

FIRST things FIRST...

Daily Devotions

Devotional Guide ~ Feb. 23-Mar. 1, 2026

Devotions are prepared for you to use in your Quiet Time with the Lord and are designed to prepare you for the sermon next Sunday.

Monday: February 23

Scripture: Joel 2:12-13 & John 3:1-17

Lent really begins with a simple invitation: come back. Life gets busy. Faith can slowly turn into routine. We pray quickly, rush through worship, and before we know it, Jesus feels more like part of our schedule than someone we walk with every day. Joel reminds us that what God wants most is our hearts. Lent gives us time to notice where we've drifted. Maybe worry has taken over. Maybe distractions fill our time. Maybe we are just tired. The good news is that coming back to Jesus doesn't take a lot. Just turn to Him again.

Prayer: Jesus, help me come back to You with my whole heart. Amen.

Tuesday: February 24

Scripture: Psalm 51:10-12 & John 3:1-17

Lent isn't about feeling bad about ourselves. It's about letting God do some deep cleaning in our lives. David's prayer reminds us that real change starts on the inside. Most of us try to fix things on the surface. We promise to do better or try harder. But the real struggles come from deep inside. Jesus doesn't ask us to hide those things. He invites us to bring them to Him. When we are honest with God, something wonderful happens. Instead of pushing us away, God meets us with mercy.

Prayer: Lord, change what needs changing in me. Amen.

Wednesday: February 25

Scripture: Ephesians 5:8-10 & John 3:1-17

Light helps us see clearly. That's what Lent does for our spiritual lives. It slows us down enough to notice what's really going on. Sometimes we avoid that kind of honesty because we're afraid of what we'll see. But Jesus' light isn't meant to shame us. It's meant to guide us. It helps us let go of things that pull us away from God and move toward things that help us grow. Getting closer to Jesus usually doesn't happen in big dramatic moments. It happens in small choices. Step by step, we learn to walk in the light.

Prayer: Jesus, help me live in Your light. Amen.

Thursday: February 26

Scripture: Luke 8:44 & John 3:1-17

The woman in this story took a huge risk just to get close to Jesus. She could have been embarrassed. People could have pushed her away. She wasn't even supposed to be in that crowd. But she decided being near Jesus mattered more than staying safe or comfortable. Sometimes getting close to Jesus means taking a risk for us too. It might mean admitting we don't have everything together. The woman didn't give a speech or say the perfect prayer. She just reached out. And Jesus noticed her. In the middle of a loud crowd, He stopped for one person who simply wanted to be near Him. That's the invitation for us. When we reach for Him, we usually find He's already paying attention.

Prayer: Jesus, help me stop playing it safe when it comes to my faith. Amen.

Friday: February 27

Scripture: Romans 5:8 & John 3:1-17

One of the hardest things to believe is that God loves us exactly where we are. Many of us think we need to get our lives together before we can really come close to Jesus. But the cross tells a different story. Jesus moved toward us first. He didn't wait for us to be perfect. He came because we needed Him. During Lent, we walk toward the cross and remember that God's love meets us in our mess, not after we clean it up. When we finally accept that, we stop hiding and start drawing near.

Prayer: Jesus, thank You for loving me as I am. Amen.

Saturday: February 28

Scripture: Colossians 2:6-7 & John 3:1-17

Lent isn't just about giving something up. It's about growing closer to Jesus. Relationships grow through time spent together, and our relationship with Christ is no different. Simple tasks help. Praying, reading Scripture, and just sitting in the quiet can mean so much. None of these earn God's love, but they help us notice God's presence. Faith grows slowly. But over time, we get stronger. As we stay connected to Jesus, we find peace, strength, and hope that can last through our year, not just through this time of Lent.

Prayer: Jesus, help me stay close to you. Amen.

Sunday, March 1, 2026

Title: Hush

Scripture: John 3:1-17

Worship at 10:00am

Pastor Clint Phillips