



Journey through Lent

Giving

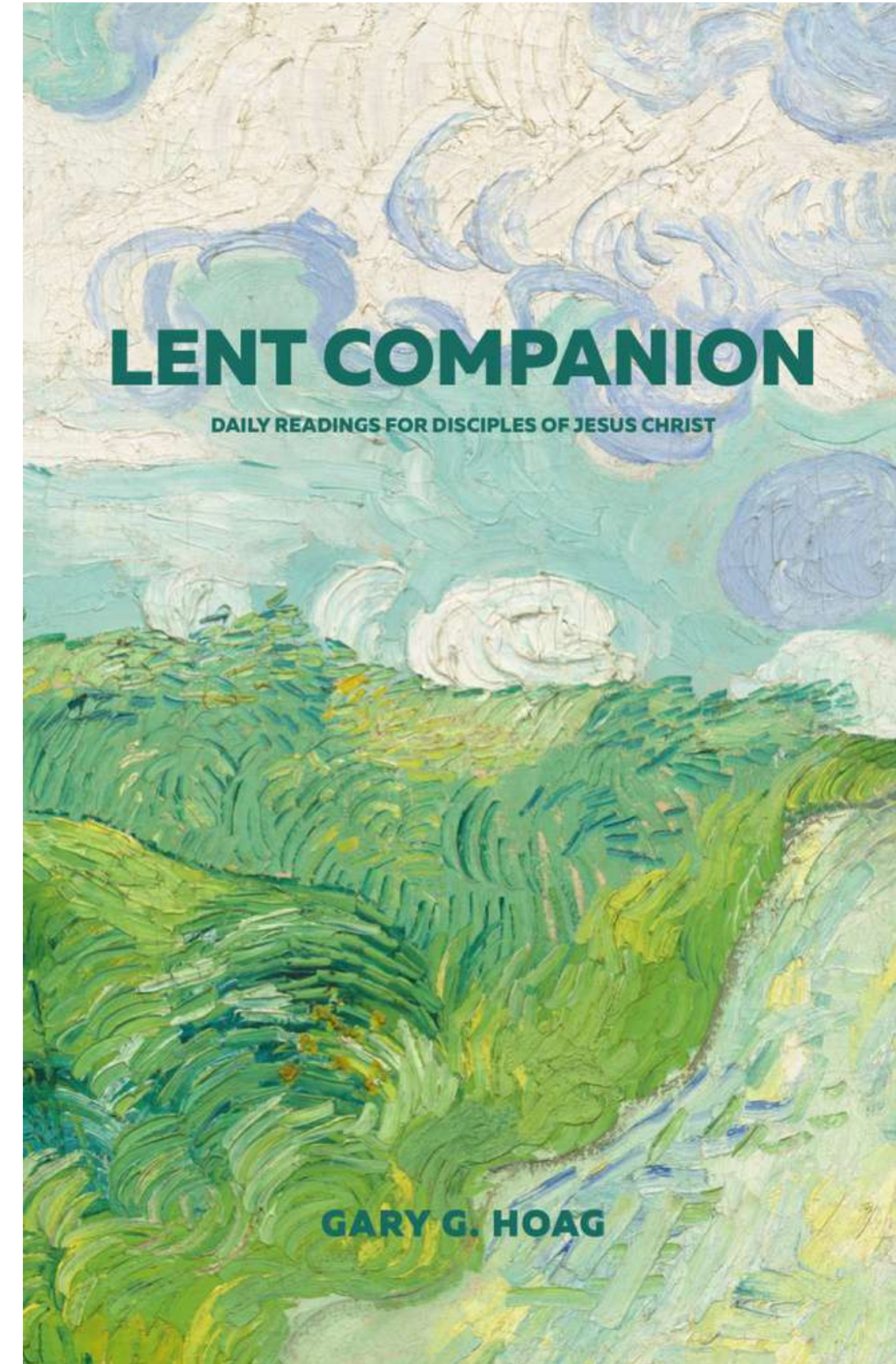
22 February 2024, 11 am GMT

What is Lent?

Lent is a season when followers of Christ focus on understanding and practicing the formational disciplines of giving, prayer, and fasting. We observe it from 14 February to 31 March 2024.

Journey with GTP

By reading Lent Companion and joining 4 Zoom meetings on Giving, Praying, Fasting, and Life After Lent.





Sermon on the Mount

Jesus gives us specific instructions

When you give...

When you pray...

When you fast...

He wants us to practice these disciplines for our good and His glory.

We will look together at His instructions from Matthew 6 in these Zooms meetings.



Warning Label for Lent

“Be careful not to practice your righteousness in front of others to be seen by them. If you do, you will have no reward from your Father in heaven.”

Matthew 6:1

**Be careful.
Do Lent for
yourself and
for God,
not for people.**



Matthew 6:2-4 and Giving

“So when you give to the needy, do not announce it with trumpets, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and on the streets, to be honored by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward in full. But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your giving may be in secret. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.”



Matthew 6:2

“So when you give to the needy, do not announce it with trumpets, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and on the streets, to be honored by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward in full.”

**People give to
get praise.
Do not make that
your motivation!**



Matthew 6:3

*“But when you give to the needy,
do not let your left hand know
what your right hand is doing”*

**What is Jesus
trying to tell us?**



Left hand vs. Right hand

In antiquity, the right hand was linked to eating, greeting, and other good things. The left hand was used to relieve one's bowels and linked to all things dirty and evil. Giving with your right hand links to right motives and the left to bad ones.

**Why should we
put our right
hand to work
and keep our left
in the dark?**



Augustine of Hippo, Sermon 149

“The left hand of the spirit is material greed, the right hand of the spirit is spiritual love. So if, when you give alms, you mix in some greed for temporal advantages, hoping to gain some such thing from that good work, you are mixing the left hand’s knowledge with the right hand’s works. But if you come to a person’s help out of simple charity and with a pure conscience before God, with an eye on nothing else but to please the one who enjoins such acts, then your left hand does not know what your right is doing.”



Matthew 6:4

“So that your giving may be in secret. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.”

When dirty motives don't taint our giving, it stays a secret to people and is seen and rewarded by God.

Breakout Discussion

Let's reflect together.

Take notes to share in the chat.

***How can we avoid earthly recognition
and ensure eternal reward for giving?***



Five Practical Tips for Giving

1. When you see a person in need, don't give a handout that creates dependency. Give a hand up to build a disciple in a loving and neighborly way like the good Samaritan in Luke 10:25-37.

Give a poor neighbor a hand up in a loving and tangible way.



Five Practical Tips for Giving

2. When you give, don't think how much of my money should I give to God. Think how much of God's money should I keep for myself and hold back nothing like the widow in Luke 21:1-4.

**Give God what
you have and
hold nothing
back.**

An impressionist painting of dense green foliage, likely a field of ferns or similar plants, with visible brushstrokes and a vibrant color palette of various shades of green and blue.

Five Practical Tips for Giving

3. Don't just give from your income. Give from your assets. Barnabas encouraged the early church when he sold an asset and set the proceeds at the Apostles feet in Acts 4:32-37.

**Take inventory
of your assets
and put an asset
to work this Lent.**



Five Practical Tips for Giving

4. Do good, be rich in good works, be generous, and ready to share this Lent. You won't end up empty or at a loss. You will find yourself enriched and taking hold of life as it says in 1 Timothy 6:17-19.

Give to many opportunities during Lent. Sacrifice and see what happens.



Five Practical Tips for Giving

5. Give yourselves to God in community and experience His grace in unexpected ways like the church in Macedonia who gave beyond their ability despite poverty and affliction in 2 Corinthians 8:1-5

Put yourselves in a place where you rely on God's grace together.

Breakout Discussion

1. Give a poor neighbor a hand up in a loving and tangible way.
2. Give God what you have and hold nothing back.
3. Take inventory of your assets and put an asset to work this Lent.
4. Give to many opportunities during Lent.
Sacrifice and see what happens.
5. Put yourselves in a place where you rely on God's grace together.

Pick one of the tips. What if you did it?



Journey through Lent

Read *Lent Companion* daily. Download it at www.gtp.org/resources/ebooks/lent-companion/

Join us for upcoming Zoom meetings:

On Prayer – 6 March at 11 am GMT

On Fasting – 15 March at 11 am GMT

On Life after Lent – 1 April at 11 am GMT

Do Lent with GTP and invite a friend.



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