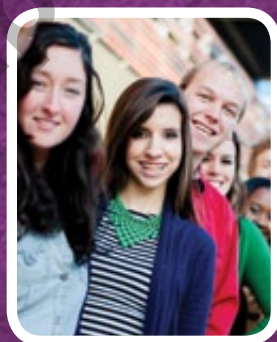
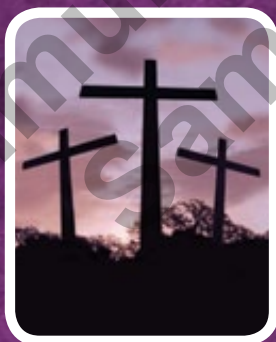
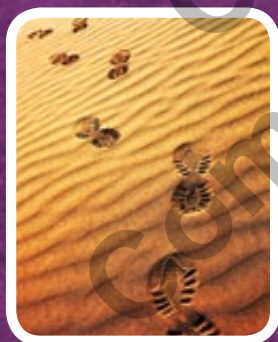


SENT

into

LENT



Daily Lenten Motivations
for Teens and Young Adults

by david mead

SENT *into* LENT

Ash Wednesday

Genesis 2:7

Then the Lord God formed the man of dust from the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living creature.

It's Ash Wednesday, the first day of Lent. Let's think of today as the first big step on a journey this season. Are you ready to get moving? The trip is twofold. Each Lent certainly is a journey *with* Christ as he heads faithfully to the cross in our place. But we also begin—this Ash Wednesday and every day—on a journey *through* Christ into the world around us and on his behalf.

Remember, this is not a last-minute vacation. It isn't a spring break trip we've just thrown together. This journey has been well planned out, long before you were born, and with you—you specifically—in mind. You're not here just to tag along, either. This Lent, this day, each day, you've been SENT.

That's right. You! God has a calling, a purpose, a destination in store for *you!* Even you! Especially you! God has had your sending in mind since the beginning of creation. From the moment God formed you, from the instant God breathed life into your body, you are SENT!

Let's search through Scripture to learn more about that "sending" this Lent. We'll hear how God has sent people, some older and some young, just like you, on this journey. Let's let God's Good News be the motivation to our salvation destination.

Thursday after Ash Wednesday

Genesis 2:8, 15

And the Lord God planted a garden in Eden, in the east, and there he put the man whom he had formed. **The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to work it and keep it.**

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

Friday after Ash Wednesday

Genesis 2:16-17

And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, "You may surely eat of every tree of the garden, **but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.**"

Right as the start of the journey, sin knocks us off track. 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!



SENT *into* LENT

Saturday after Ash Wednesday

Genesis 3:23

The Lord God sent him out from the garden of Eden **to work** the ground from which he was taken.

Adam and Eve were the first “sent into Lent,” and that wasn’t such a good thing. Because of sin, they had to leave God’s presence. Because of their disobedience, they were no longer welcome in paradise. They were sent into the world ... to work ... to be dust again.

But we read Genesis 3:15 that God is “sending” again. An offspring will crush the tempter. Paradise can be our destination again.

Sunday, the First Week

Acts 3:25-26

You are heirs of the prophets and of the covenant God made with your fathers. He said to Abraham, “Through your offspring all peoples on earth will be blessed.”

When God raised up his servant, he sent him first to you to bless you by turning each of you from your wicked ways.

God made a promise, to Adam and Eve, to Abraham, to all the faithful through the ages, and to YOU! God sends his servant to bless YOU, to grab the wheel and turn you away from sin and death. Pray this Lent for God to take control.

Monday, the First Week

Genesis 6:13, 18

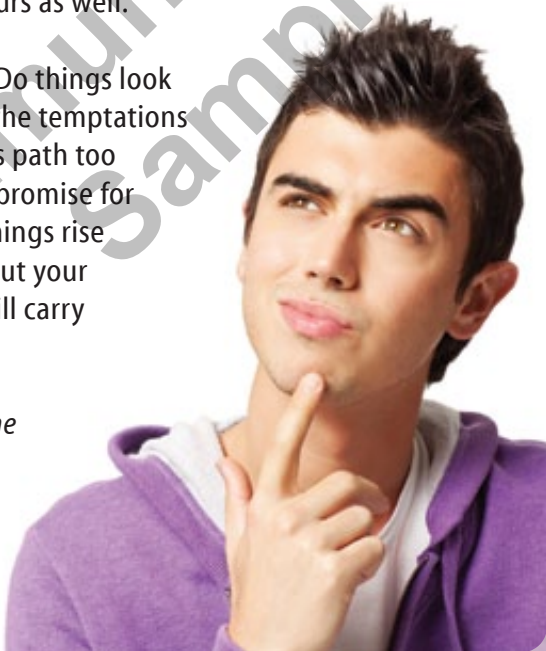
God said to Noah, "I have determined to make an end of all flesh, for the earth is filled with violence through them. Behold, I will destroy them with the earth. But **I will establish my covenant with you**, and you shall come into the ark, you, your sons, your wife, and your sons' wives with you.

Things looked bleak. Sin was so widespread that God wanted to start over, to wipe the slate clean and begin again. But instead, God sent Noah on a voyage. Noah's trip was, like ours, one that moved him from certain death to life renewed and restored. God kept the promise to save faithful Noah. And through God's sent Servant, Jesus, that same promise is ours as well.

Look around you. Do things look pretty bleak? Are the temptations to stray from God's path too strong. God has a promise for you when those things rise like floodwaters. Put your trust in God. He will carry you through.

Those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles.

—Isaiah 40:31



SENT *into* LENT

Tuesday, the First Week

Genesis 6:22

Noah did this; **he did all that God commanded him.**

God sent Noah. God sends you! Pray that your response to God's call be the same as Noah's.

Wednesday, the First Week

Genesis 12:1-4

Now the Lord said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

Maybe you don't think this applies to you. After all, Abram was old! He was content, I'm sure, in his own ways—probably looking forward to a relaxing retirement. But God sent Abram. God called him away from a comfortable, easy life to pursue the promise of a new and better land.

This does apply to you. Going your own way, following the things that tempt you, is easy and comfortable. But you've been called, sent really, by God. There is a new home in store for you, much better by far than the one promised to Abram. Pay attention to that call! God's blessing is for YOU!

Matthew 16:24-25

Then Jesus told his disciples, **“If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me.** For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.”

Still don't think Abram's call applies to you? What if I told you that it's really the same call, the same sending, that Jesus gave all of his disciples. (That most assuredly includes you.)

“Deny yourself,” Jesus says. Going your own way won't get you there. “Take up your cross and follow me.” Grab those things that are holding you back and hand them over to Jesus. Jesus can carry them, just as he carried his cross for you.

Let Jesus bear the load of your sin. You simply can't do it without him. And when you've handed your life over, when you've accepted Jesus' help and forgiveness, then you're ready to follow—then you are truly heaven-sent!



SENT *into* LENT

Friday, the First Week

Genesis 22:1-2

After these things God tested Abraham and said to him, "Abraham!" And he said, "Here I am." God said, "**Take your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering** on one of the mountains of which I shall tell you."

Say what?!? There's simply no way that I could, or I could want to, make that kind of sacrifice. But faithful Abraham trusted God. He was prepared to give it all, even his own son, to follow God's path. God intervened, of course. And Abraham was blessed by God, just as promised.

Is there anything you love—anything you're holding on to—that is keeping you from following God fully? A habit? A behavior? Perhaps even a damaging relationship? God has plans for you, blessings beyond your imagination. Let go, and let God do his will.

Saturday, the First Week

Genesis 22:8

"God himself will provide the lamb."

Abraham was willing to sacrifice his own son to follow God. But, through Jesus, it is God who provides the sacrifice so that we can follow him.

SENT *into* LENT

Easter Sunday

Matthew 28:8-10, 16-20a

So the women hurried away from the tomb, afraid yet filled with joy, and ran to tell his disciples. Suddenly Jesus met them. "Greetings," he said. They came to him, clasped his feet and worshiped him. Then Jesus said to them, **"Do not be afraid. Go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me."** Then the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go. **When they saw him, they worshiped him ...** 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."**



Worship your risen Savior today!
Then GO!
And TELL!

He is risen
indeed!
Alleluia!

