

# LENT

REMEMBRANCE. REPENTANCE. RENEWAL.

SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS





### **Week 1 (1st Sunday of Lent)**

**Text:** Genesis 2:15–17; 3:1–7

**Topic(s):** Sin, Curse, the Fall, the Law, Original Sin

**Big Idea of the Message:** Every day, in some way, we fail to keep God's law. That isn't because God didn't make us correctly but rather because we are living under the curse of God for the sin of Adam.

**Application Point:** The law of God teaches us of our need for Christ.

### **Discussion Questions:**

1. What is one thing that stood out to you from this week's message?
2. A fun exercise to demonstrate the power and failure of the law is to place some sort of bright object in the room and then tell everyone they are not allowed to look at it during the study.
3. What is your understanding of the fall?
4. Have you ever considered that the fall is the explanation for all the problems in the news? Does this knowledge help give some clarity and meaning to the chaos of everyday life? Why or why not?
5. Have you ever been so convicted of your sin that you understood that your help had to come from outside yourself? Do you feel comfortable sharing that story?
6. How did the group do in obeying the law and not looking at the bright object? Use this as a discussion on how the law points us to Christ.
7. How can we pray for you?



## **Week 2 (2nd Sunday of Lent)**

**Text:** Genesis 2:4–15

**Topic(s):** Home, Wandering, Yearning, Citizenship

**Big Idea of the Message:** When God expelled Adam and Eve from the garden of Eden, he set humanity on a path of perpetually yearning for a home we cannot fully obtain until the return of Jesus.

**Application Point:** Lent is a good time to reflect on the fact that this world, in its current state, is not our home.

### **Discussion Questions:**

1. What is one thing that stood out to you from this week's message?
2. Reread the quote from C. S. Lewis. How can the feeling of "nostalgia" point us toward our ultimate home?
3. Consider sharing stories of strong moments of nostalgia and try, as a group, to discern what element of God's kingdom that experience may be tugging at.
4. Discuss Philippians 3:20–21. What are the implications for everyday life of what Paul is saying here?
5. That this world, as it currently exists, is not the source of our citizenship is also behind the expression "In the world but not of the world." If we are citizens of another kingdom, how we fight the temptation of becoming too attached to this one?
6. How can we pray for you?



### **Week 3 (3rd Sunday of Lent)**

**Text:** Psalm 121:1–8

**Topic(s):** Prayer, Attention, Despair, Help, Rescue

**Big Idea of the Message:** In the face of our sin and problems of life, we are helpless. But God pays attention to his creation, hears our cries, and has promised through Christ to deliver us.

**Application Point:** During Lent, you can trust that God hears your prayers for deliverance.

### **Discussion Questions:**

1. What is one thing that stood out to you from this week's message?
2. Is anyone in your group familiar with the song "Praise You in the Storm?" by Casting Crowns? Consider playing the song and reading the lyrics before the discussion. Then read Psalm 121. Compare and contrast the song and psalm as a group.
3. Have you ever cried out to God and only heard silence? How did you handle the silence?
4. Is there something you are struggling with right now which makes you feel like God is ignoring you? How does this psalm encourage you?
5. Does anyone here have a story of answered prayer that they'd like to share?
6. How is your spiritual experience of Lent going?
7. How can we pray for you?



### **Week 4 (4th Sunday of Lent)**

**Text:** Mark 1:14–15; Isaiah 6:1–5

**Topic(s):** Repentance, Confession, Sin, Forgiveness

**Big Idea of the Message:** During this season of preparation for Easter, we need to take seriously how seriously God takes sin.

**Application Point:** Jesus calls on everyone to repent of their sin and believe the gospel.

### **Discussion Questions:**

1. What is one thing that stood out to you from this week's message?
2. Does it surprise you to consider that the earliest recorded words of Jesus are not about love but repentance? How does this impact your preparation for Easter?
3. What are your thoughts about repentance being an act of "coming undone"? Does that help shed some light on the deconstructive nature of repentance?
4. Would you say that repentance is a key part of following Jesus? Why or why not?
5. What about Isaiah's encounter strikes you as either confusing or encouraging? What other reactions do you have?
6. How can we pray for you?





### **Week 5 (5th Sunday of Lent)**

**Text:** Isaiah 6:1–8

**Topic(s):** Forgiveness, Grace, Mercy

**Big Idea of the Message:** When we repent of our sin, God does not delay providing us with the mercy and forgiveness we so desperately need.

**Application Point:** During Lent, you can trust that God will forgive you.

### **Discussion Questions:**

1. What is one thing that stood out to you from this week's message?
2. How would you define grace?
3. Grace is present throughout the entire Bible. Can you think of any other passages which depict the grace of God in the Old Testament?
4. Brennan Manning's quote points to the difficulties of grace: that nothing we do contributes or merits God's graciousness toward us. How do you feel about the "unmerited" aspect of grace?
5. Did you find yourself identifying with Martin Luther's honesty about struggling to accept grace? Do you find it encouraging to know that even Martin Luther struggled with accepting the "unmerited" element of grace?
6. How can we pray for you?



### **Week 6 (6th Sunday of Lent)**

**Text:** Revelation 21:1–5

**Topic(s):** Rebirth, Life, Spirit, New Creation

**Big Idea of the Message:** While we wait on the return of Christ, we also anticipate the full restoration of our relationship with God that was lost in the garden of Eden.

**Application Point:** During Lent, we anticipate the new heavens and the new earth.

### **Discussion Questions:**

1. What is one thing that stood out to you from this week's message?
2. Does the unified story of the Bible, beginning and ending with a garden and the presence of God, surprise you? Does it encourage you? In what way?
3. In what way is it helpful to see how the curse is undone in Revelation? What curse do you especially long to see undone?
4. What image in Revelation 21 and 22 strike you as particularly uplifting?
5. Have you thought about the fact that it isn't that you are going to heaven, but that one day, heaven will come to you? How does that impact your preparation for Easter?
6. Lent is coming to a close. How did you grow spiritually during this season? What was the most challenging part?
7. How can we pray for you?