

## LENT DEVOTIONAL 2025 DRAW ME NEARER

### Day 1 (March 5, 2025): The Invitation to Draw Near

- **Scripture:** James 4:8
  - **Reflection:** God is calling us closer. He is not distant but waiting for us to approach Him. Our choice to draw near to God comes with a promise: He will draw near to us. As we begin this Lenten season, let us remember that God desires intimacy with us, not superficial closeness.
  - **Challenge:** Set aside 10 minutes today for quiet prayer. Focus on simply being in God's presence, without asking for anything.
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### Day 2 (March 6, 2025): Nearness Through Repentance

- **Scripture:** Psalm 51:10
  - **Reflection:** Our sin separates us from God, but when we repent, we create space for God to draw near. Repentance is not about shame but about turning back to God, opening our hearts for His healing touch.
  - **Challenge:** Reflect on any areas where you may need to repent. Spend time in prayer, asking God to cleanse your heart.
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### Day 3 (March 7, 2025): Nearness Through Worship

- **Scripture:** Psalm 95:6-7
  - **Reflection:** Worship brings us near to God. When we bow down and surrender ourselves, we recognize God's greatness and invite Him into our hearts. Worship is both an act of reverence and a channel through which we experience God's presence.
  - **Challenge:** Take time to worship today, whether through song, art, or simply speaking words of praise to God.
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### Day 4 (March 8, 2025): Nearness in Surrender

- **Scripture:** Matthew 16:24-25
  - **Reflection:** Drawing near to God involves surrendering our will. We must deny ourselves and follow Christ. The world's pleasures pull us away, but God's invitation is to surrender those things and trust Him more fully.
  - **Challenge:** Identify one thing you are holding onto that prevents you from surrendering fully to God. Surrender it in prayer today.
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### Day 5 (March 9, 2025): Nearness Through Scripture

- **Scripture:** 2 Timothy 3:16-17
- **Reflection:** The Word of God is living and active, shaping us to be more like Christ. As we spend time in Scripture, we draw nearer to His will and character. God speaks to us through His Word, and we encounter Him in its pages.
- **Challenge:** Dedicate 15 minutes today to read and meditate on Scripture. Allow the Word to speak directly to you.

### Day 6 (March 10, 2025): Nearness in Prayer

- **Scripture:** Philippians 4:6-7
  - **Reflection:** Prayer is one of the clearest ways we can draw near to God. He desires to hear from us, not just in times of need, but in all moments of life. Through prayer, we open ourselves to His peace and presence.
  - **Challenge:** Commit to pray for 10 minutes today, pouring your heart out to God and listening for His voice.
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### Day 7 (March 11, 2025): Nearness Through Forgiveness

- **Scripture:** Matthew 5:23-24
  - **Reflection:** We cannot fully experience God's closeness while harboring unforgiveness. Jesus calls us to seek reconciliation with others, drawing near to both them and God through forgiveness.
  - **Challenge:** Identify someone you need to forgive. Spend time in prayer, asking God to help you let go of bitterness.
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### Day 8 (March 12, 2025): Nearness in Community

- **Scripture:** Hebrews 10:24-25
  - **Reflection:** God created us for community. We draw nearer to Him when we draw nearer to one another. In Christian fellowship, we are reminded of God's love and encouraged to live out our faith together.
  - **Challenge:** Reach out to a fellow believer today to encourage them in their walk with God.
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### Day 9 (March 13, 2025): Nearness in Trust

- **Scripture:** Proverbs 3:5-6
  - **Reflection:** Trusting in the Lord with all our heart is a key to drawing nearer to Him. When we let go of our own understanding and trust His path for us, we experience the closeness of His guidance.
  - **Challenge:** Identify an area in your life where you struggle to trust God. Surrender it to Him today.
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### Day 10 (March 14, 2025): Nearness in Silence

- **Scripture:** Psalm 46:10
- **Reflection:** In a busy world, silence allows us to draw near to God. When we quiet our hearts, we hear His voice more clearly and allow His presence to fill us.
- **Challenge:** Spend 10 minutes in complete silence today, focusing on God's presence.

**Day 11 (March 15, 2025): Nearness Through Sacrifice**

- **Scripture:** Romans 12:1-2
  - **Reflection:** Sacrifice is an act of drawing nearer to God. By offering our lives as living sacrifices, we align our will with God's. During Lent, we are called to intentionally sacrifice to focus more on God's voice and presence.
  - **Challenge:** Choose something to give up for the day—whether it be food, entertainment, or a habit—in order to draw closer to God.
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**Day 12 (March 16, 2025):: Nearness in Listening**

- **Scripture:** John 10:27
  - **Reflection:** We cannot draw near to God if we do not listen to His voice. Jesus says His sheep know His voice. When we learn to listen for God's leading, we deepen our relationship with Him.
  - **Challenge:** Practice active listening in prayer today. Ask God to speak to you and give Him space to respond.
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**Day 13 (March 17, 2025):: Nearness in Obedience**

- **Scripture:** John 14:15
  - **Reflection:** Obedience to God draws us closer to Him. When we follow His commands, we show our love for Him. Each act of obedience deepens our intimacy with the Father.
  - **Challenge:** Identify one area of your life where God is calling you to obedience. Take a step of faith today.
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**Day 14 (March 18, 2025):: Nearness Through Gratitude**

- **Scripture:** 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18
  - **Reflection:** Gratitude is a powerful way to draw nearer to God. When we thank God for His blessings, we open our hearts to His presence, recognizing His goodness and provision in our lives.
  - **Challenge:** Write down 5 things you are grateful for today and offer them to God in thanksgiving.
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**Day 15 (March 19, 2025): Nearness Through the Cross**

- **Scripture:** Galatians 6:14
- **Reflection:** The cross is the ultimate expression of God's desire to draw near to us. Through Christ's sacrifice, we are brought near to God, reconciled through His love.
- **Challenge:** Spend time reflecting on the cross and what it means for your relationship with God.

**Day 16 (March 20, 2025): Nearness Through Humility**

- **Scripture:** Philippians 2:3-4
  - **Reflection:** Humility allows us to draw near to God. As we humble ourselves before God and others, we make space for God to work in our hearts.
  - **Challenge:** Practice humility today by serving someone without expecting anything in return.
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**Day 17 (March 21, 2025):: Nearness in His Presence**

- **Scripture:** Psalm 16:11
  - **Reflection:** In God's presence is fullness of joy. We draw near to Him to experience peace, joy, and love. When we seek His presence, we find the strength to endure challenges.
  - **Challenge:** Take 5 minutes to sit quietly in God's presence today. Be aware of His nearness and allow Him to fill you with His peace.
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**Day 18 (March 22, 2025): Nearness in Fasting**

- **Scripture:** Matthew 6:16-18
  - **Reflection:** Fasting is a way to draw nearer to God by denying ourselves. It shifts our focus from worldly desires to spiritual intimacy with God.
  - **Challenge:** Choose to fast from something today—food, social media, or a habit—in order to spend more time in prayer and seek God's presence.
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**Day 19 (March 23, 2025):: Nearness Through Generosity**

- **Scripture:** 2 Corinthians 9:6-7
  - **Reflection:** Generosity is a way we grow nearer to God. When we give, we reflect God's heart and His generosity toward us.
  - **Challenge:** Look for an opportunity to give generously today, whether through time, resources, or encouragement.
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**Day 20 (March 24, 2025):: Nearness in Suffering**

- **Scripture:** Romans 8:17-18
- **Reflection:** Sometimes, we draw nearer to God in our suffering. God meets us in our pain, and through it, we experience the comfort and strength of His presence.
- **Challenge:** If you are facing difficulty, take time today to pray, asking God to draw near to you in your pain and give you strength.

**Day 21 (March 25, 2025):: Nearness in Faith**

- **Scripture:** Hebrews 11:6
  - **Reflection:** Faith is essential in drawing near to God. Without faith, it is impossible to please God, but when we trust in His character and promises, we experience His closeness.
  - **Challenge:** Spend time today reflecting on God's faithfulness. Trust Him with a specific concern or worry.
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**Day 22 (March 26, 2025):: Nearness in Gratitude**

- **Scripture:** Psalm 100:4
  - **Reflection:** Gratitude leads us into God's presence. When we thank Him for who He is and all He has done, we open our hearts to experience His nearness.
  - **Challenge:** Write a list of things you are thankful for, and offer each one in a prayer of thanksgiving.
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**Day 23 ((March 27, 2025): Nearness in Peace**

- **Scripture:** John 14:27
  - **Reflection:** God's peace draws us near to Him. When we are anxious, we must turn to God, who offers peace that transcends understanding.
  - **Challenge:** Practice peace today by releasing anxiety and resting in God's promises.
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**Day 24 (March 29, 2025):: Nearness in Healing**

- **Scripture:** 1 Peter 2:24
  - **Reflection:** God desires to heal us physically, emotionally, and spiritually. We draw near to Him by trusting in His healing power.
  - **Challenge:** If you are in need of healing, take time to pray and ask God to restore you to wholeness.
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**Day 25 (March 29, 2025):: Nearness in Surrendered Will**

- **Scripture:** Luke 22:42
- **Reflection:** Jesus modeled perfect surrender to God's will. We draw near to God when we surrender our own will and align ourselves with His.
- **Challenge:** Surrender one area of your life where you have been resisting God's will.

**Day 26 (March 30, 2025):: Nearness in Hope**

- **Scripture:** Romans 15:13
  - **Reflection:** Hope in God draws us near to Him. When we place our trust in His promises, we find the strength to endure and move forward in faith.
  - **Challenge:** Reflect on a promise of God and let it fuel your hope for today.
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**Day 27 (March 31, 2025):: Nearness in His Love**

- **Scripture:** 1 John 4:9-10
  - **Reflection:** God's love draws us near to Him. He loved us first and calls us to respond to His love by loving Him and others.
  - **Challenge:** Show love to someone today, reflecting God's love for you.
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**Day 28 (April 1, 2025): Nearness in His Strength**

- **Scripture:** Isaiah 40:29
  - **Reflection:** God gives us strength when we are weak. When we rely on His strength, we draw nearer to Him and are able to endure life's challenges.
  - **Challenge:** When you feel weak, turn to God in prayer and ask Him for His strength.
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**Day 29 (April 2, 2025): Nearness in Serving Others**

- **Scripture:** Matthew 25:40
  - **Reflection:** Serving others is a way we draw near to God. When we serve the least among us, we are serving Christ Himself.
  - **Challenge:** Look for an opportunity to serve someone today, and do so with a heart of love and humility.
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**Day 30 (April 3, 2025): Nearness in Quiet Confidence**

- **Scripture:** Psalm 23:1-3
- **Reflection:** Drawing near to God brings us into a place of quiet confidence. We can trust that He will lead and guide us through life's journey.
- **Challenge:** Spend time today meditating on Psalm 23 and let God renew your confidence in His care.

**Day 31 (April 4, 2025): Nearness in Grief**

- **Scripture:** Matthew 5:4
  - **Reflection:** God draws near to those who mourn. In grief, we can feel His presence as He comforts us and gives us peace.
  - **Challenge:** If you are grieving, take time to pray for God's comfort, or reach out to someone who may be grieving.
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**Day 32 (April 5, 2025): Nearness in His Word**

- **Scripture:** Joshua 1:8
  - **Reflection:** The Word of God is our guide and a way to draw near to Him. When we meditate on His Word day and night, we align ourselves with His heart.
  - **Challenge:** Set aside time today to read Scripture and meditate on it.
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**Day 33 (April 6, 2025): Nearness in Gratitude for His Grace**

- **Scripture:** Ephesians 2:8-9
  - **Reflection:** God's grace draws us near to Him. We cannot earn His love, but He gives it freely. When we understand His grace, we are humbled and drawn closer.
  - **Challenge:** Reflect on God's grace in your life and offer a prayer of thanksgiving.
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**Day 34 (April 7, 2025): Nearness Through Reflection**

- **Scripture:** Lamentations 3:40
  - **Reflection:** Reflection brings us closer to God. When we examine our lives and our hearts, we see where we need God's guidance and transformation.
  - **Challenge:** Take time to reflect on the last 33 days of this Lenten journey and see how God has been drawing you closer to Himself.
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**Day 35 (April 8, 2025): Nearness Through Fellowship**

- **Scripture:** Acts 2:42-47
- **Reflection:** Fellowship with other believers helps us draw closer to God. We were never meant to walk alone in our faith journey.
- **Challenge:** Spend time with fellow believers today, either in person or virtually, and encourage one another.

**Day 36 (April 9, 2025): Nearness Through Gratitude**

- **Scripture:** Colossians 3:15
  - **Reflection:** Gratitude allows us to experience God's presence more deeply. It shifts our focus from problems to the goodness of God.
  - **Challenge:** Write a thank-you note to someone and offer your thanks to God for their presence in your life.
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**Day 37 (April 10, 2025): Nearness Through Stillness**

- **Scripture:** Psalm 62:5-6
  - **Reflection:** Stillness helps us draw near to God by quieting our souls. In moments of stillness, we can hear His voice more clearly.
  - **Challenge:** Practice stillness for 15 minutes today, focusing on God's presence.
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**Day 38 (April 11, 2025): Nearness in Hope**

- **Scripture:** Romans 8:24-25
  - **Reflection:** Hope is a powerful force that draws us near to God. It anchors our soul in the promises of God and reminds us that we are His beloved.
  - **Challenge:** Reflect on the hope you have in Christ and share it with someone today.
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**Day 39 (April 12, 2025): Nearness Through His Resurrection**

- **Scripture:** John 11:25-26
  - **Reflection:** The resurrection of Jesus brings us near to God, offering new life and hope. Through Christ's victory over death, we can approach God with confidence.
  - **Challenge:** Reflect on the power of Christ's resurrection and thank God for the new life it gives you.
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**Day 40 (April 13, 2025): Nearness in Celebration**

- **Scripture:** Luke 24:52-53
- **Reflection:** As we celebrate the resurrection of Jesus, we draw near to God in joyful worship and thanksgiving. The Lenten season ends with the greatest victory, and we are invited into His eternal presence.
- **Challenge:** Celebrate the goodness of God today, worship Him, and share the joy of the resurrection with others.



## **HOLY WEEK 2025 - DRAW ME NEARER (April 14-18)**

### **A Week of Reflection, Scripture, and Challenges**

#### **Day 1: (April 14, 2025): Reflecting on Jesus' Sacrifice**

**Scripture:** *Matthew 21:12-13*

*"Jesus entered the temple courts and drove out all who were buying and selling there. He overturned the tables of the money changers and the benches of those selling doves. 'It is written,' he said to them, 'My house will be called a house of prayer, but you are making it a den of robbers.'"*

#### **Reflection:**

Jesus' cleansing of the temple was an act of deep passion for God's holiness. His anger was not just about what was happening physically but also about how the people had forgotten the purpose of God's house. Holy Week invites us to examine our own "temples"—our hearts and lives. Have we allowed distractions, sin, or materialism to take the place of God's rightful place in our lives? This is a moment to reflect on how we can purify our own hearts and restore our devotion to God.

#### **Challenge:**

Today, spend time in quiet reflection. Identify one area of your life where distractions have drawn you away from God. Take a step to realign that area with your faith.

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#### **Day 2: (April 15, 2025): The Call to Follow Jesus Wholeheartedly**

**Scripture:** *Luke 9:23-24*

*"Then he said to them all: 'Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me. For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will save it.'"*

#### **Reflection:**

Jesus invites us to follow Him not with a half-hearted commitment but with full surrender. The way of the cross is not glamorous, and it asks us to deny ourselves daily. It's about finding our life through sacrificial love. Holy Week is a powerful reminder that Jesus walked this difficult path to show us the way. Are we willing to follow Him, even when it's uncomfortable or costly?

#### **Challenge:**

Look for a way today to deny yourself in service to someone else. This could be a sacrifice of time, energy, or resources. Reflect on how this small act of sacrifice can draw you nearer to Jesus.

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#### **Day 3: (April 16, 2025): The Cost of Betrayal**

**Scripture:** *Matthew 26:14-16*

*"Then one of the Twelve—the one called Judas Iscariot—went to the chief priests and asked, 'What are you willing to give me if I deliver him over to you?' So they counted out for him thirty silver coins. From then on Judas watched for an opportunity to hand him over."*

#### **Reflection:**

Judas' betrayal of Jesus for thirty pieces of silver is a powerful reminder of the depths of human weakness. Yet, Jesus did not abandon him, even knowing what would happen. Holy Week calls us to reflect on the times when we, too, have betrayed Christ through our sin. We are invited to come back, knowing Jesus' love is always available for our return.

#### **Challenge:**

Today, examine areas in your life where you may be compromising your commitment to Christ. Offer those areas of betrayal to God in prayer, and ask for the strength to turn away from those things that separate you from Him.

**Day 4: (April 17, 2025): The Servant's Heart****Scripture:** *John 13:12-15*

*"When he had finished washing their feet, he put on his clothes and returned to his place. 'Do you understand what I have done for you?' he asked them. 'You call me Teacher and Lord, and rightly so, for that is what I am. Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet. I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you.'"*

**Reflection:**

Jesus, the King of Kings, humbly washed the feet of His disciples—an act of servant leadership. This is a profound example of how we, too, are called to serve others. It's not just about performing acts of service but about adopting a servant's heart. In this moment of Holy Week, we are reminded of the profound humility and love Jesus showed. Are we willing to take up the towel and serve, even when it's difficult or inconvenient?

**Challenge:**

Look for an opportunity to serve someone today, especially in an unexpected or humbling way. Whether it's washing someone's literal feet or taking time to meet their emotional or spiritual needs, serve with a heart like Christ.

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**Day 5: (April 18, 2025): The Crucifixion and the Ultimate Love****Scripture:** *John 19:28-30*

*"Later, knowing that everything had now been finished, and so that Scripture would be fulfilled, Jesus said, 'I am thirsty.' A jar of wine vinegar was there, so they soaked a sponge in it, put the sponge on a stalk of the hyssop plant, and lifted it to Jesus' lips. When he had received the drink, Jesus said, 'It is finished.' With that, he bowed his head and gave up his spirit."*

**Reflection:**

Jesus' final words, "It is finished," remind us of the victory He accomplished on the cross. He completed the work of redemption, paying the price for our sins once and for all. The ultimate act of love was carried out in His suffering. As we reflect on the cross, we see the depth of God's love for us. His sacrifice calls us to love others in a selfless, sacrificial way.

**Challenge:**

Spend time reflecting on the immense love that Jesus showed on the cross. Consider how His sacrifice can reshape your life and your relationships. As a final challenge, find a way to express your love for others through a sacrifice, however big or small.