

1st Sunday In Lent

Feb. 20, 2023-
Feb. 26, 2023

SCRIPTURE: Matthew 4:1-11

THEME: A Champion for the Defeated

SONG: CW21 863/864 or CW93 200/2001
- A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

VISUAL: Picture of a baby

OBJECT LESSON

Hold up/Display a picture of a baby. What things are a baby able to do by themselves? Babies are dependent on the adults around them for their basic needs. A baby seems an unlikely choice to help others as they cannot care for themselves. You wouldn't ask a baby to help you with your homework or cook dinner for you. As we grow older we learn to take care of ourselves, but we will always be needing something that only God gives us.

BIBLE TRUTH

God knew exactly what we needed when Adam and Eve sinned in the Garden of Eden. We needed a champion to save us from the devil, the world, and our sinful flesh. So, God sent us a baby. Yes, a baby. A baby that would grow up living a perfect life to fight and win against the devil. Our victory of heaven is because of a baby, a champion that we needed.

This is the beginning of the church season called Lent. The word Lent comes from an Old English word meaning "lengthen." For the next 40 days, we will look at the grace and love God sent us through sending his son Jesus to die for our sins. We will see how that baby became our champion and fulfilled God's plan so you and I will one day live in heaven. At the beginning of Lent, we see our champion go into battle against the devil. He faced the same kind of temptations we face and defeated the devil. He turned back temptation with the power of this Word.

DISCUSSION AND APPLICATIONS

God knows exactly what we need. We need a champion in our lives to save us from our sin. I can do nothing to save myself. I need Jesus. You need Jesus. God's grace for us is unending and we thank him for sending Jesus to live and die for all people. We use our lives to glorify God for the wonderful things He has given us. Tell others about Jesus, pray for your family and friends, and strengthen your faith by studying about your champion, Jesus.

How do we face some of the same temptations Jesus faced? Jesus defeated the devil for us by living perfectly. He also helps us to battle temptation. How does he equip you to fight against the devil?

PRAYER

Dear Jesus, we thank you for fulfilling God's plan by living a perfect life and dying for our sins. Forgive us when we don't listen to your Word and sin against you. You are the champion that we need and help us to remember that daily. Guide us throughout our life until we join you in heaven. In your name we pray, Amen.



HEART IMPRINTS

2nd Sunday In Lent

Feb. 27, 2023 -
March 5, 2023

SCRIPTURE: John 3:1-17

THEME: A Gift for the World

SONG: CW21 570 or CW93 391
- God Loved the World So That He Gave

VISUAL: Wrapped present

OBJECT LESSON

How many of you like getting a present? What is the best present you have received? (Hold up the present or show the picture of a present.) What do you think is inside of this present? Often, a present isn't something we need, it's something we want. Think back to your last birthday or back to the Christmas gifts you received. You probably got a new toy, phone, or something you didn't really need. We need water, clothes, air, and food. We don't need the latest electronics or toys we see in the store.

BIBLE TRUTH

Everyone in the world is sinful. There is no getting around that. The whole world lives under the curse of sin since Adam and Eve ate the fruit in the Garden of Eden. We can do nothing to save ourselves. Yet, God so loved this world that he gave his most precious gift: his Son. He gave Jesus into death for us. And then he gave us the gift of in Jesus as our Savior. We need faith in Jesus as our Savior. That gift of faith is given to us through the Holy Spirit. Faith is the present that we need. Since God graciously gives us the gift of faith by the Holy Spirit. Our entire life changes from helplessness to happiness when the Holy Spirit plants the seed of faith in our heart. We gain heaven - one of the greatest gifts of all!

DISCUSSION AND APPLICATIONS

While a huge stack of presents with your name on it may be exciting to open, God knows what we actually need. The faith we have, that faith that God-willing will grow as we all get older, is what we truly need. How does God give us the faith we need?

If we have Jesus in our lives, we have everything we need. Be thankful that God gave Jesus and gave you faith in Jesus. Believe in him.

PRAYER

Dear Jesus, we thank you for being the best present that we need. Thank you for all the physical blessings we have, but help us to remember that your saving work and faith in you are the only gifts we need for heaven. Keep us in the faith through your Word. In your name we pray, Amen.



HEART IMPRINTS

3rd Sunday In Lent

March 6, 2023-
March 12, 2023

SCRIPTURE: John 4:5-26

THEME: Water for the Thirsty

SONG: CW21 526 or CW93 120
- What Wonderful Love Is This

VISUAL: Cup of water or water bottle

OBJECT LESSON

How much water do you drink in a day? Do you drink just when you are thirsty or at meals? All people need water in order for their bodies to function properly. Water helps with everyone from regulating your body temperature to helping with food digestion. Not drinking enough water can hurt your body and eventually cause severe health problems.

BIBLE TRUTH

God often talks about water in the Bible. From Moses crossing the Red Sea to the Samaritan woman at the well, water is often used to describe life. Psalm 42:2 reminds us that "my soul thirsts for God." Our souls need Jesus even more than a human body needs water. We look forward to the day God will welcome us into heaven, when our soul will rejoice in being with our Father.

People sometimes say they don't need Jesus as they can gain heaven themselves. Nothing could be farther from the truth. In the days before Jesus' death on the cross, he continued to preach and teach to his disciples and others around him. Jesus is the water that everyone needs, the water that will quench our thirsty souls.

DISCUSSION AND APPLICATIONS

We all need Jesus even more than we need a drink of water. Jesus is that everlasting water that our bodies and souls have been searching for. Without water, we feel sick and tired. Without Jesus in our lives, we start to see and feel the effects of being without God. God doesn't want us to be separated from him, so we daily study his Word, drinking in the words of Jesus to quench our thirst. What are some ways we stay connected to Jesus and his Word?

PRAYER

Dear Jesus, thank you for being the water that I need. Out of your great love for sinners, you freely give the water that the world needs. We praise you for your mercy and grace. Keep us in the true faith until you bring us to life everlasting. In your name we pray, Amen.



**HEART
IMPRINTS**

4th Sunday In Lent

March 13, 2023 -
March 19, 2023

SCRIPTURE: John 9:1-7,13-17,34-39

THEME: Sight for the Blind

SONG: CW21 713 - I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light

VISUAL: A photo that is out of focus (landscape, road, etc). The same photo in focus would be helpful, but not necessary for this devotion.

OBJECT LESSON

How many of you wear glasses or contacts? Why? Glasses help correct vision for both kids and adults so the person can see clearly. (Show the blurry photo). Imagine your life looking out of focus all the time like this picture. Completing everyday tasks like walking, driving, or reading become difficult or even impossible. (Show the same photo in focus if available). When we can see properly, our lives become clear.

BIBLE TRUTH

Without Jesus, our spiritual life is blurry. Unbelievers may not admit it or even realize it, but they are blind without Jesus. Unbelievers cannot see the effects of sin on their lives and the possibility of going to hell when they die. The unbeliever lives a blurry life.

But the blindness is lifted for the believer. Jesus calls himself "the light of the world" and that light is what the world's failing eyes and hearts need. A believer sees the importance of Jesus and faith in their lives. A believer prays that God will strengthen their faith so they will never know separation from God. Jesus gives sight for the blind as we see in his miracle, but more importantly he gives sight to the spiritually blind. He has given such sight to each of us by his grace and power.

DISCUSSION AND APPLICATIONS

Jesus is the light you and I need. Whether you wear glasses or not, we were all spiritually blind until the Holy Spirit planted the seed of faith in our hearts. We live our lives in focus because of Jesus and the blessings that come through faith. We pray that everyone here stays connected to Jesus throughout their lives so when the temptations of this world surround you, Jesus will shine as "the light of the world."

PRAYER

Dear Jesus, thank you for being the light we needed in our lives. Draw us closer to you so our lives do not become blurry in this sinful world. Bring unbelievers to faith so more people can see the blessings that come through that faith in you. In your name we pray, Amen.



HEART IMPRINTS

5th Sunday In Lent

March 20, 2023-
March 25, 2023

SCRIPTURE: John 11:17-27,38-45

THEME: Life for the Dead

SONG: CW21 502/ CW93 449
- Children of the Heavenly Father

VISUAL: A photo of a tree and photo of the desert

OBJECT LESSON

Imagine you go outside to plant a tree. What is the process of planting a tree? (Show photo of a tree). You need a tree (or seeds), dirt, a shovel, and water. Plant it correctly and along with air, sunlight, rain, and a bit of time you will get a fully grown tree. (Show a photo of a desert). Now try and plant a tree here. Will it work? Probably not for long, as the ground is mostly sand, there is minimal water, and only specific types of trees and bushes can last in the desert. In a short amount of time, the tree will die. A tree that is dead won't come back to life, even if you plant it in the right spot.

BIBLE TRUTH

Death is a natural part of this sinful world. Because of sin, the whole world is under the harsh truth that one day we all will die. A dead plant will not miraculously come back to life. Yet in the Bible, Jesus gives the world an alternative—he provides us with life. Jesus says to us, "I am the resurrection and the life." The faith that the Holy Spirit gives grants us heaven where believers will rejoice with those who already left this world.

The Bible describes the miracles of Jesus bringing people back to life. Jesus wept at the grave of Lazarus before bringing him back to life. Jesus then died on the cross and descended into hell to proclaim his victory over death. His resurrection on Easter Sunday is the reassurance that God keeps his promises.

DISCUSSION AND APPLICATIONS

We do not need to fear death. The words of Jesus "I am the resurrection and the life" are also for us today. We know God keeps his promises to his people. We know God will bring us to himself in heaven when we die. We will find the joys of heaven better than anything here on Earth and we eagerly await the day we will be reunited with our loved ones in heaven. Jesus is the life we need.

PRAYER

Dear Jesus, thank you for bringing life to us all. We praise you for your victory over death and the devil. You satisfy our greatest needs. Guide us and strengthen our faith until the day we see in heaven. In your name we pray, Amen.



HEART IMPRINTS