

Lent-stagram

2021 LENT CALENDAR



WED.

THUR.

FRI.

SAT.

Feb. 17 Ash Wednesday 18

What happened on Calvary that day so long ago (and what happened at the garden tomb, as well) is not just ancient history. It's personal. As personal as a family photo-shoot, your Instagram account, your diary, or a scrapbook of your life.

Read Genesis 2:7

19

Be ready to discover just how hard God worked to make you family—a featured image in His story—and just how wonderful that is!
Read 1 John 3:2

20

Think: Have you ever been included in something (a team, a family event, a church event) when you weren't actually a "member"? Did that make you feel awkward? Special?

SUN.

MON.

TUES.

21

"Do you want to know how much I want you in the family album?" Jesus seems to say. "This is how far I'm willing to go to make you part of the family!" And he suffers and he dies.

22

And then he rises again, to put the exclamation point on the end of the sentence. "You're part of the family! FOREVER!" Click! Snap! Flash!

23

With that flash, you were burned into the picture of salvation forever. And with that flash, Christ was burned into our memories and onto our souls forever. A Savior. A Friend. A Brother. Your image is burned into God's heart!

Read 2 Corinthians 5:17

24

25

Read Romans 8:14-18 three times today, in the morning, at noon, in the evening. Does it read differently as it sinks in?

26

Consider this: Did God really say, "Let there be light"? Or maybe might God have simply coaxed chaos to "Say 'Cheese!'?"

27

Read Genesis 1:1-2:4

28

In Genesis 2, God's plan for his home-grown garden paradise becomes clear. Paradise equals FAMILY. God lovingly molds Adam from clay.

March 1

Read Genesis 3, paying special attention to the wording of the serpent's temptation of Eve. Do you see how the serpent is tempting Eve to take matters (even her whole life) into her own hands? Do you see how the serpent is destroying her trust in God? These events threw God's perfect picture out of focus.

2

3

Think: Consider sin today. Your OWN sin. What sins in your life do you wish were gone? Which ones would you "retouch"?

4

It is God himself who develops a whole new picture for our lives. And he does that through his Son Jesus.

If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!
2 Corinthians 5:17

5

6

Think: Recall times when you felt alone, confused or lost. Did knowing that you are a beloved child of God help you at those times?

7

Read Hebrews 4:15. Jesus was tempted (as we are) to avoid his suffering and death (as I wanted to avoid high school). But, unlike us, Jesus was without sin—he had the backbone to resist those temptations. He followed God's plan. He overcame his fears. He overcame the test of the devil. All for our sakes!

8

9

Pray: Share some of your deepest concerns with Jesus today. As you pray, picture Jesus in the garden of Gethsemane. Imagine him truly understanding your feelings and experiences.

10

Keep this verse in mind all day today:
 Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.
Hebrews 13:8

11

Nothing about Jesus' trial was fair. Courtroom cameras might have caught that ... or maybe they would not have. Read about the events in the courtroom on that night in Matthew 26:57-75. It's something like having a hidden camera right there where Jesus was. Open up your Bible and let the drama begin. You can "see" for yourself what happened there.

12

13

Imagine you are a sketch artist at the trial of Jesus. On a piece of paper, draw a series of sketches—images of what you might have seen there.

14

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice.

Philippians 4:4

15

Smart phones have made it possible for us to take as many pictures as we want. We can take a picture of a sunset over and over again until we get it "perfect."

16

In our lives, we are given many chances for "do overs." Every time we sin, and we are sorry for what we have done, our God grants us forgiveness.

17

As children of God, now forgiven, we can recommit our ways to the Lord. We can strive to do his will. We can forgive others as we have been forgiven.

18

St. Paul tells us to "live by the Spirit." That means producing the fruits of the Spirit. And the fruits of the Spirit are ...
 Read Galatians 5:22-23

19

Draw a picture of something you did this week that you were not proud of. Then draw a "redo" picture of what you would do in the same situation, living by the Spirit.

20

Lord, give me the courage to change the things I can change, the serenity to accept the things I cannot change, and the wisdom to know the difference.

21

Lent gives us the time to absorb the light that lingers in the shadows. During Lent we open the shutters of our hearts ... and we leave them open. The images are burned into our souls. The light streams in, and we slowly come to realize that Christ really is making the brightness of his salvation known ... even in the darkness.

22

23

Open your heart this Lent! Absorb the light of Jesus' salvation! And then SHINE!

Read Matthew 5:16

24

Read: Matthew 25:31-46. Have you seen Jesus today? What did he look like? Did you help him? Feed him? Clothe him? Visit him?

25

Our Lent-stagram features a picture of family at the table. Jesus celebrated a family reunion of sorts on Maundy Thursday at the Passover meal.

26

Jesus said he had wanted to celebrate this meal with his disciples for quite some time. Jesus and his disciples were coming together to be "family." When we share this meal today, we get a tiny vision of the HUGE feast that awaits us in heaven—the Lamb's High Feast. There's a place set for you there! Just picture that!
 Read John 13:1-17

27

28

Palm Sunday

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest!

Matthew 21:9

29

If the events of Holy Week would have happened in today's world, images of Jesus' face would be posted online and on all the news channels.

30

But Jesus was arrested in secret, in the dark, in the shadows.
 Read: Matthew 26:47-56. Imagine being part of the crowd who came to arrest Jesus.

31



Our faces are the ones that should be on "Wanted" posters. We are the ones who are guilty of sin. Jesus did nothing to deserve an arrest, trial or crucifixion.

April 1

Holy Thursday

But, because of God's great love for us, only one mug shot remains—the mug shot of our Messiah. His death and resurrection erases our entire record as sinners.

2

Good Friday

Read: Matthew 20:18-19. Could the disciples see past the images of Good Friday? Did they have the faith to wait and trust that Jesus' promise would come true?

3

The Easter sunrise shows that darkness is vanquished! We shine our risen Savior's light into every dark corner of the world!

4

Easter Sunday



Jesus lives!
And so will you!
Happy Easter indeed!

