



In Plain Sight

Lent Devotional
2026





In Plain Sight

Lent is a season of paying attention.

In the Gospel of John, people encounter Jesus and respond in very different ways. Some recognize him immediately. Others miss him entirely. Many come to see clearly only over time. In John's Gospel, faith isn't blind—it's *learned* as our eyes adjust to the light.

This devotional is an invitation to see again.

How to use this devotional:

- **Begin with Scripture.**

Each week centers on a passage from the Gospel of John.

- **Step into the story.**

The opening reflection is written from the perspective of someone who encountered Jesus. Let their experience shape how you see the text.

- **Follow the rhythm of the days.**

As the week unfolds, you'll find short reflections, simple practices, and prayers.

- **Move at your own pace.**

You don't need to read everything every day. Choose what helps you pay attention.

- **Notice what is already there.**

Watch for where God may be present—in Scripture, in your life, and in the world around you.



THE PROPHET

John 1:29–34

I had spent my life pointing—calling people to repentance, to the water, to the hard work of turning around. I knew my role. I was a voice, not the Word. A witness, not the light.

Then he came toward me.

I had seen crowds before. I had seen hunger, fear, sincerity, performance. But when Jesus Christ stepped forward, something in me stilled. The words rose before I could stop them: “Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.”

Not condemns it. Not shames it. Takes it away.

I had baptized many with water—watched them surface gasping, desperate for clean starts. But I knew water alone could not do this. I had been told to watch for the Spirit. To wait for the sign.

And then I saw it. The Spirit descending, resting, remaining on him.

In that moment, everything shifted. My work of preparation gave way to recognition. My call to repentance met its fulfillment—not in ashes alone, but in mercy.

I understood then: this was not about purity earned or guilt managed. This was about God stepping into the dust with us. The one who would baptize not just bodies, but hearts—breathing new life where there had only been sin and sorrow.

And so I testified to what I had seen in plain sight.

Thursday

John names Jesus *before* anyone else seems ready to hear it. Where might God be standing in plain sight in your life right now?

Friday

Choose one small, intentional act today that points away from yourself and toward God. Pay attention to how it feels to point towards God rather than perform.

Saturday

God who enters our dust and stays,
teach us to recognize your Spirit at work—
not only in dramatic moments, but in quiet, ordinary ones.
Remain with us as we prepare our hearts.
Help us let go of what is passing
and trust the life you are already breathing into us.

Amen.

Week One

IN PLAIN SIGHT



The Son

John 2:1-12

I had been to weddings before. I knew their rhythms—the laughter, the long tables, the quiet work happening behind the scenes to keep the joy alive. I also knew how quickly celebration could turn to shame if something essential ran out.

When the wine was gone, I noticed before most did. Years of watching and wondering have taught me to pay attention. I saw the hostess' face. Joy was giving way to worry. I knew what this would mean for her family.

So I went to my son.

I did not ask for a miracle. I simply told him the truth: “They have no wine.” He met my words with a look I knew well—tender, steady, aware of a moment still unfolding. His reply reminded me that what God was doing through him was larger than I could see.

I have known him longer than anyone. I carried him before the world knew his name. I have lived with the mystery of who he is and learned to trust what I cannot control.

So I turned to the servants and said: “Do whatever he tells you.”

When the water became wine, I did not shout or draw attention. I simply watched. My son—God's Son—revealing his glory not with spectacle, but with generosity. Abundance where there had been lack.

Grace poured out quietly, in plain sight.

Monday

What situation in your life needs attention right now? What needs to be noticed?

Tuesday

What would it look like to tell Jesus the truth, like Mary, without controlling the result?

Wednesday

Today, practice surrender. Name one situation you are holding tightly. Offer it to God with this simple prayer: "Like Mary, I trust you with what I cannot fix."

Thursday

What small act of obedience might be asked of you this week?

Friday

God of quiet abundance,
teach me to notice what others overlook.
Help me trust you with what feels unfinished or uncertain.
Give me the courage to do whatever you ask,
and the grace to see your work unfolding in plain sight.

Amen.

Week Two

IN PLAIN SIGHT



The Rabbi

John 3:16–21

I had heard about him, of course. A rabbi from Nazareth. Healings, they said. Signs. Miracles. I dismissed much of it at first. Rumors always grow in the telling. And yet—no one could do the things he was doing unless God was with him.

I asked to meet him at night. I could not be seen with him, not now, not when there is such tension, such scrutiny. To be seen with him would raise questions I was not prepared to answer. Still, something in me needed to know.

“Rabbi.” Teacher. I asked him to explain it to me.

He spoke of being born again—born from above. His words unsettled me. How could a man begin again? How could faith require something so complete?

I asked questions. Honest ones. Careful ones. And he did not turn away. He spoke of light and love that enters the world even when the world resists it.

I did not walk away with the answers I wanted. But I walked away knowing I could no longer stay the same.

I came to him in darkness, but I left with new eyes. The questions remained, but so did the light.

What I could not yet understand was now impossible to ignore. God was no longer hidden from me—he had been standing in front of me all along, in plain sight.

Monday

What detail from Nicodemus's story stays with you today?

Tuesday

Where do you sense light breaking in—or being resisted?

Wednesday

Write down one question about faith, life, or God that feels unresolved. Carry it with you today. Instead of answering it, notice when it surfaces. Let it become a prayer rather than a problem.

Thursday

What might be shifting within you, even if nothing feels resolved yet?

Friday

God of light,
meet me in my questions.

Give me courage to step toward what you are revealing,
even when I can only see a little way ahead.

Amen.

Week Three

IN PLAIN SIGHT



The Healer

John 5:1–15

I had been there a long time. Long enough that hope had learned how to lie still. Each day I watched the water, waiting for it to move, waiting for someone to help me reach it at the right time. But there was always someone faster, someone stronger, someone with a better chance.

People passed by me as though I were part of the stones. I learned not to expect much from them. I learned how to wait at the edge of despair.

When he came near, I did not ask him for anything at first. But he looked at me—not at my condition, not at the years I had spent there, but at me—and asked a question no one had ever asked me before: “Do you want to be made well?”

I told him the truth. I had no one. No one to help me when the water stirred. No one to carry me.

He did not argue. He did not explain. He simply spoke: “Stand up. Take your mat. Walk.”

And I did.

My legs remembered something my heart had almost forgotten. Strength returned before understanding. Healing came before explanation.

I had waited for the water to move. I did not know that life was already standing beside me, speaking wholeness into my waiting, in plain sight.

Monday

Where do you find yourself waiting? Where do you hope something will finally change?

Tuesday

What truth might God be inviting you to name?

Wednesday

Today, notice what you have learned to live with. Take a moment to name one habit, fear, or pattern that feels like it has become part of your identity. Hold it before God and pray: "Jesus, if healing is possible here, I am open." Do nothing else. Simply notice what rises within you.

Thursday

What might it look like to carry forward the place where healing has begun?

Friday

Jesus, our Healer,

You meet us where we have grown tired of waiting.

You see us when others pass by.

Speak life into the places we have stopped hoping for change.

Give us courage to rise,

and grace to walk into the healing you are already offering,
in plain sight.

Amen.

Week Four

IN PLAIN SIGHT



The Light

John 9:1-49

I took my place on the side of the road. It was a familiar place—one where I could witness life without being in the way.

I had learned my place. Each and every day, I sat and waited. The shuffle of feet, the low murmur of voices, the dust rising and settling again. I had learned to tune it all out. I had become so accustomed to experiencing life happening but not being in it.

One day, everything changed.

I sensed someone near before I could understand why. I heard something hit the ground and mix with the dirt beside me. Then, something heavy pressed on my eyes. It felt like my eyes were never going to open again. I crawled my way to the waters, washing off the caked on substance.

Then—a sensation I had never felt before. Light. Color. Faces. Is this what my world had always looked like?

Before I could catch my breath, everyone swarmed around to hear my story. I retold it over and over again. My miracle was met with questions and doubt. Instead of celebration, there was debate. They argued about who I was, what I deserved, whether it could be true.

But my story never changed.

Once you have seen the light, you cannot pretend it isn't there.

It was right in front of me. In plain sight.

Monday

Where have you grown used to watching life happen around you instead of stepping in?

Tuesday

Have you ever had an “aha” moment where you were able to see God’s work really clearly?

Wednesday

Take a moment to reflect on a dark place in your life. Reflect on a relationship, goal, or regret where you would like to experience transformation. Pray honestly: “Jesus, open my eyes to see you at work, help me to see the light.”

Thursday

Is there anyone you hesitate to share your story with? What would it look like to speak about what Jesus is doing in your life with confidence?

Friday

God of light and love,
You know our story,
You advocate for us, and you offer us healing.
Open our eyes to see the world
around us in a new way.
Give us the confidence to always point back to you.

Amen.

Week Five

IN PLAIN SIGHT



The Friend

John 11:1-44

If I'm being honest, I didn't expect my life to end so soon.

But I could feel it. I knew my body was getting weaker, and my sisters were not subtle with preparations. The whispered conversations. The table setting. The grief that filled the house before I was even gone.

They invited everyone to say goodbye. I think at one point the whole town was in our home. Beneath it all was one unspoken hope: Jesus would come. If he came, everything could change.

The hope lingered with me, even when my body gave up. I knew my friend that had brought so much joy and warmth and adventure would bless me again, but as I took my last deep breath, all I heard were my sisters' devastated sobs.

Then, I saw light. I heard a voice: "Lazarus, come out." It was Jesus! He came! Everything in my body wanted to go and see him. I stood, still wrapped in linen, and walked toward the sound of his voice.

When I stepped outside, everyone stared—shock, fear, awe. Death had loosened its grip.

And holy love stood right in front of us, in plain sight.

Monday

Where is hope lingering in your life?

Tuesday

When have you experienced disappointment in your life because God acted differently than you hoped?

Wednesday

Name five friends that have taught you what holy love looks like.

Lift these names up in prayer: "God, friendship is a gift. Thank you for the example of your love."

Thursday

Where are your preparations and expectations getting in the way of witnessing God's love?

Friday

God of love,

Help us to remember that you are enough.

Your plans are holy and it is a blessing to witness you at work in the world.

As we are in this season of preparation, help us to not let our rituals get in the way of your miracles.

Amen.



The King

John 12:12-19

After many years, we finally got to go to the festival. There were of course all the traditions to look forward to, but this year there were rumblings of a procession, of an honored guest.

So we grabbed palm branches and found a place along the road. Everyone else had the same idea. The streets, the doorways, the windows were all filled with people with palm branches, fighting for the best way to see. Waiting for what, no one quite said but we were ready for anything.

You could hear the roar before anything else. It came in a wave and then was a steady wall of sound. *Hosanna!* over and over again, even as the crowd tightened around us.

We had heard the stories— his miracles, his healing, his signs. Surely, this was our King! At last, elevated above the crowd— there he was, riding on a donkey. No elaborate dress, no great sword. And somehow, it was enough. We waved our branches and shouted until our voices gave out.

We finally saw the King, in plain sight!

Monday

If Jesus showed up in the middle of one of your everyday moments—not a church service, but your real life—what might you want to lay down or offer in welcome?

Tuesday

As you read the Palm Sunday story, what surprises or unsettles you? What questions does this crowd, this king, or this moment raise for you?

Wednesday

What names do you most often use for God (Friend, Healer, Lord, Savior, Father, Spirit...)? As you list them, are there certain feelings associated with them? Are there specific times you use one more than another?

Maundy Thursday

On the night Jesus knelt to wash feet and shared the table with his friends, love looked like service. Where might you be invited to serve or show quiet love this week?

Good Friday

Hosanna, save us, Lord.

In this holy week, steady our hearts.

Teach us to follow you not only in celebration,
but in humility, service, and trust.

Keep our eyes on you,
through joy, through sorrow, through it all.

Amen.

Holy Saturday

IN PLAIN SIGHT



Psalm 88:1-5, 13-14

Lord, you are the God who saves me;
day and night I cry out to you.

May my prayer come before you;
turn your ear to my cry.

I am overwhelmed with troubles
and my life draws near to death.

I am counted among those who go down to the pit;
I am like one without strength.

I am set apart with the dead,
like the slain who lie in the grave,

whom you remember no more,
who are cut off from your care.

But I cry to you for help, Lord;
in the morning my prayer comes before you.

Why, Lord, do you reject me
and hide your face from me?

Saturday

Holy Saturday is a day of waiting.
The tomb is sealed. God seems quiet.

Psalm 88 reminds us that even here,
our prayers still count.

What grief, doubt, or unanswered question
do you need to place in God's hands today?



The Risen One

John 20:1–18

I went while it was still dark and the city was still quiet. I carried the spices in my hands and the weight of grief in my chest. It was all I had left to offer him—one last act of love for a body that had already suffered enough.

I expected the stone. I expected the silence. I expected death.

But the stone—it was rolled away.

For a moment I couldn't breathe. I ran. Told the others. Came back. Waited.

They left, confused and angry, sure someone had robbed it. I stayed.

I couldn't leave him. Not yet. I sobbed. *Where had they taken him?*

"Why are you crying?" I heard a voice.

Then another voice behind me. "Woman, why are you crying?"

I thought he was the gardener. Until he said my name.

"Mary."

And suddenly the world shifted. Light where there had been shadow. Breath where there had been ache.

He wasn't missing. He wasn't defeated. He was alive.

Standing right in front of me.

Not far away. Not hidden.

Risen.

In plain sight.

Easter Sunday

The tomb is empty.

Love is alive.

And resurrection is not just something
we remember—it's something we live.

Where is Jesus calling you into new life?

Don't walk this season alone.

Find your people.

Join a group.

Serve someone.

Start a conversation.

Learn More

Explore groups, classes, and ways to get involved at Lovers Lane.

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There's a place for you here.

Proposed Reading Plan

Ash Wednesday

2/18 - 1:1-13
2/19 - 1:14-25
2/20 - 1:26-38
2/21 - 1:39-51

Week One

2/22 - 2:1-17
2/23 - 2:18-3:9
2/24- 3:10-21
2/25 - 3:22-36
2/26 - 4:1-18
2/27 - 4:19-38
2/28 - 4:39-54

Week Two

3/1 - 5:1-23
3/2 - 5:24-47
3/3 - 6:1-24
3/4- 6:25-59
3/5- 6:60-7:9
3/6- 7:10-34
3/7- 7:35-52

Week Three

3/8- 8:1-30
3/9- 8:31-59
3/10- 9:1-34
3/11- 9:35-10:21
3/12- 10:22-42
3/13- 11:1-32
3/14- 11:33-57

Week Four

3/15- 12:1-19
3/16- 12:20-36
3/17- 12:37-50
3/18 - 13:1-22
3/19 - 13:23-14:4
3/20 - 14:5-21
3/21 - 14:22-31

Week Five

3/22 - 15:1-17
3/23 - 15:18-27
3/24 - 16:1-15
3/25 - 16:16-24
3/26 - 16:25-17:5
3/27 - 17:5-19
3/28 - 17:20-26

Holy Week

3/29 - 18:1-18
3/30 - 18:19-40
3/31 - 19:1-19:16
4/1 - 19:17 - 27
4/2 - 19:28-20:10
4/3 - 20:11-29
4/4 - 20:30 - 21:14

Easter Sunday

4/5- 21:15 -25



Lovers Lane

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