



LAST WORDS

March 10, 2019

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LAST WORDS: CONTEXT

Rise To Popularity: 16th Century

The Word of... Forgiveness. Salvation. Relationship. Abandonment. Distress. Triumph. Reunion.

LAST DAYS: CONTEXT

4-7 BC - Birth of Jesus // AD 29-33 - Death of Jesus

THURSDAY - JESUS WAS _____ AND _____.

FRIDAY - JESUS WAS _____ AND _____.

FORGIVENESS

**WHEN WE DID OUR _____ TO GOD, HE DID HIS
_____ FOR US!** LUKE 23:26-28, 32-38

1. EVERY SIN _____ GOD. ROMANS 3:19-20

2. EVERY SIN CAN BE _____. ROMANS 5:8

3. EVERY SIN _____ SOMEONE. ACTS 7:54-8:1

NEXT STEP - EPHESIANS 4:31-32

"Now you must understand: Forgiveness is a choice. It is not a feeling, but an act of the will. As Neil Anderson has written, 'Don't wait to forgive until you feel like forgiving; you will never get there. Feelings take time to heal after the choice to forgive is made.' As someone has said, forgiveness is setting a prisoner free and then discovering the prisoner was you."
- John Eldredge

Fill in the blanks: arrested, mocked, flogged, crucified, worst, best, offends, forgiven, hurts

LEAN INTO LENT

40 Days to Prepare Our Hearts for Easter

WHAT IS LENT?

“Lent” comes from the Anglo Saxon word lencten which means “spring”. For hundreds of years, Christians have participated in Lent, a 40-day period to prepare for Easter, by fasting, praying, and turning from sin. The 40 days represent the time Jesus spent in the wilderness without food or drink, enduring the temptation of Satan and preparing to begin his ministry.

A NEW EXPERIENCE OF LENT FOR YOU

No matter if Lent is completely foreign to you or if you have practiced it before but would like to experience Lent in a more meaningful way, we invite you to Lean into Lent over the next 40 days by taking up these three practices:

LEAN INTO DAILY BIBLE READING

Each week, we will provide you with daily Scripture readings. Spend time reading, reflecting, and applying the Scripture to your lives. You may want to record your insights on the SOAP pages in your Growth Binder as God speaks to you and you respond to him in prayer each day.

LEAN INTO FASTING

Fasting is a Biblical practice that helps us grow deeper in our faith by turning from the daily desires and distractions of the world around us to become more aware of our dependence on God. The term “fasting” most often refers to abstaining from food and/or drink. It is not meant to be merely a physical challenge or a legalistic and empty ritual, but rather a meaningful spiritual discipline to help you remove clutter in your life and create space to wholeheartedly pursue Jesus. Especially if you have never fasted before, we encourage you to lean into a fast that is meaningful for you. Here are some practical suggestions.

- Skip one meal or meals for one day each week.
- Consume only juice or broth and water for a period of time.
- Give something up like sugar or caffeine for the whole 40-days.
- “Fast” from social media, internet, TV, video games for a given period of time.
- Fast privately or together with a friend, family member or group for accountability and encouragement.

LEAN INTO THE WEEKLY CHALLENGES

In addition to physical fasting, we invite you to take up the Weekly Challenges. Each week, there will be a challenge to give up something that hinders our relationship with Jesus and to take on something that will draw us closer to Jesus.



MONDAY - JESUS' INVITATION

Read Matthew 4:18-22. What was Jesus' invitation? How did they respond in verses 20 and 22?

Jesus extends the same invitations to you for this 40-day journey. What can you set aside to experience life in the footsteps of Jesus during this time?

TUESDAY - FASTING LIKE JESUS

Read Matthew 6:16-19. What is Jesus most concerned with when it comes to fasting?

If you decide to fast or give up something for Lent, what can you learn from this passage regarding how to go about it?

WEDNESDAY - FATHER...

Read Luke 23:33-34. Reflect on the setting in which Jesus was crucified on the cross. Thank him for what he did for you.

Read Matthew 6:9. How does Jesus start both his model prayer and his own prayer? How do you usually address God in prayer? Why?

“Father” is first and foremost a term of relationship and endearment. How might your faith be affected if you regularly addressed God in your prayers as “Father” or “Daddy”?

THURSDAY - FORGIVE...

Read Luke 23:33-34. What does it mean to forgive?

This word in Greek was used to communicate the idea of “releasing from legal or moral obligation” or “to cancel, remit or pardon a debt that was owed”.

Read John 1:9. Take some time to thank Jesus for his undeserved forgiveness extended to you.

FRIDAY - THEM...

Read Luke 23:34. Jesus prays that the Father would forgive “them”. Who are “they” for whom he prays?

Jesus could be referring to the soldiers or the religious leaders who were behind his crucifixion, but when you think about it, we are the ones that sent Jesus to the cross--it was our sin that he paid for on the cross.

Read Colossians 3:13 - What are we called to do with the forgiveness Jesus extends to us?

SATURDAY - FOR THEY DO NOT KNOW...

Read John 23:34. Jesus has been tortured and is now dying a horrendous death at the hands of these people. Instead of thinking of himself and his own pain, he is thinking of those whose souls are in much greater peril than his own.

Read Matthew 6:14-15. What is your natural response when someone hurts you? How does Jesus call you to respond?

APPLY

Who has caused you pain in your life recently? How ready are you to apply this week's Scriptures to your relationship with them?

CHALLENGE

What is your next step towards forgiving that person who caused you pain look like this week? Sending a text? Picking up the phone? Meeting for coffee? Writing a letter?