Colossians 1:13-14

What kind of darkness have I experienced?

Jesus, I need Your rescue when darkness persists.
Show me where You are when I can’t see You.

March 14th:

For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost.”
– Luke 19:10

Imagine how God intentionally pursues us.
Has He ever rescued me before I knew I needed help?

Son of Man, thank You for seeking me. Thank You for saving me. Thank You that I am never truly lost.

March 15th:

He has saved us and called us to a holy life—not because of anything we have done but because of his own purpose and grace. This grace was given us in Christ Jesus before the beginning of time, but it has now been revealed through the appearing of our Savior, Christ Jesus, who has destroyed death and has brought life and immortality to light through the gospel. – 2 Timothy 1:9-10

Ponder the wonder and intensity of
Christ destroying death.

Savior, I am in awe in Your presence as I consider what You have done. Help me be still and know You today.

March 16th:

The Lord your God is with you, the Mighty Warrior who saves. He will take great delight in you; in his love he will no longer rebuke you, but will rejoice over you with singing.” – Zephaniah 3:17

Choose music today that inspires joy.
Rejoice today with the Lord.

Mighty Warrior, You didn’t leave me and after you saved me. Thank You for never leaving my side and for a rescue that includes an eternity with You.

March 17th

Read: The Parable of The Rich Fool - Luke 12:13-21

The kingdom of God has different priorities than the kingdoms of humans. People are frequently concerned with collecting wealth and power. We often define our status by what we have, what we can earn, and how we can use it to advance. Even those of us who aren't sailing on a yacht into a sunset of financial abundance can find ourselves intensely focused on having as many material resources as possible.

Those aren't the riches God ultimately has in mind. Yes, He meets our needs and can provide abundant physical blessings. However, He tells us that our true treasures can be stored in heaven where we won't lose them. If we waste time obsessing over earthly wealth, we will miss the true, lasting gifts. We'll miss His kingdom life here as well.

Instead, we can prioritize love, worship, spending time with Christ, humbly serving, generosity, and other ways to live in Him. We won't have to worry about being surprised by God's timing, like the rich fool in the parable. We will experience fullness of a life in God here on earth followed by those treasures in heaven. We won't discover an emptiness in our soul even if we manage to gain riches, fame, or power.

As we continue to get a better look at God's kingdom, it transforms every aspect of our daily lives. It reduces uncertainty as our decisions are guided by His instructions, leading us step by step into the good plans He has for us.

PRAY: Thank You for revealing Your kingdom little by little. Thank You for helping us understand and know more of You. Give us Your priorities and lead us daily in Your way.

LIVING IT: Make your schedule for the week. First, pray for God's wisdom and guidance. Next, print out a weekly schedule template that provides room to write, or simply write your schedule out on notebook paper. Start with where you will spend time with God before writing anything else. It's up to you how long or how frequently you set aside, but wait to fill in all the usual scheduled items until after you've decided when you'll focus on the Lord. Make sure your schedule is handy and visible during the week, then do your best to stick with it.

March 18th:

“Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moths and vermin destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moths and vermin do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

– Matthew 6:19-21

What are my treasures if I'm extremely honest?

God, show me what I might be missing.
Set my heart on the things of Yours.

March 19th:

Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight. – Proverbs 3:5-6

Which of my paths stray from God and where do we walk together?

Lord, sometimes trust is hard. Give me the security and confidence to follow Your path, even when I don't understand.

March 20th:

Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. – Colossians 3:1-2

What is one “thing above” that I can set my mind on today?

Christ, help my mind be like Yours.
Direct my gaze to You and draw me close.

March 21st:

Commit to the Lord whatever you do, and he will establish your plans. – Proverbs 16:3

What am I doing today and how can I commit it to the Lord?

Holy Father, please establish my plans. As I try to navigate life, set my course and guide me.

March 22nd:

No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money. – Matthew 6:24

Where is my heart divided?

God, reveal the deepest parts of my heart to me. Help me overcome any obstacles and only follow only You.

March 23rd:

I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me. – Galatians 2:20

As we are about to enter Holy Week, contemplate how the events in scripture affect our lives today.

Jesus, thank You for living in me.
Help me release the sin You forgave and truly live by faith in You.

March 24th, Palm Sunday

Read: The parable of the Lost Son -Luke 15:11-32

The extreme forgiveness of the father in this parable is remarkable to us. We know that forgiveness is no easy task. For us, it's complicated by hurt feelings, fear of future wrongs, and a longing for justice. Yet, the father was not only willing but eager to welcome his son home. Such immense forgiveness is humanly incomprehensible.

Of course, in this parable, Jesus illustrated how God welcomes us back no matter how extreme our sin has been. Nothing we do can disqualify us from His love. We are represented by the sons, both needing the unconditional love of their father and both needing forgiveness- one for wild living and the other for a hard heart, forgetting that he had everything of the father's, as well as a close relationship with him.

The lost son shows us how to repent. He humbly recognized his wrongs and offered a heartfelt confession to his father. Yet, the father had embraced him before he said a word! Later, Paul would write to the Romans and remind us that, even while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. The father didn't wait for his son to earn his way back into their home. Neither does God require us to earn His love and forgiveness. He loves first and we come to Him with humble repentance.

Such forgiveness can't be summarized in a couple of paragraphs. So we step into Holy Week with contemplation, questions, and a desire to better understand what happened on the cross.

PRAY: Lord, we humbly repent for all the ways we've strayed. We run into Your arms, desperate to be close to You.

LIVING IT: Celebrate the Lord this Palm Sunday in a personal way. Perhaps with upbeat music, a special treat while you sit in His presence, a fancy dinner in His honor, through giving a gift, or any other way you would celebrate an occasion or someone special. Spend joyful time with God, either just the two of you or with other loved ones as well.

March 25th:

Have mercy on me, O God, according to your unfailing love; according to your great compassion blot out my transgressions. Wash away all my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin. – Psalm 51:1-2

How might I approach God like the lost son as he returned to his father?

Heavenly Father, I need Your forgiveness. Despite all my imperfections, Your unfailing love is waiting.

March 26th:

After John was put in prison, Jesus went into Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God. “The time has come,” he said. “The kingdom of God has come near. Repent and believe the good news!” – Mark 1:14-15

Has God’s kingdom felt near these past few weeks?

Jesus, I rejoice in Your good news. I celebrate Your kingdom and look forward to experiencing it fully!

March 27th:

For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is his love for those who fear him; as far as the east is from the west, so far has he removed our transgressions from us. – Psalm 103:11-12

Think about the expanse of our planet and the vastness of the universe.
How do I imagine the intensity of God’s love?

Creator, thank You for removing our sin and bringing us into Your forgiveness.
Help us live in the freedom You’ve given.

March 28th (Maundy Thursday):

And he took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to them, saying, "This is my body given for you; do this in remembrance of me." In the same way, after the supper he took the cup, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood, which is poured out for you. – Luke 22:19-20

How would I spend my last evening with my friends?

Jesus, I remember You. I think of all You've done and who You are and I worship You.

LIVING IT: If you're able, attend a Maundy Thursday dinner or service. Alternatively, remember the Last Supper at home by taking communion while reading Matthew 26:17-56.

Consider prayer by candlelight or outdoors at night.

March 29th (Good Friday):

But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on him, and by his wounds we are healed. – Isaiah 53:5

What would it have been like to witness Jesus' crucifixion?

Lord, I have few words. Be near me as I am still in Your presence.

LIVING IT: If you are able, attend a Good Friday service. Or at home, read Luke 23 or Matthew 27:32-66, pausing to truly consider the intensity of Jesus' experience. Make the evening quiet, contemplative, and perhaps even dim the lights. Reduce or avoid computers, phones, or tv, and instead spend time with another activity that allows you to be thoughtful (reading, writing, art, a puzzle, knitting or other hobby, listening to music, etc. If cleaning and organizing gives you time to think, that's also an option, or even going to bed a little earlier for much needed rest.).

March 30th (Holy Saturday):

The Lord is good to those whose hope is in him, to the one who seeks him; it is good to wait quietly for the salvation of the Lord. – Lamentations 3:25-26

How do I tend to wait? What is my patience like?

Father God, give me peace while I wait for Your timing. Thank You for the time we've spent together during this season.

LIVING IT: Prepare to rejoice tomorrow. Whether getting ready for a special meal, choosing something to wear, finishing work so you are able to truly rest on the Lord's Day, putting up simple decorations, or making plans with loved ones, be intentional as you get ready to make Easter Sunday a truly holy and joyful day. Be sure to reflect on the past few weeks as Lent comes to an end.

March 31st, Easter/Resurrection Sunday

Read: Luke 24:1-12 and John 20

If you declare with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.– Romans 10:9

With joy and peace celebrate the good news of Christ's resurrection and gift of salvation!

Jesus, I praise and thank You with all my heart. Lord, You are good and Your mercy endures forever!

LIVING IT: This is the day that the Lord has made, rejoice and be glad! If you're able, attend a worship service, or make ample time to worship wherever you are. Celebrate the holiday enthusiastically with treasured traditions or something new. As Mary Magdalene eagerly shared the news of Christ's resurrection, be sure to invite others into your special day.