

Faith Forward to the Cross

A 6-Week Lenten Devotional Journey



Wheat Street Baptist Church

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Lead Me to Calvary

Jennie Evelyn Hussey (1921)

**1 King of my life I crown Thee now,
Thine shall the glory be;
lest I forget Thy thorn-crowned brow,
lead me to Calvary.**

Refrain:

**Lest I forget Gethsemane,
lest I forget Thine agony,
lest I forget Thy love for me,
lead me to Calvary.**

**2 Show me the tomb where Thou wast laid,
tenderly mourned and wept;
angels in robes of light arrayed
guarded Thee whilst Thou slept. [Refrain]**

**3 Let me like Mary, through the gloom,
come with a gift to Thee;
show to me now the empty tomb,
lead me to Calvary. [Refrain]**

**4 May I be willing, Lord, to bear
daily my cross for Thee;
even Thy cup of grief to share,
Thou hast borne all for me. [Refrain]**

Week 1 – The Entry into Struggle (Palm Sunday) (February 22-28)

African American Witness: Harriet Tubman

Holy Week Focus: Matthew 21:1–11

Opening Prayer

Gracious God, as Jesus entered Jerusalem with courage and purpose, help us walk boldly in faith. Amen.

Scripture Reading

- Matthew 21:1–11
- Psalm 27:1 (Memory Verse)

Historical Reflection

Harriet Tubman entered dangerous territory trusting God for freedom. Like Jesus, she stepped forward knowing suffering could come.

Devotional Message

Faith does not deny danger—it moves forward anyway. God calls us to courageous obedience.

Faith Forward Statement

We move forward trusting God, even when the path is hard.

Reflection Question

Where is God calling me to step out in faith despite fear?

Weekly Fast Focus

No sweets (cakes, cookies, candy, desserts).

This fast reminds us that faith requires discipline and self-control as we prepare for the road ahead.

Closing Prayer

Lord, give me courage to follow You wherever You lead. Amen.

Week 2 – The Burden of Truth (Holy Monday/Tuesday) (March 1- March 7)

African American Witness: Frederick Douglass

Holy Week Focus: Matthew 21:12–17

Opening Prayer

God of truth, help us stand for justice and righteousness. Amen.

Scripture Reading

- Matthew 21:12–17
- John 8:32 (Memory Verse)

Historical Reflection

Frederick Douglass confronted religious hypocrisy just as Jesus confronted corruption in the Temple.

Devotional Message

True faith speaks truth even when it is uncomfortable. God's Word challenges injustice.

Faith Forward Statement

We move forward by living and speaking God's truth.

Reflection Question

Where must I stand for truth this week?

Weekly Fast Focus

No television (including streaming and entertainment shows).

Use that time for prayer, Scripture, and reflection on justice.

Closing Prayer

Lord, give me boldness to live Your truth. Amen.

Week 3 – The Agony of Prayer (Gethsemane) **(March 8-14)**

African American Witness: Sojourner Truth

Holy Week Focus: Luke 22:39–46

Opening Prayer

O God, draw us closer to You in prayer. Amen.

Scripture Reading

- Luke 22:39–46
- Joel 2:28 (Memory Verse)

Historical Reflection

Sojourner Truth trusted God's voice in a nation that denied her humanity.

Devotional Message

Prayer transforms fear into faith. In suffering, we lean on God's will.

Faith Forward Statement

We move forward through prayer and obedience.

Reflection Question

What burden must I surrender to God in prayer?

Weekly Fast Focus

No social media (Facebook, Instagram, TikTok, X, YouTube, etc.).

Replace scrolling with praying and listening for God's voice.

Closing Prayer

Lord, teach me to trust You fully in prayer. Amen.

Week 4 – The Cross and the Cry for Justice (Good Friday)
(March 15 – 21)

African American Witness: Ida B. Wells

Holy Week Focus: Luke 23:33–49

Opening Prayer

God of mercy, help us seek justice and walk humbly with You.
Amen.

Scripture Reading

- Luke 23:33–49
- Isaiah 53:5 (Memory Verse)

Historical Reflection

Ida B. Wells exposed the brutality of lynching just as the cross exposes the violence of sin.

Devotional Message

The cross calls us to witness suffering and work toward healing and justice.

Faith Forward Statement

We move forward with courage, justice, and compassion.

Reflection Question

How can I use my voice for justice this week?

Weekly Fast Focus

No meat (plant-based meals for the week or certain days). Fish is allowed.

This fast connects sacrifice with remembrance of Christ's suffering.

Closing Prayer

Lord, help me carry the cross in love and justice. Amen.

Week 5 – Waiting in the Darkness (Holy Saturday) **(March 22-28)**

African American Witness: Fannie Lou Hamer

Holy Week Focus: Matthew 27:57–66

Opening Prayer

God of hope, sustain us while we wait. Amen.

Scripture Reading

- Matthew 27:57–66
- Psalm 30:5 (Memory Verse)

Historical Reflection

Fannie Lou Hamer endured violence but trusted God for change.

Devotional Message

Waiting is not weakness—it is trust in God’s unseen work.

Faith Forward Statement

We move forward even when we cannot yet see the victory.

Reflection Question

Where am I waiting on God’s deliverance?

Weekly Fast Focus

No complaining or negative speech. Give someone a call, text, or post a positive affirmation every day.

Practice gratitude, encouragement, and hope.

Closing Prayer

Lord, teach me to trust You in the waiting season. Amen.

Week 6 – Resurrection and Liberation (Easter Sunday)

(March 29 – April 4)

African American Witness: Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Holy Week Focus: Matthew 28:1–10

Opening Prayer

Risen Lord, awaken us to new life. Amen.

Scripture Reading

- Matthew 28:1–10
- Amos 5:24 (Memory Verse)

Historical Reflection

Dr. King preached resurrection hope through justice and love.

Devotional Message

Resurrection faith turns suffering into service and despair into hope.

Faith Forward Statement

We move forward as resurrection people.

Reflection Question

How will I live as a resurrection witness this week?

Weekly Fast Focus

Give up unnecessary spending (only purchase essentials).

Donate funds you save to support our Young Disciples Ministry as we invest in our future generations.

Instead of just giving something up, take something on speak new life into our future generations.

Closing Prayer

Lord, thank You for resurrection power. Help me walk in new life. Amen.