

LENT

in the **Black Church Tradition:**
A 40-Day Justice Journey

POWERED BY



Introduction

Lent is a sacred season of reflection, repentance, and renewal. In the Black Church tradition, it has also been a time of **deep spiritual resistance and liberation**, echoing the prophetic witness of Jesus, the Hebrew prophets, and the freedom struggles of our ancestors. This 40-day devotional is designed to ground faith communities in **scriptural reflection, prayer, and direct action**, equipping us to confront racism, economic injustice, and the rise of white nationalism.

Each day includes a **full scripture passage, prayer, reflection question, and action step**, guiding us to embody justice as an act of faith.



Action Items for Community



Action Items for Leadership



Week 1

The Call to Justice (Repenting from Silence & Complacency)

Theme: Recognizing injustice and our responsibility to act.

This week is a call to move from reflection to action, to transform our faith into deeds that fight for justice. Let us remember that true faith is not just spoken but lived, through the work of liberation, advocacy, and standing with the oppressed.

Day 1 – Isaiah 1:17

“Learn to do right; seek justice. Defend the oppressed. Take up the cause of the fatherless; plead the case of the widow.”

🗨 **Reflection:** How has my faith shaped my response to injustice? Reflect on how silence or inaction has allowed injustice to persist in the community and in the world. How can I begin to shift from silence to action, using my faith as the foundation for justice?

Day 2 – Amos 5:24

“But let justice roll on like a river, righteousness like a never-failing stream!”

🗨 **Reflection:** Reflect on the image of justice rolling like a river. What are the obstacles that prevent justice from flowing freely in your life and community? How can your faith help clear the path for justice to flow?

Day 3 – Proverbs 31:8-9

“Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves, for the rights of all who are destitute. Speak up and judge fairly; defend the rights of the poor and needy.”

🗨 **Reflection:** In what ways am I called to be a voice for those who are marginalized or oppressed? How can my faith empower me to speak up for the voiceless and take action that defends their rights?

Day 4 – James 2:14-17

“What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if someone claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such faith save them? Suppose a brother or a sister is without clothes and daily food. If one of you says to them, ‘Go in peace; keep warm and well fed,’ but does nothing about their physical needs, what good is it? In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead.”

☞ **Reflection:** Faith without action is hollow. How does my faith call me to put deeds into action, particularly in addressing the needs of the oppressed and marginalized? What does it look like to live out a faith that leads to justice and action?

Day 5 – Exodus 3:9-10

“And now the cry of the Israelites has reached me, and I have seen the way the Egyptians are oppressing them. So now, go. I am sending you to Pharaoh to bring my people the Israelites out of Egypt.”

☞ **Reflection:** God hears the cries of the oppressed. Do I hear the cries of injustice around me? What is my responsibility in responding to these cries? Reflect on the calling God places on your life to be a part of liberation and justice.

Day 6 – Luke 10:25-37 (The Parable of the Good Samaritan)

☞ **Reflection:** Who are the “neighbors” in my life who are suffering or oppressed? How can I cross social, cultural, or political boundaries to help those in need, as the Good Samaritan did? How does my faith teach me to care for others in a transformative way?

Day 7 – Isaiah 58:6

“Is not this the kind of fasting I have chosen: to loose the chains of injustice and untie the cords of the yoke, to set the oppressed free and break every yoke?”

☞ **Reflection:** Reflect on God’s chosen fast to break the chains of injustice. How does this challenge me to live a life that actively works to free those in bondage—whether to systems of oppression, poverty, or inequality?

Weekly Action Step: Community Members

Action: This week, have powerful conversations with your loved ones about justice and liberation. Share why you’ve chosen to answer the call for justice during this Lenten season and speak on the sacrifices you’re making—whether it’s letting go of comfort, privilege, or complacency—to stay rooted in the struggle for freedom and equality. Invite your friends and family to walk alongside you in this movement, standing together in Week 2 as we continue to resist oppression and build a just, liberated future.

Weekly Action Step: Faith Leaders

Action: This week, commit to leading the charge for justice within your community and church. Use your faith to create a platform that brings awareness to an issue of injustice, whether it’s racial, economic, or social, and organize or join efforts that amplify voices advocating for change. Take concrete steps to support local activism through financial contributions, volunteering, or by lending your voice to movements that promote justice. Let your faith be a driving force in the fight for justice, ensuring that action is at the heart of your beliefs.

