



Easter

AT LIFEPOINT

DEVOTIONAL

Overview & Summary



The last week of Jesus' life represents a crucial point in his earthly ministry. Each gospel devotes a large percentage of its text to account the events of Holy Week. Obviously, the writers of the gospels found this a very important time to cover.

As we begin to prepare our hearts to celebrate the resurrection of our savior, we will spend time each day in the book of Mark, reading the words he wrote in order to glean what we can about the pivotal moments of the days leading up to Jesus' death and resurrection.

It is our sincere hope that this time spent with God will direct our thoughts and help us set our minds on the teachings, love, sacrifice, and power of Jesus. In so doing, our prayer is that God would transform our minds as he has promised, and maybe for the first time for some of us, allow the depth of what Jesus did during this time to seep into our souls.

Each day, you will find a reading of scripture and a link to a short video which can be found on our website at lifepointchurch.us. The videos are intended to pull out a small portion of wisdom gained from the reading and to get us thinking about how we can apply it to our daily lives. Following the video, you will find a couple more questions to meditate on and a short, guided prayer.

We hope you experience the love and sacrifice of Jesus in a fresh and new way this Easter.

01

THE TRIUMPHAL ENTRY

Mark 11:1-10 NIV

As they approached Jerusalem and came to Bethphage and Bethany at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two of his disciples, saying to them, “Go to the village ahead of you, and just as you enter it, you will find a colt tied there, which no one has ever ridden. Untie it and bring it here. If anyone asks you, ‘Why are you doing this?’ say, ‘The Lord needs it and will send it back here shortly.’” They went and found a colt outside in the street, tied at a doorway. As they untied it, some people standing there asked, “What are you doing, untying that colt?” They answered as Jesus had told them to, and the people let them go. When they brought the colt to Jesus and threw their cloaks over it, he sat on it. Many people spread their cloaks on the road, while others spread branches they had cut in the fields. Those who went ahead and those who followed shouted,

“Hosanna!”

“Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!”

“Blessed is the coming kingdom of our father David!”

“Hosanna in the highest heaven!”

WATCH VIDEO @ lifepointchurch.us

QUESTIONS FOR MEDITATION

1. This Easter season, in what practical ways can you invite Jesus into your life?
2. Do you ever find yourself wanting more from Jesus in an earthly manner? Expecting something different from him than what he offers?

PRAYER

Heavenly Father,

Thank you for the gift of your Son, Jesus. As we remember the way in which Jesus entered the city of Jerusalem that day, please help me to receive him daily in the appropriate manner. He is my eternal King, not earthly. He is glorified above all else, regardless of what my selfish heart so often seeks. There is no earthly substitute for the peace, grace, and love that Jesus offers.

Amen.



02

CLEANSING OF THE TEMPLE

Mark 11:15-19 NIV

On reaching Jerusalem, Jesus entered the temple courts and began driving out those who were buying and selling there. He overturned the tables of the money changers and the benches of those selling doves, and would not allow anyone to carry merchandise through the temple courts. And as he taught them, he said, "Is it not written: 'My house will be called a house of prayer for all nations'? But you have made it 'a den of robbers.'" The chief priests and the teachers of the law heard this and began looking for a way to kill him, for they feared him, because the whole crowd was amazed at his teaching. When evening came, Jesus and his disciples went out of the city.

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QUESTIONS FOR MEDITATION

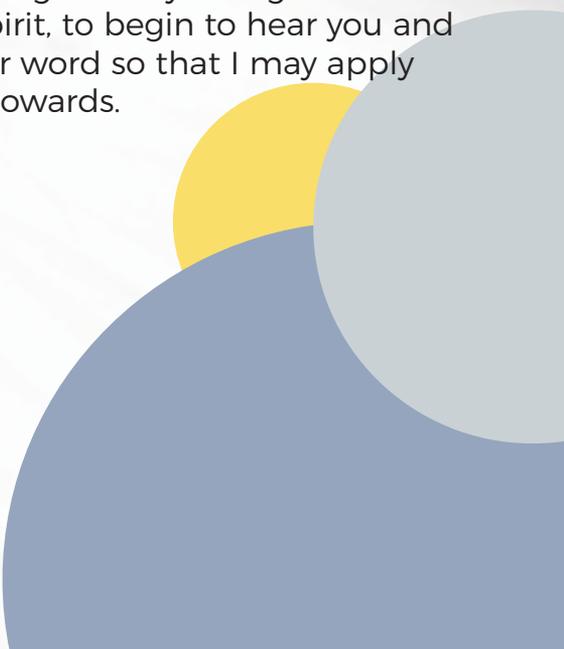
1. As the Holy Spirit moves in your heart to show you places that need cleaning, will you be open whatever it is He needs to upset in your life?
2. How do you know what Jesus might need to cleanse?

PRAYER

Heavenly Father,

You are holy. Without the presence of Jesus in my heart and his cleansing power, I could not even begin to approach you. In your love, you sent your son to make me clean and to free me from your wrath. I humbly ask you, Lord, to highlight areas of my life that need to be cleansed. I understand this may be painful. But I also know that I desire to become more like your son, Jesus. Please guide my thoughts and help me, through your Spirit, to begin to hear you and come to you through your word so that I may apply what you are calling me towards.

Amen.



03

THE GREAT COMMANDMENT

Mark 12:28-34 NIV

One of the teachers of the law came and heard them debating. Noticing that Jesus had given them a good answer, he asked him, “Of all the commandments, which is the most important?”

“The most important one,” answered Jesus, “is this: ‘Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength. The second is this: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ There is no commandment greater than these.”

“Well said, teacher,” the man replied. “You are right in saying that God is one and there is no other but him. To love him with all your heart, with all your understanding and with all your strength, and to love your neighbor as yourself is more important than all burnt offerings and sacrifices.”

When Jesus saw that he had answered wisely, he said to him, “You are not far from the kingdom of God.” And from then on no one dared ask him any more questions.

WATCH VIDEO @ lifepointchurch.us

QUESTIONS FOR MEDITATION

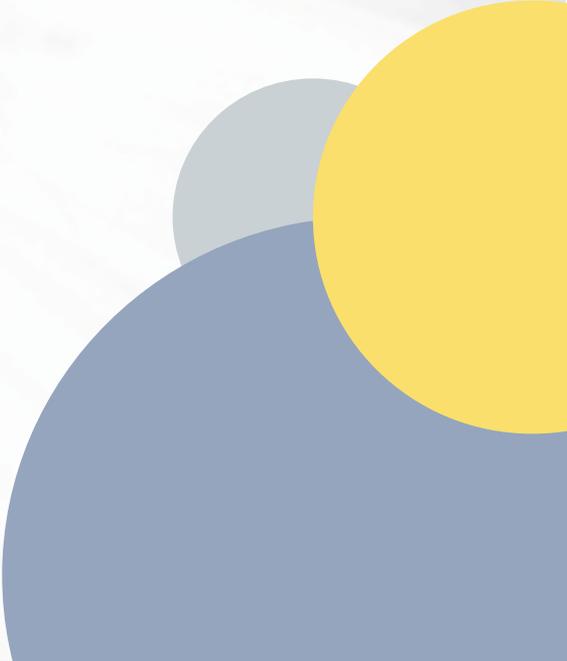
1. In what ways do you love God? What does that look like in a practical sense?
2. How are you loving your neighbor?

PRAYER

Heavenly Father,

So often, the commands of Jesus are simple to understand but difficult to follow through on. I am human and I have sinned. Help me to understand what it means to love you and how that love of you flows out of me into those around me. In my quest to become more like Jesus, I ask for your eyes and compassion when it comes to my friends, neighbors, and enemies.

Amen.



04

ANOINTING AT BETHANY

Mark 14:1-9 NIV

Now the Passover and the Festival of Unleavened Bread were only two days away, and the chief priests and the teachers of the law were scheming to arrest Jesus secretly and kill him. “But not during the festival,” they said, “or the people may riot.”

While he was in Bethany, reclining at the table in the home of Simon the Leper, a woman came with an alabaster jar of very expensive perfume, made of pure nard. She broke the jar and poured the perfume on his head.

Some of those present were saying indignantly to one another, “Why this waste of perfume? It could have been sold for more than a year’s wages and the money given to the poor.” And they rebuked her harshly.

“Leave her alone,” said Jesus. “Why are you bothering her? She has done a beautiful thing to me. The poor you will always have with you,^[b] and you can help them any time you want. But you will not always have me. She did what she could. She poured perfume on my body beforehand to prepare for my burial. Truly I tell you, wherever the gospel is preached throughout the world, what she has done will also be told, in memory of her.”

WATCH VIDEO @ lifepointchurch.us

QUESTIONS FOR MEDITATION

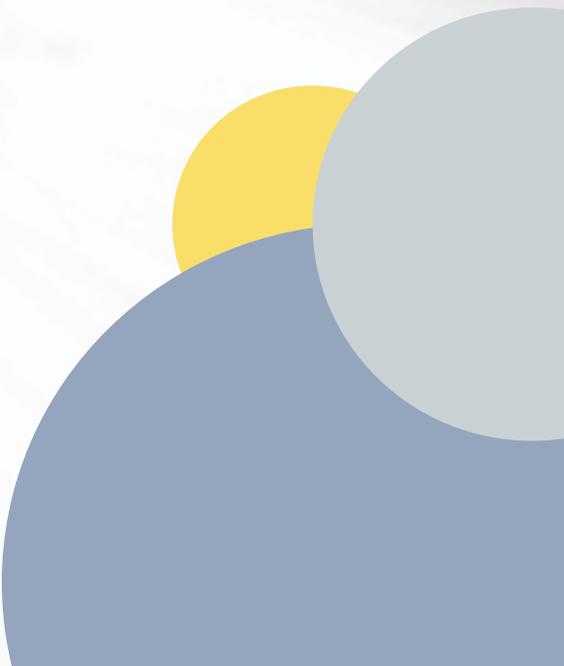
1. Do you find yourself more like the disciples or the woman in this account?
2. In what ways are you like either of them?

PRAYER

Heavenly Father,

You are worthy of more than my everything. Help me to understand, as a believer, my cleanliness in your sight because of his resurrection. The more I understand the weight of his sacrifice, the more I realize my brokenness and the perfection of your plan. Help me to worship you lavishly for who you are and what you have done.

Amen.



05

THE LAST PASSOVER

Mark 14:12-25 NIV

On the first day of the Festival of Unleavened Bread, when it was customary to sacrifice the Passover lamb, Jesus' disciples asked him, "Where do you want us to go and make preparations for you to eat the Passover?"

So he sent two of his disciples, telling them, "Go into the city, and a man carrying a jar of water will meet you. Follow him. Say to the owner of the house he enters, 'The Teacher asks: Where is my guest room, where I may eat the Passover with my disciples?' He will show you a large room upstairs, furnished and ready. Make preparations for us there."

The disciples left, went into the city and found things just as Jesus had told them. So they prepared the Passover.

When evening came, Jesus arrived with the Twelve. While they were reclining at the table eating, he said, "Truly I tell you, one of you will betray me—one who is eating with me."

They were saddened, and one by one they said to him, "Surely you don't mean me?"

"It is one of the Twelve," he replied, "one who dips bread into the bowl with me. The Son of Man will go just as it is written about him. But woe to that man who betrays the Son of Man! It would be better for him if he had not been born."

While they were eating, Jesus took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take it; this is my body."

Then he took a cup, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and they all drank from it.

"This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many," he said to them. "Truly I tell you, I will not drink again from the fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new in the kingdom of God."

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QUESTIONS FOR MEDITATION

1. In what ways are you satisfied in Jesus as you are satisfied by food and drink?
2. Think of Jesus every time you eat or drink today.

PRAYER

Heavenly Father,
Help me to simply remember your son today and everyday. It often becomes so easy to move through my existence, paying attention to my needs and desires, without giving Jesus the attention he deserves. Help me to remember him in my daily routine and to remember that you are Lord of all of it. Help me place you in the center.

Amen.

06

TORN IN TWO

Mark 15:33-39 NIV

At noon, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. And at three in the afternoon Jesus cried out in a loud voice, “Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?” (which means “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?”).

When some of those standing near heard this, they said, “Listen, he’s calling Elijah.”

Someone ran, filled a sponge with wine vinegar, put it on a staff, and offered it to Jesus to drink. “Now leave him alone. Let’s see if Elijah comes to take him down,” he said.

With a loud cry, Jesus breathed his last.

The curtain of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom. And when the centurion, who stood there in front of Jesus, saw how he died, he said, “Surely this man was the Son of God!”

WATCH VIDEO @ lifepointchurch.us

QUESTIONS FOR MEDITATION

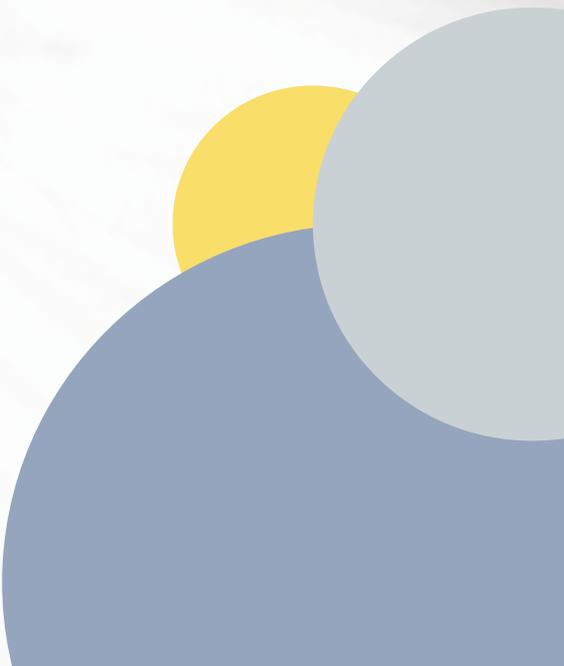
1. Have you ever experienced a time when you were completely ignored or even abandoned because of something you did wrong?
2. Honestly, do you view yourself as mostly good or terribly sinful? How does Jesus' death on the cross change the way you view yourself? Does it even?

PRAYER

Heavenly Father,

Today, I am thinking of the pain and suffering your son endured on the cross for the sake of mankind. I am extremely grateful for the sacrifice and the access we now have because of it. Please help me to honor the sacrifice by earnestly seeking after you and yearning to know you.

Amen.



07

DENIAL

Mark 14:26-31 NIV

The written notice of the charge against him read: THE KING OF THE JEWS.

They crucified two rebels with him, one on his right and one on his left. Those who passed by hurled insults at him, shaking their heads and saying, "So! You who are going to destroy the temple and build it in three days, come down from the cross and save yourself!" In the same way the chief priests and the teachers of the law mocked him among themselves. "He saved others," they said, "but he can't save himself."

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QUESTIONS FOR MEDITATION

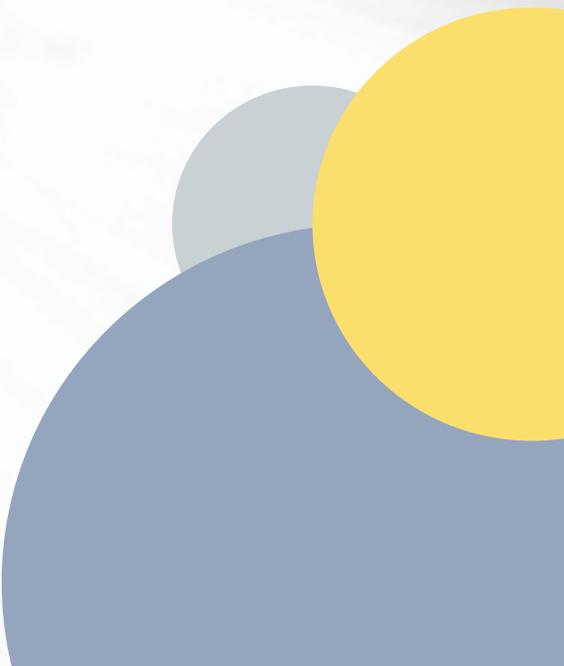
1. In what ways do you find yourself living for the temporary? Are there material things you seek, friendships you covet, etc?
2. How do you feel when you know you did something wrong? What does Jesus say about that?

PRAYER

Heavenly Father,

When I run from you, deny you, or sin against you, you always receive me back with open arms. Through the power of Jesus' death and resurrection, I am made whole and blameless, able to confess and repent my sins before you. I am grateful for that today especially. Thank you.

Amen.



08

RISEN

Mark 16:1-8 NIV

When the Sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices so that they might go to anoint Jesus' body. Very early on the first day of the week, just after sunrise, they were on their way to the tomb and they asked each other, "Who will roll the stone away from the entrance of the tomb?"

But when they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had been rolled away. As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man dressed in a white robe sitting on the right side, and they were alarmed.

"Don't be alarmed," he said. "You are looking for Jesus the Nazarene, who was crucified. He has risen! He is not here. See the place where they laid him. But go, tell his disciples and Peter, 'He is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see him, just as he told you.'"

Trembling and bewildered, the women went out and fled from the tomb. They said nothing to anyone, because they were afraid.

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QUESTIONS FOR MEDITATION

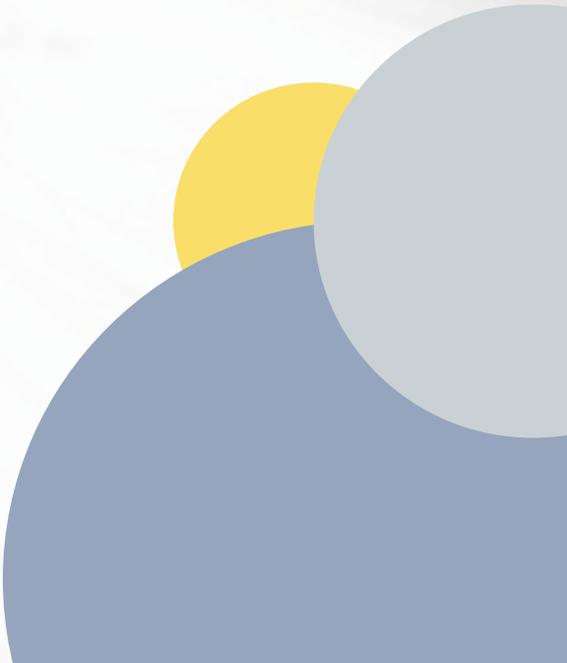
1. In what ways can you relate to the women not saying anything to anyone?
2. Think of the ways you may have failed Jesus, like the disciples and especially Peter. What does the angel's command to go and tell the disciples mean for you?

PRAYER

Heavenly Father,

I am in awe of your plan for the rescue of mankind. Thank you for your son, his life, sacrifice and resurrection. Without him, my failures and sin overcome me, but because of him, I am free. I pray that the weight of his love would permeate my soul and be an outpouring from my life. I love you, Lord.

Amen.





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