

Tick, Tock,

◀◀ It's ▶▶

LENT!



A Timely Journey
Through God's Grace 
for Teens and Young Adults

Tick, Tock, It's

LENT!

Ash Wednesday

*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.***

2 Timothy 1:9

Tick, tock, ... it's the first day of Lent! Time to lift our eyes to Jesus' cross. Time to follow Jesus on the journey to salvation. Remembering where this journey ends—at the open tomb on Easter morning—let's concentrate this season on some exceptionally good news. God has given us an amazing gift through Jesus: the gift of GRACE.

For the next six weeks we'll talk about God's lavish and undeserved gift of grace. What is it? How is it ours? What does it mean to have it? And what is our response to God's gift? (The verse from 2 Timothy should provide you some clues.)

For today, know this. God's grace is meant to be shared. God revealed it to the world through his Word, the Holy Bible. And God's Word in Scripture has been a social media frenzy for thousands of years. Commit yourself to sharing the Bible verses in this booklet with your friends and followers this Lent. Keep the good news of God's grace going and growing.



Thursday after Ash Wednesday

For it is **by grace you have been saved**, through faith ... ❤️

Ephesians 2:8

Did you get that? Grace means you are saved!

What an amazing truth to know right now at the start of your Lenten journey. Believe in Christ Jesus, and you are saved from sin and death. Eternal life is yours through him!

Share that simple and amazing truth with your friends today.

Friday after Ash Wednesday

Now the LORD God had planted a garden in the east, in Eden; and there he put the man he had formed. The LORD God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it. And the LORD God commanded the man, "You are free to eat from any tree in the garden; **but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat from it you will certainly die.**"

Genesis 2:8,15-17

God made Adam—and that means God created you—for a purpose. We were created to live in paradise with God. We were made to do God's good work in creation! Tick, tock, ... let's get to it!

But for Adam and Eve, and each of us, right from the beginning, temptation leads us off the path that God sends us down. And the consequences are grim. Pray this Lent for God's guidance. Commit to follow!

Look around this Lent. What good work—big things (and little things too)—can you do to improve God's world?



Saturday after Ash Wednesday

Now I commit you to God and to the word of his grace, which can build you up and give you an inheritance among all those who are sanctified.

Acts 20:32

The more time you spend texting, tweeting, posting, the more connected you are with your friends. So it stands to reason that the more time you spend committed to God's texts, the more connected you'll be to him. Spend time scrolling through a Gospel or two this Lent.

Sunday, the First Week

*The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, **full of grace and truth. Out of his fullness we have all received grace in place of grace already given. For the law was given through Moses; **grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.***** ❤️

John 1:14, 16-17

The Gospel of John is sometimes called "The Love Gospel." Jesus is introduced as God's message of love to the world. Even better than a friend request, Jesus came to change our status with God from "it's complicated" back to "in a relationship."

God made a promise—to Adam and Eve, to Abraham, to all the faithful through the ages and to YOU! God loves YOU enough to send his Son to YOU just in time to turn you away from sin and death.

We know it's true, because God put his Son on display for the world to see. "We have seen his glory," John writes. The eyewitness account was shared time and time again. That's how God's love goes viral!



Monday, the First Week

*In the past God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets at many times and in various ways, but in these last days **he has spoken to us by his Son** ...*

Hebrews 1:1-2a

Can you imagine a time before computers? Before smart phones and instant messaging? The printed word is “alive” now more than it has ever been in history. It’s hard to even picture a time when the ability to connect wasn’t at the push of a button on a device you can carry in your pocket.

For thousands of years, the prophets faithfully wrote God’s messages. But the system was outdated. The medium was slow. The message wasn’t getting through. It was distant and impersonal. The time had come for a communication revolution.

Not just words on a page or videos on a screen, God’s Word is alive in Christ!



GRACE



Tuesday, the First Week

For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Romans 6:23

We all sin, right? (You don't have to look too hard for evidence of sin in the world today.) So we all deserve some sort of punishment. Unfortunately there is only one: death. But because of Jesus ... because of what he did for us ... because he didn't sin but died anyway ... in our place ... God doesn't see our sin anymore. That's the gift! That is God's grace!

God loves us so much that he sent Jesus to wipe away the stain of our sin. God is willing to look past our sin because of Jesus' sacrifice. God sees us as the perfect people he created us to be. The path to eternal life is opened to us once and for all!

Wednesday, the First Week

Find a video of the song "Amazing Grace." Or record your own. Post it, share it, upload it today.

*Amazing Grace, how sweet the sound,
That saved a wretch like me.
I once was lost but now am found,
was blind, but now, I see.*

*'Twas Grace that taught my heart to fear.
And Grace, my fears relieved.
How precious did that Grace appear
the hour I first believed.*

God's grace is ever-present. When we believe in his love and forgiveness, we can see God's grace for the amazing gift that it really is.



Thursday, the First Week

*Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has ascended into heaven, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to the faith we profess. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to empathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet he did not sin. **Let us then approach God's throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.***

Hebrews 4:14-16

Lent is a good time to share your grace story, and to share it with confidence. Write about a time in your life when God's grace and love were especially evident. Are you comfortable sharing that story? Why or why not? Post your story today. What kinds of responses did you get?

Friday, the First Week

*In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace **that he lavished on us.***

Ephesians 1:7-8a

The most amazing thing about God's grace is that it is so ...
GRACIOUS!

Paul, the writer of Ephesians, tells us that God's grace is **LAVISHED** on us. That means poured on us to the point of being a little ridiculous. It's more than we'll ever need. But it's truly the only thing we ever do need. What are some other words that describe how generous God is with his love and forgiveness? **MAGNANIMOUS?** **BOUNTIFUL?** **PRODIGAL?** Any others?



Saturday, the First Week

*Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ. **For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight.** In love he predestined us for adoption to sonship through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will—to the praise of his glorious grace, which he has freely given us in the One he loves. **In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God’s grace that he lavished on us.***

Ephesians 1:3-8a

Tick, tock, ... it’s time to do a little algebra. Here’s God’s simple grace equation:

$$\mathbf{G\&V\&N\ 4\ U\ =\ U\ 4\ G\&V\&N}$$

Jesus, our savior, our sacrifice, solved this problem for us.

Sunday, the Second Week

*The word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision: “Do not be afraid, Abram. I am your shield, **your very great reward.**” He took [Abram] outside and said, “Look up at the sky and count the stars—if indeed you can count them.” Then he said to him, “So shall your offspring be.” **Abram believed the LORD, and he credited it to him as righteousness.***

Genesis 15:1, 5-6

God looked at Abram as one who is righteous: worthy of receiving God’s promises. That’s some Old Testament grace!



Monday, the Second Week

For in the gospel **the righteousness of God is revealed**—a righteousness that is by faith from first to last, just as it is written: **“The righteous will live by faith.”**

Romans 1:17

Throughout the Old Testament, God’s people strove for righteousness. They wanted to be seen as blameless before the Lord. They wanted to be assured of God’s promises, and following God’s law to the letter was the only way. You can probably guess that under the law they (and we) didn’t stand a chance.

But there is good news. The flip side to God’s law is the Gospel (a word that means good news). God sent Jesus. (Good News!) Jesus lived a righteous life under the law. (Good News!) Through Jesus, God sees us as righteous too. (Good News!) The righteousness we couldn’t receive on our own is given to us through Jesus. (That’s GRACE! Good News!)

God’s grace, love and forgiveness are ours for the taking. How? Just believe.

“The righteous will live by faith,” the Bible tells us. “So that everyone who believes may have eternal life,” Jesus assures us.

Believe in the Gospel: the Good News of Jesus Christ!

GOOD NEWS



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A Timely Journey
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It's time for Lent! The daily encouragements in this booklet prompt you to take just a minute each day to read, reflect, rewind, repent, re-post about the Lenten opportunities you have to serve, share socially and spend time in Scripture. Lent is a good time to do all of those things and can be a "good time" too!

Tick, Tock, It's Lent! provides an up-to-the-minute daily devotional journey throughout the holy season, encouraging young Christians to express their faith through words and actions.



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