

FROM DEATH TO LIFE

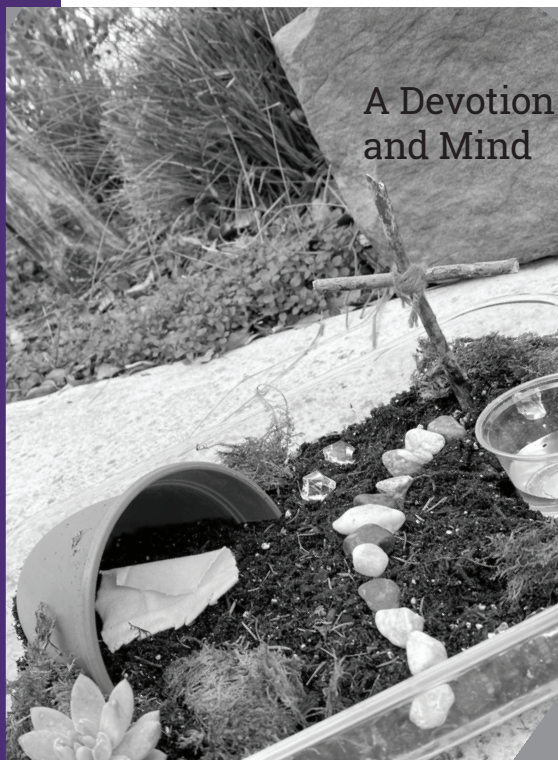
A LENTEN JOURNEY WITH GRACE GARDENS

A Devotion for the Heart, Body, and Mind

Read, Create, Reflect and Pray

What you will need:

Bible
9x11 Dish
Sand
Soil
Moss, Plants, Flowers
Rocks
Small Pot
Shells
Yarn
Jewels
Play-Doh
Black Cloth, White Cloth
Small clear dish
5 Small Candles



Be on the lookout for weekly videos from Pr. Lauren and Joel that will guide you step by step in creating a Grace Garden!

LENT



Week 1 February 21

FROM PARCHED TO PURPOSED

Read: Mark 1:9-15

Create: Add sand or soil to your tray. Fill the glass with water and set it in the sand.

Reflect: Each week ask these and other questions to begin the discussion. For young children, ask:

How does this story make you feel? What do you wonder about in this story?

For older children/adults:

What questions do you have about the Scripture? What connections do you make between the Scripture and your life today?

Pray: Lord Jesus, walk with us in the wilderness. Remind us of our baptism, which gives us a purpose and a mission with you. Amen.

Week 2 February 28

FROM QUESTIONS TO ANSWERS

Read: Mark 8:27-33

Create: Form the sticks into the shape of a cross, and tie them together with yarn. Stick the cross in a lump of Play-Doh, and place the cross in your garden

Reflect: See Week 1.

Pray: As a calming prayer practice, trace your finger in the sand of your garden, making a swirly shape, or a circle, or wherever your finger moves. Think about Jesus and his love for you.

Lord Jesus, walk with us in the wilderness. Remind us of who we are: Loved. Forgiven. Yours. Amen.

Week 3 March 7

FROM TAKING TO GIVING

Read: Mark 10:17-22

Create: Place the pot on its side in your garden, near the cross you placed last week. This overturned pot represents the cave tomb of Jesus. Scatter the jewel rocks throughout your garden. These represent the treasures in our lives that Jesus calls us to give away in order to follow him.

Reflect: See Week 1.

Pray: Lord Jesus, walk with us in the wilderness. Remind us to give to others, because you gave your life for us. Amen.

Week 4 March 14

FROM BARREN TO BLOOM

Read: Mark 10:35-45

Create: This is the week that your wilderness begins to turn into a garden, so green it up! Add whatever plants and flowers you'd like.

Reflect: See Week 1.

Pray: Lord Jesus, walk with us in the wilderness. Remind us that you turn everything around, and you make us new every day. Amen.



Week 5 March 21

FROM LOST TO FOUND

Read: Mark 8:34-38

Create: Place the rocks all over your garden. Now, can you make a path with the rocks that begins at one side of your garden and leads to the cross?

Reflect: See Week 1.

Pray: Lord Jesus, walk with us in the wilderness. Remind us that your life's path led to the cross, and that we walk in that way with you. Amen.

Place the pot
partially buried in
the dirt.

HOLY WEEK

Palm Sunday March 28

Read: Matthew 21:1-10, Mark 15:1-5

Create: Place the crown of thorns (maybe make from a twist tie or use an old ring) on the cross in your garden. Now place the 5 birthday candles in your garden, wherever you'd like.

Reflect: See Week 1.

Pray: Lord Jesus, walk with us in the wilderness. Remind us that the same crowd that shouted "Hosanna!" also shouted, "Crucify him!" Help us remember your great love for us on the cross. Amen.

Monday of Holy Week March 29

Read and Create: Light all candles in your garden, and extinguish one while reading Psalm 36:5-7.

Pray: Lord Jesus, walk with us in the wilderness. Remind us that there's nowhere your love won't reach. Amen.

Tuesday of Holy Week March 30

Read and Create: Light all candles in your garden, and extinguish two while reading Psalm 71:1-3

Pray: Lord Jesus, walk with us in the wilderness. Remind us that you are strong, and we are safe in your arms. Amen.

Wednesday of Holy Week March 31

Read and Create: Light all candles in your garden, and extinguish three while reading Psalm 70:4-5

Pray: Lord Jesus, walk with us in the wilderness. Remind us that you are strong, and we are safe in your arms. Amen.

Maundy Thursday April 1

Read and Create: Light all candles in your garden, and extinguish four while reading Psalm 116:1-4

Pray: Lord Jesus, walk with us in the wilderness. Remind us that you hear every prayer we speak, even the whispers in our hearts. Amen.

Good Friday April 2

Read and Create: Light five candles, extinguish five while reading Mark 15:1-39. Place the black cloth over the cross or over the hole of the tomb in your garden.

Pray: Lord Jesus, you died for us on the cross because you love us more than we could ever imagine. Help us remember your love in the darkest moments of life. Amen.

Holy Saturday April 3

Create: Water your Garden (or resurrection plant if you were given one) Check on it throughout the day and watch it change!

Easter Sunday April 4

Read and Create: Read John 20:1-18. Remove the black sheet from the cross or tomb. Roll up the white cloth and place it in the empty tomb. Say, "Alleluia! Christ is Risen!"

Pray: Lord Jesus, you are alive! And we are alive with you! We praise you for walking with us in the wilderness. Help us remember all that you have done for us and to share this Good News with others. Amen.

