

Midweek Bible Study- February 18, 2026
“Does Sanctuary Church Observe Lent?” Student Notes

Although Pentecostals do not formally observe Lent, we deeply appreciate its spiritual focus:

- **Repentance** — a daily posture, not a seasonal one
 - *Scripture:* Psalm 51:10; Acts 3:19
- **Fasting** — practiced as the Spirit leads
 - *Scripture:* Matthew 6:16–18
- **Reflection** — allowing God to search our hearts
 - *Scripture:* Psalm 139:23–24
- **Remembering the Cross** — living in resurrection power every day
 - *Scripture:* 1 Corinthians 1:18; Romans 6:4

Key Thought: *We embrace the heart of Lent without binding ourselves to ritual.*

Before beginning His ministry, the Spirit led Jesus into the wilderness.

Scripture: Matthew 4:1–11; Mark 1:12–13; Luke 4:1–13

- A place of **preparation**
- A time of **fasting and prayer**
- A season of **testing and strengthening**
- A model of **Spirit-led discipline**

Reflection Question: *What is God preparing you for in your current season?*

Spiritual disciplines are powerful when they flow from relationship, not obligation.

Scripture: 1 Timothy 4:7–8; James 4:8

- Fasting sharpens spiritual sensitivity
- Prayer aligns us with God’s will
 - *Scripture:* Matthew 26:41
- Scripture strengthens us against temptation
 - *Scripture:* Psalm 119:11
- Reflection keeps our hearts tender

Reflection Question: *Which discipline is God inviting you to deepen?*

Legalism turns spiritual practices into spiritual scorecards.

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Scripture: Galatians 5:1; Colossians 2:20–23

- Ritual without relationship leads to pride or guilt
- Routine without intimacy becomes empty
- Obligation replaces love
- Tradition replaces transformation

Key Warning: *Jesus didn't die to give us a ritual — He died to give us a relationship.*

Reflection Question:

Have you ever done something “for God” out of habit instead of love?

Pentecostals honor the heart of Lent by practicing its values year-round:

Scripture: Romans 8:14 — “For those who are led by the Spirit of God are the children of God.”

- Repentance as a lifestyle
- Fasting as the Spirit prompts
- Reflection as a regular rhythm
- Devotion as a daily pursuit

Reflection Question: *What would change if you approached the next forty days with intentionality, not ritual?*

Consider choosing one intentional step for the next 40 days:

- A focused prayer time
- A fast the Spirit leads you to- food, luxury, time consumer
- A Scripture reading plan
- A commitment to resist a specific temptation
- A renewed pursuit of intimacy with Christ
- *Scripture:* James 4:8 — “Draw near to God, and He will draw near to you.”

Final Reflection Question:

What step will you take this week to draw closer to Jesus out of love, not obligation?