

2024 Lent for God's Love



Lent for God's Love Series

The series Lent for God's Love is all about how we experience God's love during the season stretching from Ash Wednesday to Easter. Lent is a liturgical season that encompasses about seven weeks where we use our time to draw close to God and focus on repentance, prayer, fasting, and giving to the needy. This year, God's love is the theme as we explore these focus points and the story of our salvation through Jesus.

The Challenge

Over the next seven weeks, leading up to Easter, I will post one devotional and Bible art journaling tutorial each week on Tuesday nights. Read the devotional or watch the video and respond to what God is saying to you. You can create art in your Bible or a journal and post a pic in the Devotion in Action Facebook group. You can write your thoughts out and post on Facebook or in the comments. Let's share what God is saying with each other as we delve into the facets of God's love during the Lenten season!

Lent for God's Love Series Posts:

2/13 - Week 1 - [Ash Wednesday/Valentine's Day] Time for God's Love - Nehemiah 9:17 (Clock with hearts)

2/20 - Week 2 - Change Your Mind - Job 38:36 (top view of brain with remote inside)

2/27 - Week 3 - Purpose in Fasting - Ezra 8:21-23 (Place setting with word purpose)

3/5 - Week 4 - Refreshing Generosity - Proverbs 11:25 (coke in glass bottle)

3/12 - Week 5 - Call on the Name of the Lord - Genesis 4:26; Psalm 71 (Woman praying)

3/19 - Week 6 - Christ Crucified - Isaiah 53:1-6 (Cross and scroll)

3/26 - Week 7 - Christ Resurrected - Hosea 6:1-3 (Jesus)

3/31 - EASTER - Sing praise to the Lord! - Psalm 147 (Easter Lilies and Music)

"But they and our fathers acted presumptuously and stiffened their neck and did not obey your commandments. They refused to obey and were not mindful of the wonders that you performed among them, but they stiffened their neck and appointed a leader to return to their slavery in Egypt. But you are a God ready to forgive, gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love, and did not forsake them." Nehemiah 9:16-17

Time for God's Love - Nehemiah 9:16-17

In this chapter the people of Israel are in sackcloth and fasting. They came together in sackcloth (mourning clothes) and with "earth on their heads" - sound like anything? It reminds me of Ash Wednesday. They came together to fast, set themselves apart as God's holy people, and repent for their sins, as well as the sins of their predecessors. They read from God's Word and worshipped the Lord together.

Now on the twenty-fourth day of this month the people of Israel were assembled with fasting and in sackcloth, and with earth on their heads. 2 And the Israelites separated themselves from all foreigners and stood and confessed their sins and the iniquities of their fathers. 3 And they stood up in their place and read from the Book of the Law of the Lord their God for a quarter of the day; for another quarter of it they made confession and worshiped the Lord their God. Nehemiah 9:1-3

Repeated Rescue

It tells of the repeated rescues of God and the repeated disobedience of the people. Over and over again, the people turn from God and worship false gods or do whatever pleases them. Time and time again, God is patient, compassionate and forgiving - demonstrating His steadfast love while His chosen people betray Him. Verse seventeen highlights the mercy and love of the LORD in spite of the Israelites turning from Him again and again.

But you are a God ready to forgive, gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love, and did not forsake them." Nehemiah 9:17b

Stiff necks

It is interesting to me that in recapping the sinful behavior of the Israelites throughout their generations, verse sixteen says that they "acted presumptuously and stiffened their neck and did not obey your [God's] commandments."

The imagery of stiff necks appear in Proverbs 29:1 too:

*He who is often reproofed, yet stiffens his neck,
will suddenly be broken beyond healing. Proverbs 29:1*

When we are corrected by God and refuse His correction, intent on doing what we want, stiffening our necks, then we are susceptible to being "broken beyond healing."

Chance after chance

However, God gives chance after chance after chance, trying to give us the opportunity to be healed and not broken. Allowing us time to submit to His Lordship and choose to obey.

Time passes on and we often make the decision to ignore God's instructions and commands. As long as we are alive, we can still bend our knees like the children of Israel in Nehemiah 9 and repent before the Lord.

Time for God's Love

His love extends through time, stretching out toward us over and over again. This season of Lent, we are invited to enter into God's love, remembering all that He has done for us through Jesus.

It can be easy to feel critical toward the Israelites, but don't we often make the same mistakes? We ignore God's directives, engaged in the busy-ness of our own lives. We do what we want rather than seeking His wisdom. We long for temporal pleasure and the approval of those around us rather than the invisible, eternal approval of our Holy God.

Action Step:

Let's take these seven weeks of Lent to align our lives and attitudes with God's thoughts. Let's take this time to embrace the love of God that is reaching out to us. His love that extended to sending Jesus to earth to die in our places and conquer death on our behalf. Start today by thinking about God's love for you.

Today, join the Facebook group @DevolnAction (<https://www.facebook.com/devoinaction>) and introduce yourself to us! Share your thoughts about today's devotional or post a pic of your journaling under Lent for God's Love Week 1 or post on Instagram and tag me @devoinaction!

THEN, comment on someone else's post to encourage and build them up in the Lord! Let's not just share our art but also the heart of what God is speaking to us with one another.

Prayer:

Dear God, Thank You so much for Your incredible love that You have lavished on us through Your Son Jesus. Help us to turn our lives and minds toward you during this season of Lent. In Jesus' name, amen.

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2/20 - Week 2 - Change Your Mind - Job 38:36 (top view of brain with remote inside)

*Who has put wisdom in the inward parts
or given understanding to the mind? Job 38:36*

Change Your Mind - Job 38:36

The Lord answers Job after all his trials. If you aren't familiar with the story of Job, it is a doozy! Job was a righteous man who went through some horrible things. He lost an enormous amount. Toward the end of his story, God answers Job and responds to the comments his friends have made about him that are incorrect.

In chapter 38 in the book of Job, God asks Job a bunch of questions. These questions show the magnificence, omniscience, and omnipotence of God. It is a chapter that inspires me to praise God for His nature and power!

The origin of wisdom

Then, God asks about where wisdom comes from. Who gives us any wisdom we have?

*Who has put wisdom in the inward parts
or given understanding to the mind?
Who can number the clouds by wisdom?
Or who can tilt the waterskins of the heavens,
when the dust runs into a mass
and the clods stick fast together? Job 38:36-38*

We are not the source of our wisdom. God is the source of all understanding which we have at all.

Repent

The Greek word for repent is "metanoia". Meta means "change" and noia is the word for "mind." Repent literally means to change your mind. To change your mind from self-centered thoughts that originate within our own minds to God-centered thoughts that are imparted to us through His wisdom.

Repentance is a keystone of the Lenten season. The idea of repentance is usually thought to mean feeling sorry for sin with an intent to change your behavior. However, the literal meaning is to change your mind. When we shift our thoughts to get them in line with God's thoughts, our feelings follow, and then our actions. Behavior blossoms out of our thought life. Without the wisdom of God, our behavior will naturally follow a path that does not align with the Bible because our minds are set on the things of this world.

If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth. Colossians 3:1-2

Set our minds on things above

God's wisdom is so far beyond our own. We must kneel to it. We change rather than expecting Him to change. We must choose to set our minds on the things above - on eternal things.

Other thoughts will pop into our heads. That is only natural. Thousands of thoughts float through our minds everyday. It is our job to take those thoughts captive and replace them with

"We destroy arguments and every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God, and take every thought captive to obey Christ" 2 Corinthians 10:5

Change the channel

To take every thought captive, we need to become adept at changing the channel in our minds. Rather than trying not to think negative thoughts, which can feel impossible, I recently heard a preacher give the illustration of changing the channel in our brains. When the negative thoughts or temptations arise, we simply change the channel by choosing to focus on something from God's wisdom.

Action Step:

Today, let's get some thoughts ready for when tempting or negative thoughts come up. We need to have an idea of what to change the channel to when we need a channel change.

What are some verses about God's love that you can focus on?

But God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Romans 5:8

So we have come to know and to believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him. 1 John 4:16

No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. Romans 8:37-39

But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved— and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus Ephesians 2:4-6

Share your thoughts about today's devotional or post a pic of your journaling under Lent for God's Love Week 2 or post on Instagram and tag me @devoinaction!

Prayer:

Dear God, Help us recognize when thoughts pop into our heads that are not in line with Your thoughts. Enable us to repent and change our minds to align with Your wisdom. Renew our awareness of Your love as we move forward to Easter. In Jesus' name, amen.

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2/27 - Week 3 - Purpose in Fasting - Ezra 8:21-23 (Place setting with word purpose)

Then I proclaimed a fast there, at the river Ahava, that we might humble ourselves before our God, to seek from him a safe journey for ourselves, our children, and all our goods. For I was ashamed to ask the king for a band of soldiers and horsemen to protect us against the enemy on our way, since we had told the king, "The hand of our God is for good on all who seek him, and the power of his wrath is against all who forsake him." So we fasted and implored our God for this, and he listened to our entreaty. Ezra 8:21-23

Purpose in Fasting - Ezra 8:21-23

God's love is displayed in His character and actions toward us. He is merciful and gracious. He is slow to anger. He is abounding in steadfast love. It is actually how He describes Himself to Moses in Exodus 34:

The Lord passed before him and proclaimed, "The Lord, the Lord, a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness Exodus 34:6-7

When we fast, we are drawing near to this God of love. He wants to spend time with us, through prayer and through His Word. Fasting can help us clear our minds and open up time to spend in the arms of His love.

What is fasting?

Fasting in the Bible refers to abstaining from food for a purpose. Most of the time, it is absolute - meaning only drinking liquids, with no solid food intake. However, sometimes it can refer to following a specific or strict diet for a period of time, such as a fast Daniel is recorded as doing. In modern times, people do the types of fasts that are written about in the Bible, but they also may abstain or fast from an activity, such as social media or television.

The point is that the thing from which fast should be something that we partake in often. Even something that we feel compelled to eat or do. When we feel the compunction for those things, it is a reminder to pray instead. We replace the thing we are fasting with time with God.

Purpose in Fasting

Fasting also helps us bring our selfish nature into submission. We sacrifice our own wants to bow to what God wants. Fasting is a demonstration of us humbling ourselves before God, but we can also fast for breakthrough on a request. This passage in Ezra 8 shows the people doing both these things.

Then I proclaimed a fast there, at the river Ahava, that we might humble ourselves before our God, to seek from him a safe journey for ourselves, our children, and all our goods. For I was ashamed to ask the king for a band of soldiers and horsemen to protect us against the enemy on our way, since we had told the king, "The hand of our God is for good on all who seek him, and the power of his wrath is against all who forsake him." So we fasted and implored our God for this, and he listened to our entreaty. Ezra 8:21-23

The people of Israel fasted to humble themselves, and they fasted to ask God to intervene on their behalf. And God heard their prayers. He listened and came to their defense.

God's directive to fast

God even instructs His people to fast.

*"Yet even now," declares the Lord,
"return to me with all your heart,
with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning;
and rend your hearts and not your garments."
Return to the Lord your God,
for he is gracious and merciful,
slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love;
and he relents over disaster. Joel 2:12-13*

In Joel 2, the Lord says that fasting is a part of returning to Him and humbling ourselves before the Creator God of the universe. Creator God is like a Father to us. He is not frowning and waiting for us to mess up. He is full of love and mercy and grace - allowing us opportunity after opportunity to return to relationship with Him.

Action Step:

Take today to think about your purpose in fasting. Are you asking God for a breakthrough in a specific situation? Do you just want to feel closer to God? Are you seeking a deeper revelation of His love? All of these are great reasons for a time of fasting! And I am sure that you all may come up with many more.

If you would like us to pray with you, feel free to share your purpose in fasting in the Facebook group. We would also love to hear your thoughts and see your Bible journaling pics!

Prayer:

Dear God, Give us insight into the purpose for our fasting. Help us to feel Your amazing love for us and to draw close to You. Give us strength to resist temptation and choose You instead. In Jesus' name, amen.

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3/5 - Week 4 - Refreshing Generosity - Proverbs 11:25 (Coke in glass bottle)

*Whoever brings blessing will be enriched,
and one who waters will himself be watered. Proverbs 11:25*

Refreshing Generosity - Proverbs 11:25

You may not know this about me, but I love Coke from a glass bottle! For years, my husband and I have been buying a six-pack of Christmas Coca-Cola. Instead of milk, our kids sat out chocolate chip cookies and a glass bottle of Coke for Santa!

There is something so refreshing about a cold drink, especially when it is given to you by someone else. Imagine the scenario: you are hot and tired and someone brings you your favorite beverage in a chilled bottle or over a glass of ice. It feels so nice to be cared for in this way. It brings back a level of energy and rejuvenates both body and soul.

Reflexive Generosity

However, this refreshing characteristic is actually reflexive. The Bible tells about this principle in several places.

*Whoever brings blessing will be enriched,
and one who waters will himself be watered. Proverbs 11:25*

When we are generous and bless others, we will be blessed in return.

*One gives freely, yet grows all the richer;
another withholds what he should give, and only suffers want. Proverbs 11:24*

Hoarders never feel they have enough to make ends meet, but God blesses the generous. When we give freely, we receive freely too.

Give, and it will be given to you. Good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap. For with the measure you use it will be measured back to you. Luke 6:38

Give and it will be given to you

I have incredibly generous parents and parents-in-law. Both couples have spent their lives giving of their time and money and hospitality to those around them. In return, God blesses them and they do not lack all that they need.

In fact, I believe that God knows He can trust them to give when He directs them to, so He entrusts more money to them. They are diligent stewards of their finances, but not miserly. They are blessed in order that they might be a blessing.

Lenten Generosity

Alms-giving, giving to the poor/needy, generosity - these are all cornerstones of the Lenten season, just as fasting is. We should be looking for opportunities to give to others this season. Some people choose a specific cause or need and raise money during Lent to give to that particular thing.

An attitude of the heart

However, this generosity starts in our hearts. When you think about giving, do you automatically think that you don't have enough to give or anything to give. Do you come up with excuses why now is not a good time?

God has the best reasons not to give to us. We repeatedly betray Him, forget about Him, choose the opposite of what He instructs, and neglect meeting with Him or reading His Word. However, He give generously to us.

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. John 3:16

God so loved...He **gave**! God's love is expressed through His generosity. We can show our love through our giving too, whether what we give is time or hospitality or money.

Action Step:

What can you give this Lent? What cause or need do you want to support? Is there someone God has put on your heart and you feel led to give to them? If something doesn't come to mind, pray right now and ask God to reveal it to you. Act on it today! We can't possibly out-give God. When we follow His lead and bless others, He blesses us too!

Prayer:

Dear God, Open the eyes of our hearts to see where we have been stingy with the blessings you have entrusted to us. Show us where we can be more generous to those in need around us. Give us the courage to believe what You have said and bless others. In Jesus' name, amen.

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3/12 - Week 5 - Call on the Name of the Lord - Genesis 4:26; Psalm 71 (Woman praying)

To Seth also a son was born, and he called his name Enosh. At that time people began to call upon the name of the LORD. Genesis 4:26

Call Upon the Name of the Lord

At the beginning of this year, I started a chronological Bible reading plan with some friends and family. Genesis 4:26 jumped out at me. This feels like the beginning of prayer:

To Seth also a son was born, and he called his name Enosh. At that time people began to call upon the name of the LORD. Genesis 4:26

When we call on the name of the Lord, we communicate with God and He communicates with us. The Bible is filled with examples of people calling on the name of the Lord. We can see so many types of prayer, especially in the Psalms. These prayers pour out emotions of all kinds to the Creator, affirm His character and power, rehearse His good deeds, and ask for help from Him.

Today we are going to take a look at one of those Psalms. Psalm 71 includes several examples of prayer within its verses.

Rock of Refuge

*In you, O Lord, do I take refuge;
let me never be put to shame!
2 In your righteousness deliver me and rescue me;
incline your ear to me, and save me!
3 Be to me a rock of refuge,
to which I may continually come;
you have given the command to save me,
for you are my rock and my fortress.
4 Rescue me, O my God, from the hand of the wicked,
from the grasp of the unjust and cruel man. Psalm 71:1-4*

The Lord is my rock of refuge. When I feel like I am in trouble, God is my rescuer. In prayer, we can run to our Rock of safety and protection.

My mouth is filled with Your praise

*5 For you, O Lord, are my hope,
my trust, O Lord, from my youth.
6 Upon you I have leaned from before my birth;
you are he who took me from my mother's womb.
My praise is continually of you.*

*7 I have been as a portent to many,
but you are my strong refuge.
8 My mouth is filled with your praise,
and with your glory all the day. Psalm 71:5-8*

We use times of prayer to praise God and stir up our faith. We remind ourselves who God is to us. We pray throughout the day, remembering that He is worthy of our praise.

Make haste to help me!

*9 Do not cast me off in the time of old age;
forsake me not when my strength is spent.
10 For my enemies speak concerning me;
those who watch for my life consult together
11 and say, "God has forsaken him;
pursue and seize him,
for there is none to deliver him."
12 O God, be not far from me;
O my God, make haste to help me!
13 May my accusers be put to shame and consumed;
with scorn and disgrace may they be covered
who seek my hurt.
14 But I will hope continually
and will praise you yet more and more. Psalm 71:9-14*

We ask God to be with us and help us in times of need. He is always listening. Our hope is well-placed in our faithful and trustworthy God. Prayer is when we can and should bring our requests and needs to the One who has the solutions. He is powerful enough to help us!

Rehearse and Remember

*15 My mouth will tell of your righteous acts,
of your deeds of salvation all the day,
for their number is past my knowledge.
16 With the mighty deeds of the Lord God I will come;
I will remind them of your righteousness, yours alone.
17 O God, from my youth you have taught me,
and I still proclaim your wondrous deeds.
18 So even to old age and gray hairs,
O God, do not forsake me,
until I proclaim your might to another generation,
your power to all those to come.
19 Your righteousness, O God,
reaches the high heavens.*

*You who have done great things,
O God, who is like you?
20 You who have made me see many troubles and calamities
will revive me again;
from the depths of the earth
you will bring me up again. Psalm 71:15-20*

We can use our prayer time to rehearse and remember what God has already done for us. There is no one like God. He has blessed us over and over again. He has helped us and restored us many times, and if He has done it in the past, He can do it again. Our faith grows through this type of prayer.

Shout for joy

*21 You will increase my greatness
and comfort me again.
22 I will also praise you with the harp
for your faithfulness, O my God;
I will sing praises to you with the lyre,
O Holy One of Israel.
23 My lips will shout for joy,
when I sing praises to you;
my soul also, which you have redeemed.
24 And my tongue will talk of your righteous help all the day long,
for they have been put to shame and disappointed
who sought to do me hurt. Psalm 71:21-24*

I love all the times verses 21-24 uses the word “will”. “Will” indicates an act of choice. We choose to sing praises. We choose to shout for joy. Even in times of need or when we are overwhelmed or discouraged, we can engage our will and intentionally choose to praise anyway. We can choose joy in spite of our circumstances. We can speak of the goodness and righteousness of God all day, everyday.

Action Step:

Which aspect of prayer tugged at your heart today? Are you challenged by one of more of them? Draw close to God in several ways before the day is out. Call on the name of the Lord! Finish up with some joy and praise. He is still worthy, no matter what else is going on. 😊

Let us know in the Facebook group or on Instagram some of your prayers or praises from this week! Post those pics under Lent for God’s Love Week 5 or post on Instagram and tag me @devoinaction!

Prayer:

Dear God, we want to feel your protection as our rock of refuge. Help us to draw close to You in prayer. Bring us joy in You right in the middle of our trials or problems. Give us courage to discuss all our emotions

and needs with You. You always listen to us and have so much wisdom when we don't. In Jesus' name, amen.

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*But he was pierced for our transgressions;
he was crushed for our iniquities;
upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace,
and with his wounds we are healed. Isaiah 53:5*

Christ Crucified - Isaiah 53:1-6

As we get closer and closer to Easter, I thought it might be really cool to look at where the Old Testament prophets spoke of Christ's passion. The suffering He experienced on His way to the cross. The pain of Christ's sacrifice is recorded in several places in the Old Testament. A couple of the most descriptive include Psalm 22 and Isaiah 53.

*Who has believed what he has heard from us?
And to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed?
2 For he grew up before him like a young plant,
and like a root out of dry ground;
he had no form or majesty that we should look at him,
and no beauty that we should desire him.
3 He was despised and rejected by men,
a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief;
and as one from whom men hide their faces
he was despised, and we esteemed him not.
4 Surely he has borne our griefs
and carried our sorrows;
yet we esteemed him stricken,
smitten by God, and afflicted.
5 But he was pierced for our transgressions;
he was crushed for our iniquities;
upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace,
and with his wounds we are healed.
6 All we like sheep have gone astray;
we have turned—every one—to his own way;
and the Lord has laid on him
the iniquity of us all. Isaiah 53:1-6*

Pain with a Purpose

Jesus was pierced and crushed for our benefit. He knew what was coming and yet He endured it because He could see beyond the pain of the cross to the joy of its purpose - our salvation!

Looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God. Hebrews 12:2

He experienced our pain

He bore our griefs and sorrows (Is. 53:4). Jesus took on our pain and punishment. He knows what it is like to be betrayed, suffer, experience heartbreak and loss, and even die at the hands of evil men who were serving their own desires. When we are going through pain, we can seek solace in the arms of Christ, who has experienced our pain and sorrow. He can comfort us like no one else can.

Peace after in the middle of pain

*But he was pierced for our transgressions;
he was crushed for our iniquities;
upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace,
and with his wounds we are healed. Isaiah 53:5*

Jesus paid for our peace. When we go through pain, we don't have to surrender our peace. It is bought and paid for. Peace in the middle of pain demonstrates our trust in the Savior who was wounded that we might be healed and restored to relationship with God.

Action Step:

Read through Isaiah 53 again and look for the events and descriptions of the Passion Week. Long before it happened, God spoke to His prophet Isaiah and showed what the Messiah would endure. Thousands of years before we were born, God knew we would need Jesus to pay the price for our sin. He saw our pain and separation from Himself and made a way for us to be restored. Let's thank Him today for all He has done!

What did you think about Isaiah 53? Share your thoughts about today's devotional or post a pic of your journaling under Lent for God's Love Week 6 or post on Instagram and tag me @devoinaction!

Prayer:

Dear God, In Jesus' name, amen.

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3/26 - Week 7 - Christ Resurrected - Hosea 6:1-3

*Come, let us return to the Lord;
for he has torn us, that he may heal us;
he has struck us down, and he will bind us up.*
2 *After two days he will revive us;
on the third day he will raise us up,
that we may live before him.*
3 *Let us know; let us press on to know the Lord;
his going out is sure as the dawn;
he will come to us as the showers,
as the spring rains that water the earth. Hosea 6:1-3*

Christ Resurrected - Hosea 6:1-3

Last week, we looked at the suffering Savior in the writing of Old Testament prophet Isaiah. This week, we read how the prophet Hosea hints at the triumphant resurrection of the Messiah.

*After two days he will revive us;
on the third day he will raise us up,
that we may live before him. Hosea 6:2*

Though this passage uses language from a human perspective, the timing and word choices definitely point to the resurrection of Jesus. He was crucified on the cross and died. Then, on the third day, He was raised up to life again.

Death is swallowed up

The prophet Isaiah also talks about the triumph of the Messiah over death itself.

*He will swallow up death forever;
and the Lord God will wipe away tears from all faces,
and the reproach of his people he will take away from all the earth,
for the Lord has spoken. Isaiah 25:8*

When Jesus conquered death in His resurrection, He gained victory over death forever! We can live in heaven with God eternally when we trust Him for salvation.

Press on to know the Lord

*Come, let us return to the Lord;
for he has torn us, that he may heal us;
he has struck us down, and he will bind us up.*
2 *After two days he will revive us;
on the third day he will raise us up,*

that we may live before him.
3 Let us know; let us press on to know the Lord;
his going out is sure as the dawn;
he will come to us as the showers,
as the spring rains that water the earth. Hosea 6:1-3

Lent is a time to press into the presence of God, looking forward to the gift and sacrifice of Jesus. Easter is a time to rejoice in His salvation. This week, as we move from one season to the next, let's follow the instructions of Hosea. Let's return to the Lord, pressing in to know Him more. Let's feel the showers of His blessings as He rains them down on us.

Action Step:

Lean in, press in, draw close to God, thinking about the events of the week before Easter. Jesus went through so much for our benefit. He has suffered for us. Then, he triumphed over death so we could be restored to the Father. Celebrate the gifts and blessings that God has rained down on all of us. Even if He never did another thing for us, He would be worthy of our praise for the rest of our lives. Yet, He continues to bless us time and time again.

What stands out to you about this week before Easter? What experience that Jesus went through is inspiring you to worship Him today? Share your thoughts about today's devotional or post a pic of your journaling under Lent for God's Love Week 7 or post on Instagram and tag me @devotioninaction!

Prayer:

Dear God, Thank you for your triumph over death on my behalf! I could not restore myself to relationship with You on my own. You sent Your Son to pay the price for my sin, and I am so grateful! In Jesus' name, amen.

Don't miss out on all the freebies!

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3/31 - EASTER - Sing praise to the Lord! - Psalm 147 (Easter Lilies and music symbols)

Praise the Lord!

For it is good to sing praises to our God;

for it is pleasant, and a song of praise is fitting. Psalm 147:1

Sing Praise - Psalm 147:1

Happy Easter! Easter is finally here and it is time to praise the Lord! Look what He has done! Victory of death, hell and the grave! We are restored to relationship with God the Father and welcomed into eternal life with Him through the sacrifice of Jesus and His dominion over sin.

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead 1 Peter 1:3

A Living Hope

Jesus is our hope in this life and the next. His joy was to deliver us. His steadfast love extend through the suffering and disgrace of the cross.

...but the Lord takes pleasure in those who fear him,

in those who hope in his steadfast love. Psalm 147:11

A Time to Praise

Easter is a time to praise the Lord. We gather in churches all around the world and sing songs of praise to Him.

Praise the Lord!

For it is good to sing praises to our God;

for it is pleasant, and a song of praise is fitting. Psalm 147:1

Praise the Lord for He is good!

He heals the brokenhearted

and binds up their wounds.

He determines the number of the stars;

he gives to all of them their names.

Great is our Lord, and abundant in power;

his understanding is beyond measure. Psalm 147:3-5

God's power is unmatched and His wisdom is beyond our ability to understand it. He knows the names of all the stars, because He named them as He counted them. This incredibly gigantic God bends to earth to bind our wounds, tend to our pain, and heal our broken hearts. What amazing love!

Sing with thanksgiving

*Sing to the Lord with thanksgiving;
make melody to our God on the lyre!
He covers the heavens with clouds;
he prepares rain for the earth;
he makes grass grow on the hills.
He gives to the beasts their food,
and to the young ravens that cry. Psalm 147:7-9*

God is a God of provision! He provides for all our needs. He reigns over nature and His created world. Yet, He provides for us too!

Action Step:

What do you have to be thankful for today? Say a prayer of thanksgiving to God! Sing a song of praise for the Savior!

Share your thoughts about today's devotional or post a pic of your journaling under the Happy Easter post or post on Instagram and tag me @devoinaction!

Prayer:

Dear God, You have given us so much for which to be thankful! We praise You for the gift of Your Son and our salvation. Open our eyes to see all our Easter blessings. Give us the boldness to sing out your praise today! In Jesus' name, amen.

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