



# LOOKING FORWARD TO LENT 2026

Lent is the waiting season leading up to Easter when we remember and celebrate Jesus' death and resurrection – and that season is almost here at Adventure of Faith!

As we look forward to this season, we want to prepare in a way that helps us engage and draw closer to Jesus as much as possible in our every day lives.

Check out this packet for information about what Lent is and what you can expect during this season at Adventure.

# WHAT IS LENT?

Lent might be a word you've heard before, but have you ever paused to really think about what it means or what this season holds? Often, we get so focused on the special services or that it ends with Easter, that we might forget that this season as a whole holds some really unique opportunities. So whether this is your first time participating in Lent, or if you've been participating intentionally in this season your whole life, we think it's important for us to pause and think about this question for a minute.

## **So... what is Lent?**

Lent is the waiting season leading up to Easter when we remember and celebrate Jesus' death and resurrection. The Christian church started the season of Lent as a way to prepare our hearts for Easter. There are 40 days of fasting, excluding Sundays, that were considered Sabbath days of rest. The idea behind these forty days is to reflect the forty days of fasting Jesus did in the wilderness before beginning His earthly ministry.

The choice to give something up, or fast, reflects a desire to honor Christ's ultimate sacrifice that we know is coming at the end of this season. When we fast from something, we give up things we often rely on so that we can rely wholeheartedly on the Lord instead. When we feel pulled toward what we have given up, we are reminded to depend on the Lord above all things. Sacrificing something is not a way to earn our salvation, but rather a response to the gift we've already been given through Christ.

During the season of Lent, as we consider our lives and practices in light of Jesus' sacrifice, we are given a unique opportunity to participate with what God is already doing by reorienting our hearts and minds on Jesus.

# How Do I Practice Lent?

Here at Adventure we are looking forward to a variety of ways to practice this Lenten season together, both at church, and at home on our own or with our families. There is not a set "right" way to participate in this season, but we do encourage you to take some time on your own and/or with your family to decide how you might want to participate. There is immense value in honoring what this season is all about and spending some time drawing closer to Jesus through it.

As we said previously in the section on what Lent is, we are given a unique opportunity to participate with what God is doing by reorienting our hearts and minds on Jesus. Specifically, reorienting our hearts and minds on the waiting that leads up to Jesus' death and resurrection that we celebrate during Holy Week and Easter. During this season we might be prompted to give something up. Often the things we choose to give up are vices, but they can also be things that aren't necessarily "bad" but that just distract us from the Lord. These could even be "good" things, but things we may have perhaps elevated in an unhealthy way. As we consider what we may give up, "bad" or "good," the hope is that we can lay them down at the altar and trust God in a new way this season. And as we consider this, our hope isn't in just giving something up, but that in our fasting we might turn to and depend more on God.

As we approach the start of this season, here are some questions to start considering and preparing for now: What are some things you could lay down this year and trust the Lord with, so that you can focus and depend more on Him and less on the things of this world? What is stealing your affection for Jesus? What distractions or "good" things are you turning to instead of God? What practices might fill some of those spaces and reorient our lives on Jesus in practical ways?

There will be many opportunities to come together at the church (see the At-Church Opportunities section), things that you can take home to do on your own or with your family (see the At-Home Opportunities section), and different materials you can use to study and grow (see the Resources section). While we encourage you to lean in to this season and try some new things, we also don't want you to feel pressured to do it all! There is a balance: choosing things to participate in that bring connection and spur your growth in relationship with Jesus and others, while not getting burnt out and overwhelmed, where things just become a check list instead of a growth opportunity. Ultimately, practice Lent in a way that spurs what this season is supposed to: more dependence and trust in our Savior, Jesus!

# WHAT CAN I EXPECT DURING LENT AT ADVENTURE?

## Our Theme

This Lenten season our sermon series theme is called "Misplaced Worship." When Paul and Barnabas enter Lystra and begin their ministry, the people hear the good news and witness miraculous works, but they misdirect their worship. In our modern world, when we hear the word "idolatry," we often picture wooden faults gods on ancient mantels in far-off places thousands of years ago. Yet in reality, idolatry is something we all wrestle with every day. We take good things and turn them into "god things," choosing to worship what has been created rather than the One who is our Creator. This season of Lent is an invitation to consider this reality and once again, reorient our hearts and minds towards Jesus.

This theme doesn't just end on Sundays though, it's one we have considered as we've planned for this season in its entirety. What good things have we turned into "god things," and how can we shift away from that? How can a practice of fasting reorient us on Jesus? How can practices that challenge us to realign our worship help us experience our Lord differently than usual? How can we find joy and rest in the Lord as we await his coming death and resurrection?

Our goal in creating opportunities both at church and at home to go with our theme is aimed at helping make space for you to lean into Jesus as best you can in your every day life. It's not just the giving up, and it's not just the adding in, it's the intentionality of reorienting our lives on Jesus in practical every-day ways.

## At-Church Opportunities

**Sunday Service:** Join us for Sunday services at 10:00am throughout the Lent season where we will worship with seasonal praise music, learn about how Faith works, practice things that engage our dependence on the Lord, and just be devoted together to what God is calling us toward this season.

**Adventure:Equip:** Join us each of the Sundays of Lent from 9:00-9:45am in the Worship Center Classroom. This is an offering of space to be with God through an Lent devotional and prayer. This is also just an invitation to take some dedicated space to be with Jesus this season.

# Special Events & Services:

## **Ash Wednesday - Wednesday, February 18th at 6:00pm**

Join us in observing the beginning of Lent with our Ash Wednesday service done in the way we feel God calling us to: as an Adventure family, humbly seeking to honor Jesus and rest in Him alongside one another. This service will have roots in liturgical greetings, prayers, and other traditional participatory practices like the marking of ashes. We don't observe these prayers and practices as rituals, but as worshipful opportunities to connect with the Lord and with one another.

## **Palm Sunday Service - Sunday, March 29th at 10:00am**

Palm Sunday is the day we celebrate Jesus' entry into Jerusalem as he was greeted with the waving of palm branches amidst shouts of "Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!" (John 12:13). Our Adventure Kids will participate in a palm branch procession and songs during service.

## **Maundy Thursday Dinner Service - Thursday, April 2nd at 6:00pm**

"Maundy" stems from a Latin word meaning commandment and correlates to the evening Jesus washed the disciples feet and celebrated the Last Supper with his disciples. Join us for an experiential service, including optional foot washing stations, dinner, scripture readings following the night, and participatory communion as we focus on Jesus' command to love one another. Kids are welcome and there are some interactive pieces for them, however it is aimed at being a more reflective service.

There will be an at-home version of this service for those that want to join us a different way!

## **Good Friday Experience -**

**Friday, April 3rd from 4:00pm-7:00pm & after Good Friday Service**

This is the day we commemorate the crucifixion and death of Jesus.

Our Good Friday is focused on the Stations of the Cross. Join us if you'd like to explore, experience, and reflect more fully on the importance of this night and on the suffering of Christ as we journey with him to the cross. There are interactive elements and reflective prompts to walk through on your own, with a friend, or with your family. This is a great opportunity for kids to participate... help them experience this and explain the parts as you go! This experience will be held in the Friendship Center, and there will be booklets and clear signage to help you navigate each step of the way. Expect this experience to take about 30-45 minutes, and you are welcome to do it at any point in the three hours it is open, or after the Good Friday service.

### **Good Friday Service - Friday, April 3rd at 7:00pm**

This is the day we commemorate the crucifixion and death of Jesus.

Join us for this reflective service as we travel from the Garden to the Cross. This service includes an experiential aspect of lights dimming, and opportunities for kids to engage as we progress throughout the night.

This service will be broadcast live, but due to the participatory nature of this service, and the lights dimming as the service progresses, our livestream will be simple and likely more like listening along than watching at times. Kids are welcome at this service, and we have intentional ways for them to participate as the lights dim.

### **Easter Sunday Services - Sunday, April 5th at 9:00am & 11:00am**

Easter is the day we celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ!

*Praise the Lord, He Is Risen!*

Join us in praise and worship on this very Holy Day! We will be concluding our Lenten series talking about how what Jesus said He accomplished in his life, death, and resurrection actually was accomplished, and now we live life in light of this reality: that our sin is forgiven, our eternity is secure, our Messiah is King, and His Kingdom reigns! Praise be to God!

### *Lent Schedule-At-A Glance*

**Ash Wednesday** - Wednesday, February 28th at 6:00pm

**Palm Sunday Service** - Sunday, March 29th at 10:00am

**Maundy Thursday Dinner Service** - April 2nd at 6:00pm

**Good Friday Experience** - Friday, April 3rd from 4:00pm-7:00pm  
& after Good Friday Service

**Good Friday Service** - Friday, April 3rd at 7:00pm

**Easter Sunday Services** - Sunday, April 5th at 9:00am & 11:00am

### *At Home Opportunities:*

At the start of the season you will have the opportunity to take home a kit which includes 34 eggs filled with daily accessible prompts and activities to spur you in participating and engaging with this season. These are meant to be helpful and fun tools and reflection opportunities to do on your own or with your family to help reorient our minds and hearts this season. The eggs are intended to be drawn at random from your kit each day starting on Ash Wednesday and continuing through March 28th (the Saturday before Holy Week), excluding Sundays. There will also be a short reflective devotional to do on Sundays. More details and instructions will be available when the kits are handed out starting Sunday, February 15th.

# Resources

**Daily Prayers:** At Adventure of Faith, we are a people who believe in the power of prayer. Join us each day in a prayer that pairs with our Misplaced Worship theme.



**Weekly Resources:** For Life Group Curriculum, Digging Deeper Guides, recordings of the weekly messages and more you can check out our "Current Messages" page on the website, linked here. If you have the Adventure of Faith app, you can also find these resources on the "This Week" tab and the "Messages" tab. There are also paper copies available each week in the main foyer.



**Lent Spotify Playlist:** As you participate in the Weekly at-home activities, or just want to continue your Lent celebrations, make sure to check out our Lent Spotify Playlist. On it you'll find songs featured in our weekly worship, songs we love, and songs that highlight some of the themes we are digging into this season.



**Resource Wall:** Our Resource Wall is updated and ready to browse! It is full of books, devotionals, prayer journals, and more that have been chosen by our staff as recommendations for you to dig into this season. Please feel free to browse these choices, look through them, and then scan the QR code to find a link to purchase your own copy. This Resource Wall is located in the main foyer in the little hallway between the two tvs, and we hope that it will help you prepare for this season ahead.



# Ash Wednesday Invites

Cut these out, put one on your fridge and give one to a friend!  
Visit the Welcome Center for more if you need them.

