



Presbyterians *Read*



Instructions

Daily Devotions

N.T. Wright's *Lent for Everyone: Matthew, Year A* is divided into daily devotions beginning on Ash Wednesday and ending the Saturday after Easter. The devotions, which are each 2-3 pages, consist of N.T. Wright's translation of a scripture passage from the Gospel of Matthew and a reflection about it. The devotions will only take a few minutes to read; however, we encourage you to set aside 15-20 minutes each day to make reading scripture and praying a regular spiritual practice this Lent.

Lenten Spiritual Practice

We've created a Lenten Spiritual Practice document that contains a suggested pattern of scripture reading and prayer for your devotional time. Have a look at the document before Lent begins so that you will be prepared to make your intentional time with God meaningful and life-giving.

Group Study

We recommend that you form discussion groups that meet once per week during Lent to discuss *Lent for Everyone*. The study guide contains more questions and avenues for exploration than your group can probably cover during the time that you meet. We recommend reading the overview of the theme together and then choosing whatever sections of the study guide most interests your group.

Timing

The material for each week in the study guide is designed to be used after you've done the readings from *Lent for Everyone* for that week. In other words, your first discussion will occur after you've done the readings from the first week of N.T. Wright's book (Ash Wednesday to the Saturday after Ash Wednesday).

Leaders

It is helpful to assign a leader. Whether it is the same person or different leaders each week, they will be responsible for reading through this study guide ahead of time and for facilitating the discussion during the meeting. Leadership requires flexibility as well as preparation. While many people will have read each devotion, others may not have prepared as thoroughly. This study guide aims to provide entry points into the discussion for all different levels of engagement.

Engaging with Each Other

In Matthew 18:20, it is recorded that Jesus says: "For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them." When we gather in small groups for a study like this, our aim is to celebrate Jesus' presence among us, grow in our discipleship and encourage one another in our shared journey of faith. As we gather, we engage with each other in loving and respectful ways. Our goal is not to find the "right answers" but to grow closer to Jesus and to each other.