

A GRADIENT OF LENT

FORTY PROMPTS TO PREPARE FOR EASTER



*“Though outwardly we are wasting away,
inwardly we are being renewed day by day.”*

2ND CORINTHIANS 4:16

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INTRODUCTION TO A GRADIENT OF LENT



*As we move closer to Lent each day,
we reenact how we are moving closer
to God's hope for our world.*

*A Gradient of Lent Questions is designed to
give you small prompts each day
to be mindful of how we are all
preparing for the hope of God found in
Christ's death, burial, and resurrection.*

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A GRADIENT OF LENT INSTRUCTIONS



*Each day, select a card,
consider the question, and respond by placing
the card by an item or a location
within your home.*

*The placing of the first card will be on
the day after Ash Wednesday.*

*Aside from Easter Sunday, there are no prompts
for each Sunday of Lent. We encourage you
to reflect on the cards from the week.*

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*As you engage with each prompt, these cards
will be dispersed around your residence.*

*We encourage you to retrieve all the cards
on Good Friday and arrange them in the shape
of a cross.*

*This will be a symbol of the good news of Jesus:
giving His life for our sins and revealing
the hope of God's future for us all.*

DAY 1: DUST
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WHAT IS A LIMIT YOU HAVE RECOGNIZED IN YOUR LIFE?

*Place this card in a dusty spot in
your home to remind you from
dust you came and to dust you will return.*

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DAY 2: SECRECY

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WHAT ARE YOU THANKFUL YOU HAVE CONFESSED IN THE PAST?

*Place this card in a hidden spot of your home
to remind you Lent is the process of bringing
to the light what has been kept in
the darkness of our hearts.*

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DAY 3: CLUTTER

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WHAT IS AN EXAMPLE OF JESUS BEING PRESENT IN THE MESSES OF THE WORLD TODAY?

*Place this card in a messy area or drawer
to remember God's presence in the
messiest parts of life.*

DAY 4: REORDERED

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HOW HAVE YOU SEEN YOUR PRIORITIES CHANGE IN THE LAST FIVE YEARS?

*Situate this card in a location that needs
reorganizing to be mindful of how Lent
is a season of reorientation during
disorienting times.*

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DAY 5: SLUMBER

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WHAT HAS EXHAUSTED YOU OVER THE PAST YEAR?

*Stand this card up near the place you sleep
to remember God is awakening our hearts
to God's hope.*

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DAY 6: OUTGROWN

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WHAT IS A MINDSET OR WAY OF DOING THINGS YOU'VE OUTGROWN?

*Situate this card with an item that needs to be
thrown out or donated to remember God is growing
us in the midst of life's sufferings.*

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DAY 7: LETTING GO

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WHAT IS A HABIT THAT STEALS YOUR ATTENTION FROM GOD AND OTHERS?

*Place this card with an item you could live without
to remind yourself how Lent is a process
of letting go of all that distracts us from
the Kingdom of God.*

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DAY 8: DARKNESS

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WHERE DO YOU HAVE TROUBLE SEEING GOD'S PRESENCE IN THE WORLD?

*Situate this card in a dark location
to remember the Powers of Darkness will not
exist in God's future.*

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DAY 9: HARDNESS

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WHO DO YOU TEND TO HARDEN YOUR HEART TOWARDS IN THE WORLD?

*Stand this card next to a hard item in your house to
remember God is softening our hard hearts this
Lenten season.*

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DAY 10: CHALLENGING TIMES

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WHAT IS THE LAST CHALLENGING THING YOU'VE DONE FOR THE KINGDOM OF GOD?

*Place this card next to an item that represents
hardship to remember God is present in
our hardships.*

DAY 11: DEPENDENCE

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WHAT HAVE YOU BECOME DEPENDENT ON AS YOU GO THROUGHOUT YOUR DAY?

*Set this card next to one item you depend on
every day to remind yourself of our utter
dependence on God.*

DAY 12: CONSUMPTION

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WHAT DO YOU TEND TO TURN TOWARDS IN YOUR FREE TIME?

*Place this card next to an item you use regularly to
consume any type of content or material to take
inventory of what we give to our hearts and minds.*

DAY 13: PREPARATION

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WHAT'S ONE MEAL OR SNACK YOU LOVE TO PREPARE FOR YOURSELF OR OTHERS?

*Lay this card in a location where you prepare food
to be mindful that God is preparing your heart,
mind, soul, and body for the resurrection of life.*

DAY 14: REFUGE

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WHAT TIME IN LIFE HAVE YOU FELT MOST AT HOME?

*Place this card in a place of comfort to remember
God is our refuge in times of disorientation.*

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DAY 15: BROKEN

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**WHAT IS ONE THING
YOU'VE CONTINUED TO ENGAGE
EVEN THOUGH IT IS FAR
FROM PERFECT?**

*Lay this card next to a broken item prompting
you to remember God's heart desires all our hearts
to be for the broken, the poor, and the least of
these.*

DAY 16: EMPTY

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**WHO HAVE YOU NOTICED
SEEMS TO BE RUNNING
ON EMPTY RIGHT NOW?**

*Place this card in an empty container, box, or room
to remember we empty ourselves to be filled with
more of God in this season of Lent.*

DAY 17: LOVED

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WHAT'S ONE PROJECT OR RELATIONSHIP YOU'VE PUT YOUR HEART AND SOUL INTO?

*Lean this card on something you love in your house
to remember God's future is the love of God being
closer than you can ever imagine.*

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DAY 18: NOURISHMENT

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WHAT IS THE MOST NATURAL WAY FOR YOU TO STAY CONNECTED TO GOD?

*Leave this card by a source of nourishment
to be mindful of how Christ is
our ultimate nourishment in this life.*

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DAY 19: REST

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WHAT'S ONE THING YOU WISH YOU COULD CHANGE WITH THE SNAP OF A FINGER?

Place this card on an item with a reset button that reminds you God's future doesn't just make new things but makes all things new.

DAY 20: TIME

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IF YOU WERE GIVEN AN EXTRA HOUR TODAY, WHERE WOULD YOU INVEST THAT TIME?

*Situate this card next to an item that displays
the time to remember your time
is a gift of God to be gifted to others.*

DAY 21: WINDOW

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**WHO IS SOMEONE WHO ALWAYS
SEEMS TO EMBODY THE LIGHT
OF CHRIST WITHIN THEM?**

*Place this card next to a light source to remember
it is the Light of Christ that helps us see
our next step more clearly.*

DAY 22: AWARENESS

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WHAT'S THE LAST THING YOU'VE DISCOVERED ABOUT GOD?

*Place this card in the least-used space
in your residence to remind yourself Jesus came
to heal our sight more than our situation.*

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DAY 23: POWER

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WHAT'S AN EXAMPLE WHERE YOU'VE WITNESSED GOD GIVEN POWER USED WELL?

*Place this card next to an item that provides power
to remember how Jesus used his power to make
image bearing viable for others.*

DAY 24: HEAVY

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WHAT HAS CONSISTENTLY BEEN ON YOUR MIND THESE DAYS?

*Place this card with a heavy item to remember
that Christ invites you to lay all your burdens
and heavy thoughts at His feet.*

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DAY 25: MARKED

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WHAT'S A PIVOTAL MOMENT IN YOUR LIFE WITH GOD THAT YOU WILL NEVER FORGET?

*Place this card beside a scuff, scratch, or dent
in your home to remember we live for
the applause of the nail scarred hands.*

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DAY 26: MAINTENANCE

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WHAT'S A GLIMPSE OF HEAVEN YOU'VE EXPERIENCED IN THIS LIFE?

*Situate this card next to something that
needs maintenance to remember God's future
will wipe away all of the frustrations, tears,
and heartaches of the world.*

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DAY 27: REFILL

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WHEN DO YOU HAVE THE LOWEST AMOUNT OF DEMANDS THROUGHOUT YOUR WEEK?

*Place this card next to an item that replenishes
you to remember that the joy of the
Lord is our strength.*

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DAY 28: MIRROR

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WHAT'S ONE CHARACTERISTIC THAT OTHERS ALWAYS LOVE ABOUT YOU?

*Place this card beside a mirror to remember
that you are a reflection of God to the world.*

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DAY 29: PURPLE

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**WHAT IS A SIMPLE WAY
YOU'VE PLEDGED YOUR LOYALTY
AND ALLEGIANCE TO KING JESUS?**

*Place this card next to a purple item to remember
King Jesus sits at the right hand of God
and is never in trouble.*

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DAY 30: GIFT
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WHAT GIFT WILL YOU ALWAYS REMEMBER RECEIVING?

*Set this card next to an item someone gifted to you
to be mindful of God's gift of the Spirit to
transform us into Christ's likeness.*

DAY 31: DELIGHT

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WHERE OUTSIDE DO YOU FEEL A SENSE OF BEAUTY?

*Set this card next to an item that brings you
delight to remind you of how God's future will be
filled with an even greater delight than described
through the story of Eden.*

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DAY 32: HEALING

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**WHAT SICKNESS ARE YOU
LOOKING FORWARD TO MOST
BEING EXTINCT WHEN GOD FULLY
BRINGS HEAVEN TO EARTH?**

*Place this card next to an item you use to sustain,
groom, or heal yourself to be mindful of Jesus
who is our greatest Healer.*

DAY 33: DOOR
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**WHAT IS ONE OF THE MOST
UNFORGETTABLE BUT
UNSUSPECTED MOMENTS
OF YOUR LIFE?**

*Place this card next to your door to remember the
slow and non-flashy entry of Jesus into Jerusalem.*

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DAY 34: CLEARED

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WHAT IS ONE INJUSTICE YOU BELIEVE GOD WILL ADDRESS IN THE AGE TO COME?

*Situate this card next to a surface you need
to clear off to remember how Jesus cleaned the
temple of all injustice on Monday of Holy Week.*

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DAY 35: ENDING

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WHAT STORY ENDING HAVE YOU ALWAYS APPRECIATED?

*Place this card next to an item that will perish to
be mindful of Jesus' speech on the Mount of Olives
on Tuesday of Holy Week.*

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DAY 36: EQUIPPED

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WHAT'S BEEN THE MOST VALUABLE TOOL, DEVICE, OR UTENSIL YOU'VE USED IN YOUR LIFE?

Place this card in a location where you store equipment to remember how Jesus equipped the disciples for the days ahead on Wednesday of Holy Week.

DAY 37: CUP

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WHAT IS A HARDSHIP YOU'VE ENCOUNTERED IN YOUR LIFE?

*Place this card near a glass or cup to remember
the cup of suffering Jesus endured on
Maundy Thursday so we would never endure
the hardships of life alone.*

DAY 38: SACRIFICE

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WHAT HAVE YOU ALWAYS WONDERED ABOUT THE STORY OF THE CRUCIFIXION OF JESUS?

*Instead of distributing this card, spend time
as a household collecting all the cards
from the past several weeks.*

*Choose one location in the house to combine
all the cards and organize them into the
shape of the cross.*

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DAY 39: REST

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WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR IN ANTICIPATION?

*Place this card with the rest of the cards
as we remember how God's people waited
for the Lord to fulfill His promise
of coming back to life.*

DAY 40: BREATH

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WHAT IS A BREATH OF FRESH AIR TO YOU RIGHT NOW?

Happy Easter!
Take time to celebrate the Breath of God
raising Jesus from the dead.
The tomb is empty!

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