



# What is Lent?

## And what are we doing for Lent at Living Word?...

The Season of Lent is almost here! For some, this may be a new word, foreign to your vocabulary. The word “Lent” is carved out of an understanding of “springing forth—reminiscent of the period that ushers in the resurrection of our Lord Jesus. Traditionally the Season of Lent is forty days, marked with an intense focus on prayer, fasting, and self-examination. Why forty days? The ancient church modeled this practice after the example of Jesus’ wilderness experience which lasted for forty days according to the Gospels. Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, with the imposition of ashes on the forehead, and the admonition that we are dust, and to dust we shall return—a vivid reminder that God holds every moment of our existence.

This Lent, Living Word’s journey takes us to explore the fullness of the culture of giving under the theme: “Giving as a way of Living.” Giving of ourselves, our time, and of possessions is the ultimate expression of faith. God models this by giving Jesus Christ:

*“For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.”*

On Calvary’s cross, Jesus models giving by freely laying down his life.

*“For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again.”*

On the day of Pentecost, fifty days after the resurrection of Jesus, the Holy Spirit is lavishly given to witness to the generosity of God.

*“Then afterwards I will pour out my spirit on all flesh; your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, and your young men shall see visions. Even on the male and female slaves, in those days, I will pour out my spirit”.*

We are, because God is a giver.

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Each week during the Season of Lent, we will explore aspects of Giving as a way of Living. This theme will be reflected in our sermons, small group gatherings, and all other ministry activities.

We hope you can join us as we journey together for forty days celebrating God the Giver, and all the ways we are an extension of God the Giver.

***Buckle up; it's going to be a great journey!***

**Here is what to look forward to during the five weeks of Lent:**

**February 17: Ash Wednesday: *"We are God's".... (Imposition of Ashes)***

**Week One: February 21: *God the Giver***

**Week Two: February 28: *Giving as Worship***

**Week Three: March 7: *The Blessings of Giving***

**Week Four: March 14: *Paid in Full: Sacred Narratives***

**Week Five: March 21: *Stewards of the Mysteries of God***