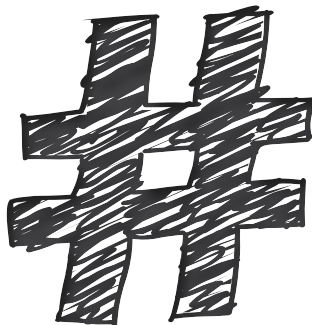
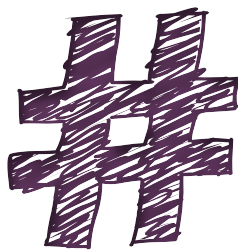


Lent is Trending*

*with help from Paul's letter to the Philippians

Lenten
Devotions
for Teens
and Young
Adults



Lent is Trending*

Ash Wednesday

Philippians 3:10-11

I want to know Christ—yes, to know the power of his resurrection and participation in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, and so, somehow, attaining to the resurrection from the dead.

“Remember that you are dust and to dust you shall return.” Not the kind of message we’d normally be too eager or excited to hear. But this tremendously tweet-ready sentence is being shared and repeated by followers all over the world today. And not for the first time. The message of Ash Wednesday, of the entire Lenten season, has been shared over and over again for thousands of years and to billions of followers. The ashen message is being tagged onto the foreheads of countless believers this very moment. And that ash-tag points out for all to see that you and I are headed for dust, marked for death, not trending upward. It may not be a welcome message, but it’s an important one to be aware of as we start following the only one who can turn that downward trend around.



Remember that you are dust
and to dust you shall return.

[#ashwednesday](#) [#ashtag](#)



Thursday after Ash Wednesday

Matthew 5:10

Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Being right with God, that's what righteousness means. Is it a popular position to be in? Is it the current trend? While it may not be popular, it's the trend we've been called to follow, even when we're bombarded daily by messages and opinions that get us off track. This Lent, let's take a look at how God's upward-trending message of salvation has been shared (taking tips from one of God's mega-messengers, Paul) and continues to be shared in ways never before imaginable.

Friday after Ash Wednesday

Matthew 5:11-12

Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven.

That ashen cross you wore on Wednesday probably drew some attention. What was your response to the questions or sideways glances? A hashtag gets your message out there as part of a larger conversation; and it leads those who follow you to something bigger. How could your ashtag begin to lead others to Christ? Even if someone reacted negatively, that cross pointed him or her to something, to someone, bigger. Having that knowledge is key to a heavenly reward.

Lent is Trending*

Saturday after Ash Wednesday

Philippians 4:21

Greet all God's people in Christ Jesus.

Do you tweet? Post? Chat? Message? Do I really even have to ask? Well, despite what you think, social media isn't a new concept. It's been called different things, of course, but the idea of sharing news and opinions, good or bad or just "meh," has been around for millennia. Most of the New Testament is made up of books called Epistles, or letters ... you know, mail. Lent is a great time to get social, and Paul's letter to the Philippians shows you how. Need a start? Follow Paul's lead and add a Christ-centered greeting to a text or tweet today.

Sunday, the First Week

Philippians 3:12-14

I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me. Brothers and sisters, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.

Paul's message of encouragement to the Philippians is just as meaningful to us this Lent. It's time to forget and put aside the things that hold us back and set our eyes on Christ. Only faith in Christ's great and gracious sacrifice gets us trending in the right direction.



Monday, the First Week

Romans 10:9

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.

Make a conscious decision these next 6 weeks to chat, post, text and tweet about your Lenten journey. There's no need to struggle in what to say. Scripture is filled with verses like this one from Romans, verses that summarize our promise of salvation perfectly. Believe with all your heart that Jesus is Lord and that God raised him from the dead (the ultimate upward trend) and you will be saved. It's news so simple, and so simply succinct, that it's simply a shame not to share it. Paul encourages us to "declare with your mouth." Let's do one better this Lent and really get the good news trending.

For God so loved the world
that he gave his one and
only Son, that whoever
believes in him shall not
perish but have eternal life.

[#john3:16](#)

[#gospelin1verse](#)

Lent is Trending*

Tuesday, the First Week

Luke 4:1

Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, left the Jordan and was led by the Spirit into the wilderness ...

Read Luke 4:1-13 today. During Jesus' 40-day journey in the wilderness, his only communication was texting. And those texts were the trending Word of God. Satan tempted and challenged him at every turn, but those temptations couldn't compete with God's Word. Just imagine Jesus adding a hashtag to each response, highlighting, directing and giving affirmation to each powerful response.

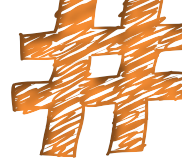
Man does not live on bread alone but on every word that comes from the mouth of the Lord. #deuteronomy8:3

Wednesday, the First Week

Luke 4:14-15

Jesus returned to Galilee in the power of the Spirit, and news about him spread through the whole countryside. He was teaching in their synagogues, and everyone praised him.

Filled with God's Spirit—and armed with God's promised message of salvation—Jesus returns from his 40-day journey through the wilderness and begins his ministry. And people are eager to listen. News about him spreads through the whole country. Jesus is trending. Keep that in mind as we start our 40-day journey this Lent.



Thursday, the First Week

Philippians 2:1

Therefore if you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any common sharing in the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion ...

They're called social networks for a reason. They keeps us connected, encouraged and comforted. They give us the feeling that we are part of something bigger and that our words and actions have importance. Paul knew the value of that encouragement. He made friend requests in Christ's name wherever he travelled, and he made a point to stay connected and to encourage those he befriended to keep the network growing.

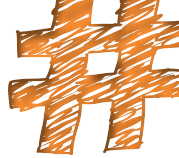
Friday, the First Week

Philippians 2:2

... then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and of one mind.

The network Paul referred to is so much greater than any we could join today, because the unifying figure is Christ! There isn't a "like" button big enough to describe Paul's joy in gathering new faithful followers into his network of believers.

Lent is Trending*



"I can do all things through him who strengthens me." "Rejoice in the Lord always." "He humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross." Paul's letter to the Philippians is filled with verse after verse of tweet-ready encouragements, perfect for our Lenten journey. And the message of Christ's humility, forgiveness and love is just as poignant, trendy and viral today as it was for those earliest Christians. Action prompts and journaling exercises are provided with these 47 brief daily devotions.

