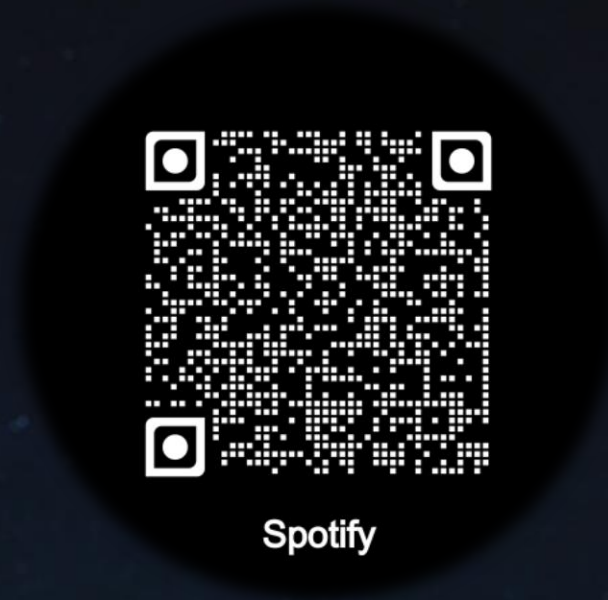


A bright sun is positioned on the left side of the image, casting a blue glow and creating a starburst effect. The background is a dark blue gradient with a subtle pattern of small, light blue stars or dust particles. The text "Lenten Devotional" is centered in the middle of the image in a white, sans-serif font.

Lenten Devotional

Ways to make the best of your devotional

- Follow the calendar as it is laid out
- Journal
- Worship to music



Ways to make the best of your devotional

- Choose a verse or set of verses to memorize
 - John 3:16
 - Psalm 103:12
 - 1 John 4:10
 - Luke 18:27
 - John 11:25
 - James 1:3
 - One of your choice

- Keep a list of things to pray for and reflect why you talk to God about these things

Ash Wednesday,

Wednesday, February 17

Then the LORD God formed a man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living being. – Genesis 2:7 NIV

The Hebrew word for form is “yasar” is the same word a potter would use to skillfully craft something from clay.

Reflect on how God “formed” and breathed life into you. How did he skillfully craft you? How is that different than how he crafted others?

Sunday, February 21

You made all the delicate, inner parts of my body and knit me together in my mother's womb. Thank you for making me so wonderfully complex! Your workmanship is marvelous—how well I know it. - Psalm 139:13-14 NLT

Have you ever made something you were really proud of? Maybe it was a homework assignment, a piece of art, a TikTok, or a social media post. You were so excited and proud of what you created that you felt happy for hours or even days afterwards. The Psalmist compares God creating him to art, and praises God for his workmanship. This the same God and workmanship that created you.

This week, if tempted to compare yourself on social media or feel insecure, remember that you are God's workmanship and that you are wonderfully made. Make something to celebrate that you're wonderfully made (examples - painting, playlist, meal/recipe, song, drawing, poem) and write three things you appreciate about how God made you

Sunday, February 28

I am the resurrection and the life. Anyone who believes in me will live, even after dying. - John 11:25 NLT

Jesus made some BIG statements. This is definitely one of His biggest. The best part is that we can believe it. Right after this claim, he raised a dead man back to life. And then predicted His own death and resurrection and pulled it off. This means you can believe that the same Jesus who died and came back to life, can give you eternal life.

This week, talk to someone you trust about Jesus' BIG statement. Share your questions, doubts, and thoughts about what it means to believe in Jesus. If what Jesus said is true, it's definitely worth talking about.

Sunday, March 7

If you forgive those who sin against you, your heavenly Father will forgive you. - Matthew 6:14 NLT

Forgiveness can be frustrating. When someone wrongs you, the last thing you want to do is let them off the hook. Instead, it makes more sense to take matters into your own hands. We'd prefer to pay them back the way we think is best. We'd even like to give forgiveness, "when we're ready." All of these responses are so average. But God rarely ask us to live average lives. Instead, our default response to being wronged should be a desire to forgive. It doesn't mean we avoid anger, or hurt, or sadness, but it does mean that we move toward forgiveness however we can.

As we choose to avoid holding grudges against others, we can be confident that God does the same with us. This week, write down a situation where you felt wronged and how you reacted. Do you find that you react the way God would instruct you to?

Sunday, March 14

I tell you the truth, anyone who welcomes my messenger is welcoming Me, and anyone who welcomes Me is welcoming the Father who sent Me. - John 13:20 NLT

In this quote from Jesus, He is reminding His closest friends that when other people accept them and listen to their message about Him, it shows that they are welcoming God in as well. It's like He's saying the way we treat people is connected to the way we view God.

How does this play out in your own life? Think about the way you connect with other Christians. Are you quick to welcome them into your life or is it easier to keep relationships separated between church and "real life?" Listen and learn with an open heart and mind.

Find the opportunity to invite somebody (who you know from your church life or outside of it) to something at church.

Sunday, March 21

Praise be to God the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy He has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. - 1 Peter 1:3 NIV

Have you ever been really thankful for something? Maybe a gift, or a favor, or a person who is just awesome. How did you express your gratitude, joy, and praise? Maybe it was your reaction when you unwrapped it. Maybe you even started going out of your way to show someone how much they mean to you. When we're moved by what someone else does for us, we often do everything we can to show him or her just how grateful we are.

This is why Jesus deserves everything we've got. He died and rose again to allow us to thrive in life both now and forever. Today, take some time to write out how awesome He is, and keep it somewhere that will serve as a reminder to give Him the praise He deserves as often as you can.

Palm Sunday

Sunday, March 28

He has removed our sins as far from us as the east is from the west. - Psalm 103:12 NLT

Some competitions are no contest. Whether it's a battle at the box office for movie supremacy, an intense game on the football field for the state championship, or just two siblings fighting over the front seat on a road trip, sometimes the winner is clear from the start. The action flick always dominates, the strongest team typically prevails, and of course the older sibling will take the front seat in the end.

The same is true in the battle between Jesus and death. There was never a contest; death didn't stand a chance! And when we believe in Him, the fear and sting of death doesn't stand a chance against Jesus' power and purposes at work in us. As you think about Easter this season, keep this verse in mind. Be encouraged of Jesus' victory over death and what it means for your life today.

Good Friday

Friday, April 2

But God showed His great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners. – Romans 5:8 NLT

It's really easy to be selfish, isn't it? We're all naturally pretty good at putting our own needs before the needs of others. But selfishness doesn't look good on anyone, does it? It's never helpful and almost always hurtful. Thankfully, Jesus modeled a better way for us. On the cross, Jesus put the needs of humanity before His own, and it changed the world forever. And it is the humility of Jesus that we are called to model. Humility is powerful, impactful, and compelling to others. When we choose to lead with humility, we're not only impacting someone by putting them first, but we're showing them a glimpse of who Jesus is in us.

Look for opportunities to humble yourself by putting the needs of others before your own today. Lead with your humility to serve someone in your life whose needs might be bigger than your own.

Easter

Sunday, April 4

Jesus said, 'Do not hold on to me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father. Go instead to my brothers and tell them, 'I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.' Mary Magdalene went to the disciples with the news: 'I have seen the Lord!' And she told them that he had said these things to her. – John 20:17-18

Take today to review and celebrate that Jesus is risen.

Reflect on the last 40 days and the devotional. In what ways, have you reflected and modeled the gift of everlasting life in Christ? Have you attempted to share this gift with others? Why does one want to be in the everlasting company of God in heaven?