

# **Journey with Jesus to the Cross**

A LENTEN REFLECTION ON THE WORDS OF CHRIST



A FAMILY DEVOTIONAL READING PLAN  
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Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. These commandments that I give you today are to be on your hearts.

IMPRESS THEM ON YOUR CHILDREN. TALK ABOUT THEM WHEN YOU SIT AT HOME AND WHEN YOU WALK ALONG THE ROAD, WHEN YOU LIE DOWN AND WHEN YOU GET UP.

Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates.

Deuteronomy 6:4-9

Have you ever wondered why we make a big to-do about the countdown leading up to Christmas, but Easter tends to get a major lack of fanfare? Now, don't get me wrong, I love a good Advent calendar. However, Easter Sunday is the cornerstone of our faith. Without the death and resurrection, the baby born in the manger is just another baby. Right? This is why I LOVE Lent.

Although it is not as commonly celebrated among some denominations, the observation of Lent seems to be on the rise in recent years, which is awesome! While it is definitely not mandated to observe, Lent is a wonderfully beautiful way to spend the time leading up to Easter in reflection and anticipation.

There are many of different ways to observe Lent, depending on your background, traditions, and personal conviction. When I was thinking through how I would like to introduce the season of Lent to my young children, I knew I wanted to do two things: first, make it about Jesus and second, keep it simple.

If the goal of Lent is to direct your focus towards Jesus' work on the cross, what a better way to do that than to follow Jesus on his own journey to the cross by reading his words each day? 40 days of meditating and reflecting on the wisdom, commands, rebukes, and comfort that Jesus spoke during his time on earth. 40 days of drawing closer to him through the reading, and the doing, of his words.

Now, if we were going to be successful at doing anything for 40+ days straight, it needed to be easy to follow and implement. I also wanted something that would give a visual to my kids of how many days we had left leading up to Easter. That is where the idea for a countdown calendar of some sort came from. Plus, each day has the verse already labeled on it, that way once you're set up, you don't have to do any more prep throughout the 40 days.

Setting up this devotional is easy! Just print, cut out the pieces, and hang on the wall to create a path, placing the empty tomb at the end. Use the picture of Jesus to mark which piece of the path you are currently on. The scriptures are listed in the general order of appearance in the Bible, but it doesn't matter too much if a few get mixed around. Just try and start with the first one listed (Matthew 4:17) and use the pieces designated with the cross in the bottom right corner for Holy Week. Since the 40 days of Lent do not include Sundays, there are six "Sunday pieces" with a large cross and "John 14:15" written underneath. Place these where the Sundays fall along your path and use them as a day to reflect back on what you read that week, brainstorming together ways you can actually live out the words Jesus spoke.

One last thing. Choose a time that your family will do these readings together. Make it a time that will work for you and try to stick to it. If you miss a day (or a couple days!) just double up on readings until you are all caught up or even skip the ones you miss. I promise I won't tell! Don't let a desire for perfect execution prevent you from actually doing the readings once "real life" happens! Because it will!

If you have any questions or I can help you in any way, always feel free to email me at [liz@steadfastfamily.com](mailto:liz@steadfastfamily.com)

Blessings,  
Liz





**Matthew**  
**4:17**



**Luke**  
**4:17-19**




**Matthew**  
**4:19**



**Mark**  
**2:17**



**John**  
**3:16-18**



**John**  
**4:13-14**



**Matthew**  
**5:3-12**



**Matthew**  
**5:14-16**



**Mark**  
**4:39-41**



**Luke**  
**6:27-36**



**Matthew**  
**6:9-13**



**Matthew**  
**6:19-21**




**Matthew**  
**6:25**



**Matthew**  
**6:33**



**Matthew**  
**7:1-5**



**John**  
**5:30**



**Matthew  
7:24**



**Matthew  
11:28**



**Matthew  
13:23**



**Matthew  
13:44**



**Matthew  
16:24-26**



**Matthew  
18:3-4**



**John  
8:12**



**Matthew  
18:21-22**



**Matthew**  
**19:14**



**Mark**  
**10:42-45**



**John**  
**10:27-30**




**Luke**  
**19:1-10**



**Mark**  
**12:29-31**



**Matthew**  
**25:31-46**



**John**  
**13:34-35**



**John**  
**14:6**




**John**  
**14:10-11**



**John**  
**15:1-4**



**Mark**  
**11:1-3**




**Mark**  
**14:22-25**




**John**  
**13:1-11**



**John**  
**14:25-27; 16:33**



**Mark**  
**14:32-50**



**John**  
**18:33-38**





**Mark**  
**15:33-39**



**John**  
**20:1-31**



**John 14:15**



**John 14:15**



**John 14:15**



**John 14:15**



**John 14:15**



