

# Cross Connection

New Life in Christ Church

## A Lenten Devotional Guide W2



✦ We all have a connection to the cross    ✦ What's yours?

## *Lifecollectors and Friends,*

It can seem like life is always moving at warp speed with little time for pause. We face so many challenges each day, that even our best efforts to remain peaceful can feel ineffective at best. This can leave our souls feeling weary and our spirits yearning for a deeper, more intentional connection with God. This year, we determined that in addition to focusing on inviting our friends and family to join us for Easter service, we would slow our pace and embrace Lent, the 40-day season leading up to Resurrection Sunday.

This Cross Connection Guide, will broaden understanding of our theme “Connected” by reflecting on how we *all* connect to the cross. This kind of deep dive is the remedy our souls long for. Remembering the **radical love** of Christ and the life-changing impact that has on how we can show up in the world.

Our devotional guides traditionally walk us through differing scriptures each day with prompts to write, ponder, and pray. This guide will slow the pace a little - guiding you one scripture per week and giving you simple practices each day that help the Scripture's weekly focus come to life in your time with God.

We anticipate hearing how this intentionality impacts your connection to Jesus during this Lenten season!

In Christ's Love,

Bishop, and the New Life Discipleship Team

**CONNECTED**  
JOHN 15:5



## What is Lent?

Lent is a sacred season the Church has observed for centuries as a consecrated time of prayer, fasting, and repentance, mirroring Jesus' forty days in the wilderness and the early Church's preparation for resurrection life. This is not about ritual — it is about realignment — as we corporately turn our hearts back to God and walk the road that leads to the cross. In this season, the cross does more than remind us of what Jesus has done; it reveals who we are becoming as we surrender, are renewed, and are drawn deeper into His will. And as we are transformed together, we are being prepared to live out our calling to change lives in our lifetime for the glory of God.

## How to use this guide:

Set aside 10–15 minutes each day.

1. Begin by taking a slow breath and becoming aware that God is with you.
2. Follow the daily instructions.
3. End with the prayer.

**You will read the same Scripture every day.**

Do not rush. God will meet you in a different way each time.



# Week 2

## Truth and Clarity



John 4:9-11,13-14, 25-26

February 25-March 3

### The Truth, the Whole Truth, and Nothing but the Truth

The way we see Jesus shapes the way we see everything else. Whether you have followed Him for years, are just beginning to seek Him, or are still learning who He is, clarity comes when we encounter the truth of Christ, especially through His sacrifice on the cross.

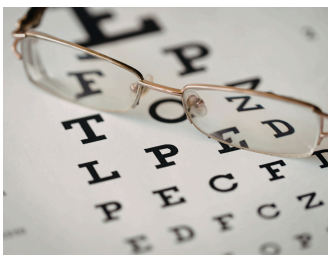
During Lent, God not only calls us to repent of sin, but also to allow His truth to bring direction and wholeness to the areas of our lives that have been shaped by pain, past experiences, wrong beliefs, or the lies of the enemy. What once felt cloudy and confusing becomes clear when we begin to see our identity, our relationships, and our future through Him.

This week's passage from John 4 shows us a powerful example of this transformation. The Samaritan woman came to the well with questions, history, and a limited understanding of who Jesus was. But when Jesus revealed Himself to her as the Messiah, everything changed. Her past, identity, and purpose were all seen in a new light. Looking to the New Testament, we see though the Twelve Disciples recognize Jesus as the Christ (Matthew 16:16, John 6:68), their vision remains fuzzy because they cannot comprehend a crucified Messiah, and they stumble around with blurred vision as this truth refuses to come into focus until He is crucified.

Tap the button to view a short video clip from the series, "The Chosen", of this very scene from John.

<https://www.youtube.com/watchv=ordhsDeAt60>

Scan the QR code if reading the print version of this guide.



# Day 1

**Week 2 Passage -John 4:9-11, 13-14, 25-26 NIV**<sup>9</sup> *The Samaritan woman said to him, “You are a Jew and I am a Samaritan woman. How can you ask me for a drink?” (For Jews do not associate with Samaritans. 10 Jesus answered her, “If you knew the gift of God and who it is that asks you for a drink, you would have asked him and he would have given you living water.”11 “Sir,” the woman said, “you have nothing to draw with and the well is deep. Where can you get this living water? 13 Jesus answered, “Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, 14 but whoever drinks the water I give them will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give them will become in them a spring of water welling up to eternal life.”25 The woman said, “I know that Messiah” (called Christ) “is coming. When he comes, he will explain everything to us.”26 Then Jesus declared, “I, the one speaking to you— I am he.”*

**Today’s Practice:** Lectio Divina (this means “Divine Reading”)

Our practice today is called “Lectio Divina”. This may be a new term for you, but it is an easy practice to learn. It is a slow, intentional reading of this week’s passage, noticing words or phrases that stand out to you, and prayerfully considering what God might be saying to you.

**Step 1 – Become still:** Sit quietly and pray - “Lord, let me meet You at the cross today.”

**Step 2 – Read this week’s passage slowly:** Read the passage out loud twice. Do not analyze – simply listen.

**Step 3 – Notice the word or phrase that stands out and write the word down below.** It may be something like: gift of God, living water, Messiah, I am He.

*Write down your word or phrase:*

**Step 4 – Cross Connection Reflection:** At the cross, Jesus’ full identity as the Messiah was fully revealed. He is the Savior who came to redeem the world. How does the word or phrase you chose help you see Jesus as the savior of your life in this current moment?

**Prayer:** “Jesus, let me hear Your voice through Your Word.”

**Live it out today -** Repeat your word throughout the day and ask: “Lord, what are You showing me about who You are?”

# Day 2

## Week 2 Passage -John 4:9-11, 13-14, 25-26 NIV

### Today's Practice: Confession

Our practice today is confession. Confession simply means agreeing with God about our sin.

**Step 1 — Begin with this prayer:** “Dear, Jesus. Because of the cross, I can be honest with You.”

**Step 2 —** Read this week's passage. Focus on how the Samaritan woman expected the Messiah — but did not realize He was standing right in front of her.

**Step 3 —** Practice agreement with God. Where have I been looking for clarity while keeping Jesus at a distance? Where have I allowed my past, pain, or my own understanding to shape my identity? How has this affected my relationship with God and others?

**Prayer:** “Lord, thank You for the cross that brings truth into my life.”

**Live it out today:** When a false thought comes, say: “Jesus, You are my truth.”



# Day 3

**Week 2 Passage -John 4:9-11, 13-14, 25-26 NIV** *9 The Samaritan woman said to him, "You are a Jew and I am a Samaritan woman. How can you ask me for a drink?" (For Jews do not associate with Samaritans. 10 Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God and who it is that asks you for a drink, you would have asked him and he would have given you living water." 11 "Sir," the woman said, "you have nothing to draw with and the well is deep. Where can you get this living water? 13 Jesus answered, "Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, 14 but whoever drinks the water I give them will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give them will become in them a spring of water welling up to eternal life." 25 The woman said, "I know that Messiah" (called Christ) "is coming. When he comes, he will explain everything to us." 26 Then Jesus declared, "I, the one speaking to you— I am he."*

## Today's Practice: Surrender

Our practice today is surrenderance. Surrenderance is a voluntary act of yielding one's will, desires, and life entirely to God's authority.

**Step 1 – Read this week's passage:** Focus on the contrast between ordinary water and living water.

**Step 2 – Ask yourself:** In what areas of my life have I been depending on something other than Jesus for satisfaction, clarity, comfort, or direction? It may be: a relationship, success or achievement, approval from others, or something different entirely. *Write those things here:*

**Step 4 – Practice surrender:** One by one, bring those areas before the Lord. Pray: "Jesus, I have been looking to [ name the things you wrote above here] instead of looking to You. I surrender this to You. Be my living water here."

**Step 5 – Cross Connection Reflection:** At the cross, Jesus gave everything so that you would never have to live spiritually thirsty again. Because He is the Messiah who laid down His life for you, you can trust Him to be your source.

How does the cross help you release what you've been depending on?

**Prayer:** "You alone satisfy my soul. I choose to depend on You."

**Live it out today:** When you feel yourself reaching for that old source again, pause and say: "Jesus, You are my living water."

# Day 4

---

**Week 2 Passage -John 4:9-11, 13-14, 25-26 NIV**

## **Today's Practice: Holy Imagination**

We invite you to today's practice of imagination, which may be new to you. "Holy Imagination" is simply picturing yourself in the scripture. The imagery that you are prompted to visualize is a way to help you connect with God.

### **Step 1 – Read this week's passage slowly**

### **Step 2 – Enter the scene**

You are at the Well.

### ***Hear Jesus Say:***

"It's me. I am your Savior and the one you've been searching for."

### **Step 4 – Cross Connection Reflection - Respond to Him**

What does this mean for your identity, past, future, and relationship with God? Write whatever comes to mind here:

**Prayer:** "Jesus, thank You that the truth of who you are defines my life."

**Live it out today:** Reject every thought that contradicts who Jesus says you are.

# Day 5

**Week 2 Passage -John 4:9-11, 13-14, 25-26 NIV**

## **Today's Practice: Intercession**

Today's practice is intercession. This simply means praying for others.

### **Step 1 – Read this week's passage**

**Step 2 – Write down the names of those in your life who need the clarity that comes from knowing Jesus.**

**Step 3 – Pray for them:** Jesus' identity as the Messiah, the true savior of the world, has been revealed to you. Now, pray for the names you mentioned above. Pray that Jesus would reveal Himself as Messiah and that they would see Him as the living water they have been searching for.

**Live it out today:** Show Christ's love to someone today in a very practical way.



# Day 6

**Week 2 Passage -John 4:9-11, 13-14, 25-26 NIV**

## Today's Practice: Fasting

Today's practice of fasting means to make room for God by giving something up (typically food).

**Step 1 – Choose something to lay down today.** It can be food (a meal or all day), or something else that takes your attention away from God.

## Step 2 – Read this week's passage

**Cross Connection Reflection:** What does this fast reveal about what I turn to for comfort? What do I rely on for clarity? What do I use to cope with stress or uncertainty?

**Prayer:** "My deepest need is met in You. Train my heart to thirst for You alone."

**Live it out today:** Every time you feel the absence of what you laid down, turn that moment into worship and say: "Jesus, You are enough for me."

# Day 7

**Week 2 Passage -John 4:9-11, 13-14, 25-26 NIV** <sup>9</sup> The Samaritan woman said to him, "You are a Jew and I am a Samaritan woman. How can you ask me for a drink?" (For Jews do not associate with Samaritans. <sup>10</sup> Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God and who it is that asks you for a drink, you would have asked him and he would have given you living water."<sup>11</sup> "Sir," the woman said, "you have nothing to draw with and the well is deep. Where can you get this living water?" <sup>13</sup> Jesus answered, "Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, <sup>14</sup> but whoever drinks the water I give them will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give them will become in them a spring of water welling up to eternal life."<sup>25</sup> The woman said, "I know that Messiah" (called Christ) "is coming. When he comes, he will explain everything to us."<sup>26</sup> Then Jesus declared, "I, the one speaking to you—I am he."

## Today's Practice: Reflection

**Step 1 – Read the passage one final time.** What words or phrases stand out to you? If you completed day 1, how do these words compare?

**Step 2 – Cross Connection Reflection:** Where did Jesus bring clarity to my: Identity? Past? Relationships? Direction? What lies lost their power this week?

**Prayer:** "Thank You for being the truth that gives my life direction and clarity."

