



# LENT

## Bible Reading Initiative 2025

### WEEK 4



**DAY TWENTY: Mon 24<sup>th</sup> March 2025**

**Reading: John 11:25-26**

Lazarus has just died, and Jesus Christ has a conversation with Martha. As she tells him that her brother is dead, Jesus Christ said that anyone who believes in him shall live forever.

Every believer, no matter what we are facing, mustn't let ourselves shift or move our faith from God, even in the most difficult circumstances. Ask God to remind you of that today.

*Gideon Fawenu*

**DAY TWENTY-ONE: Tues 25<sup>th</sup> March 2025**

**Reading: John 12:24-26**

In verse 24, Jesus was saying that, "A seed must fall on the ground to produce another". This is referring to Jesus' death on the cross as it will bring spiritual life to us.

In verse 25, Jesus is also saying that if someone is holding tight to his life without him, the person will lose it forever. However, if you surrender your life to him, you will have eternal life. Jesus is telling us that we should not die of self-desire, but we should surrender our lives fully to him.

And in verse 26, Jesus promises that God will honour anyone who follows him. What a promise!

*Gideon Fawenu*

**DAY TWENTY-TWO: Wed 26<sup>th</sup> March 2025**

**Reading: John 14:1-6**

I guess that most of us reading these verses know them very well, if not off by heart. They are read at most funerals services and so are widely known. Such comforting words and easily spoken, but how easy is it to do? How often do we, very glibly, say to people "don't worry"?

I tried to put myself in the disciples' place and found it frightening! Here was Jesus saying that He's going away, but we've only just got Him back and we thought that everything was now going to be perfect. Can you grasp their perplexity when Jesus says, "I'm going away"? Not only that, but Jesus says, "Where I go you know, and the way you know"! It might be thought no wonder Thomas was concerned until you look back through the period that they've been with Jesus, He had told them so often about who He was and where He was going to.

I remember the time, when I was about 20/21, and my boss had recently moved to a very out of the way place. I had been there once when he took me to see what work he wanted to get done. One day I got into work and there was a message from our boss saying, "Come here to my new home and I will meet you there". Imagine my horror when I realised that I didn't know the address or his contact number – and nor did anyone else! But as I had been there once, I thought that I'd

remember the way, and, thankfully, as I was driving along, I remembered various signs and markings until I arrived at the correct house.

I wonder if Thomas liked Jesus' answer to his question in verse 5 when Jesus said, "I am the way"? Maybe that could be a reminder, at this time of Lent, to each one of us to look back over our lives and remember all the times that Jesus has been with us and has never let us down, the times that He has brought us through many, seemingly, impossible situations, and to take reassurance from it.

*Dave Curle*

**DAY TWENTY-THREE: Thurs 27<sup>th</sup> March 2025**

***Reading: John 15:4-5***

After Jesus had told His disciples that He will be going away, He gave them a number of encouraging teachings. One of them being advice to abide in Him (v4). Well, for years I didn't really understand those words and they seemed like a dire warning that if I stopped following Him or something, then I would lose my salvation or a crown or something, but as I got to studying this verse, I realised that the word means 'to dwell'.

This put a new dimension to this for me, as this was not something hard to do and just meant that if we kept His words, we would be dwelling in Him and not only that, the amazing part is that He will dwell in us and it will be *Himself* that is helping us to stay abiding!

Jesus gives the example of the vine and branches. Now, I'm no gardener by any stretch of the imagination, but I know that grafting has to be done correctly, or it won't graft and consequently will just die. It's a fantastic encouragement to know that Jesus is the one to do the grafting and it is He that shows us how to live in Him. All we have to do is to follow His words and do as He asks us, to keep his commandments.

I used to worry and think to myself "I can't see any fruit in my life". Let's face it, how often have we witnessed to people, for example, and yet they haven't yielded to Christ? Over the years I've come to realise that we don't need to see the fruit because Jesus said, "If you abide in me then I will abide in you, and you WILL bear fruit". Today, let's just concentrate on abiding in Jesus and have the assurance that He *is* living with and in us.

*Dave Curle*

**DAY TWENTY-FOUR: Fri 28<sup>th</sup> March 2025**

***Reading: John 17:9-11***

These verses cover the prayer of Jesus asking that the people in this world will know the truth and believe that God sent him. Jesus longs that people will know and believe in God.

We should always trust and believe in God in every situation that we find ourselves in, and we should remember not to be drawn into the world because Jesus is greater than he that is in the world. Where do you need to know Jesus afresh today?

*Glory Fawenu*

**DAY TWENTY- FIVE: Sat 29<sup>th</sup> March 2025**

**Reading: Acts 2:42-47**

The people saw the wonders and signs done by the apostles in the power of Jesus Christ, and all who believed sold their possessions and goods and attended the temple day by day, with gladness in their hearts and worshipping God. When the people saw the apostles performing miracles through the power of Jesus, they marvelled at this, and decided to walk in the way of God and serve Him.

We, too, should always walk in the way of the Lord and serve Him, so that miracles will happen in our lives, and we, too, will rejoice. Pray that today people might see the power of Jesus at work in their lives, as He is at work in ours.

*Glory Fawenu*

**DAY TWENTY-SIX: Sun 30<sup>th</sup> March 2025**

**Reading: Romans 8:38-39**

These verses are an awesome reminder of the omnipotence of God's love, and the fact that we are, as believers, indelibly connected to it. We are inseparable from God's love, whether we choose to acknowledge that or not. Nothing we could ever do could make God love us more, and nothing we could ever do could make God love us less.

In the Old Testament, the word for God's love in Hebrew is *Hesed*, often translated as 'loving kindness', 'steadfast love', and it encompasses loyalty, compassion, and enduring devotion. God has, is, and will love us always - since He has loved us with an everlasting love (Jeremiah 31:3) - i.e. beyond our time-bound life experience.

The response to this is, in my opinion, to be incredibly thankful and deeply grateful, and to daily do and be the best that we are created to be in God. Therefore, anything within us that impedes connection to God's love ought properly to be laid down, and anything that brings out, brings forth and channels God's love, ought to be grasped and encouraged. He has loved and trusted us to walk amongst His creation for this moment, to walk knowing our connection to His love energy from which all things arise.

May God's love be cherished and heal us in every place in which we are broken, and may God's love and guidance (via the Holy Spirit) protect and lead us all the days of our lives. And may we make straight and clear the paths within us, so that God's love, via Jesus, may shine brightly through us and on to others for the benefit of God's eternal kingdom.

*Michael Cutler*