



Lent Review

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me.

Psalm 51:10

As we get ready to follow Jesus on His path to the cross this week before Easter, let's spend a bit of time reviewing these last several weeks of study we've had.

We kicked off the Lenten series with a few days talking about temptation and how to deal with it. Then the first full week we spent discussing self-denial, tackling several tough topics, such as surrender, greed and debt. The next week we looked at fasting. The third week we considered simplicity and the importance of that in the Christ follower's life. The following week we considered some ways to grow in your faith. Finally, last week we looked at spiritual spring cleaning to prepare us for this holy week of Easter.

This morning, let's spend a few minutes praying about any areas that God may want you to revisit before Mary starts us on our journey to the cross.

Application: Today spend some time in prayer, asking God to show you what areas from the last five weeks you may need to zero in on in your life. Consider the following questions.

1. How are you doing in your battle against [temptation](#)? You can review Days 2, 3, and 4 of our series if you need to shore up this area of your life. Remember to rely on the Holy Spirit to fill you as you wage your war against temptation. Identify any areas of special concern that you struggle with and honestly face them. Ask for outside help from an accountability friend, group, pastor, or counselor if you need to.
2. [Self-denial](#) was a tough week of study. For Lent, I chose to give up any personal spending that wasn't a necessity, and it has been very enlightening as to how much money I saved this month! Of all the areas we looked at that week on days 5-11 (surrender, greed, debt, words, food and body, and pride), which one continues to give you the most trouble?
3. Our next week's study of [fasting](#) is the one I need to revisit and that I struggle with implementing in my life. Were you able to try any of the fasts we talked about on Days 12-18? If not, this week as we prepare for Easter would be a perfect time to try a fast. Remember, you can start out slowly with fasting from just one meal, or even from just desserts.
4. Our week's study of [simplicity](#) on Days 20-26 was a learning experience as well. One area I need to work on is keeping the Sabbath. My plans to practice a quieter

Sabbath Day have not yet worked out. We've had emergencies, visitors, and all kinds of circumstances that have prevented me from trying this. But, I'm going to keep working toward this goal. What from this week do you need to revisit?

5. The week of [spiritual growth](#) on Days 28-31 gave us a lot to think about. Have you looked into being or finding a spiritual mentor? Or have you found that adding praise to your day has helped set the tone for the rest of the day?
6. Last week, we spend some time on [spiritual spring cleaning](#). Have you been able to try the discipline of Examen yet or have you been able to read the free e-book on discerning God's will?

I'm getting ready for our journey this week to the cross. As you prepare for Easter Sunday, thank God for the progress you've made over the last several weeks and resolve to keep moving forward!

Prayer: Lord,

Thank you for guiding us through our Lenten journey thus far. Give us the grace to continue making the changes You want us to make. Help us to focus in this week on your path to the cross and the sacrifices you made for us. We look forward to Resurrection Sunday! Amen.