

Holy Week

HOLY WEEK INTRO

“Very truly I tell you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not be judged but has crossed over from death to life.”

John 5:24

Sooo Easter came so early this year which through off my devotional schedule but it is never to late to learn from and appreciate all that Easter is and how that changes our lives. We are going to closely examine the week of Easter in the time of Jesus and his disciples!

On the back of this page is a chart that we will use throughout this month and come back to after each devotional. This will hopefully help you remember the importance of each of the days and give you space for questions or personal thoughts.

APRIL 15TH

Holy Week

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John 5:24

DAY	WHAT HAPPENED?	YOUR TAKE AWAY/ QUESTIONS
“Sunday”		
“Monday”		
“Tuesday”		
“Wednesday”		
“Thursday”		
“Friday”		
“Sunday”		

APRIL 15TH

Holy Week

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John 5:24

No Ordinary Week

We celebrate Valentine’s Day with roses and candy hearts.

We celebrate Halloween with carved pumpkins and scary costumes.

We celebrate Thanksgiving with turkey and sweet potatoes.

And we celebrate the resurrection of Jesus with a bunny and chocolate eggs.

This is Holy Week. Friday is named "Good Friday" because it represents the day that Jesus died on the cross as a living sacrifice for our sins. Easter Sunday marks the day that Jesus rose from the grave.

Look up the definition of the word “holy” and write it below:

These were the most significant events that history has ever seen. Jesus’ death and resurrection are the cornerstone on which our faith and lives are built. Every day this week is representative of a key part of Jesus’ life and ministry. And yet, for most of us, this week will look very ordinary. Easter will come and go like every other Sunday except for the addition of some new clothes, Easter baskets, and sugary treats.

What is the purpose of a cornerstone? (look it up or ask someone if you do not know)

Read 1 Corinthians 15:12-19. Why is Jesus' death and resurrection the cornerstone to our Christian faith?

It doesn't have to be this way. We can recognize the importance of this week and set time aside to worship our risen King with renewed fervor. We can study what Scripture teaches about what Jesus encountered during holy week and ask Him to use what we read to make us more like Him. We can use this week as an opportunity to show our living God to a dying world.

APRIL 18TH

Holy Week

"SUNDAY"

"Very truly I tell you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not be judged but has crossed over from death to life."

John 5:24

Triumphal Entry

The Triumphal entry into Jerusalem is found in Mark 11:1-10.

(Also can be found in Matthew 21:1-11, Luke 19:28-44, John 12:12-15)

Read Mark 11:1-10. Highlight or underline what stands out to you.

Have there been times in your own life when you celebrated Jesus with great enthusiasm like the Jews in Jerusalem on this day?

How do the people describe Jesus in verses 9 and 10?

Why do you think they changed their minds so quickly about who He was?

What causes you to question who God really is?

Jesus makes His triumphal entry into Jerusalem. The way that He was worshipped on this day gives us a glimpse of heaven, but the fact that those worshippers would soon turn on Him and call for His death shows us that He was a king who was deeply misunderstood.

APRIL 20TH

Holy Week

"MONDAY"

"Very truly I tell you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not be judged but has crossed over from death to life."

John 5:24

A Tree With No Fruit

Jesus curses the fig tree in Mark 11:12-14. (Also found in Matthew 21:28-19)

Read Mark 11:12-14. Highlight or underline what stands out to you.

Imagine yourself as the fig tree. If Jesus looked at your life would He see fruit?

A Den Of Robbers

Jesus cleanses the temple in Mark 11:15–19. (Also found in Matthew 21:12-13, Luke 19:45-46)

Read Mark 11:15-19. Highlight or underline what stands out to you.

What does this scene reveal about the character of Jesus?

What are some modern ways we rob God of what He deserves?

APRIL 22ND

Holy Week

"TUESDAY"

"Very truly I tell you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not be judged but has crossed over from death to life."

John 5:24

A Fig Tree And Prayer

Jesus and His disciples pass by the fig tree. It has withered to its roots. Jesus takes the opportunity to teach about prayer and forgiveness in Mark 11:20–25.

Read Mark 11:20-25. Highlight or underline what stands out to you.

What "mountains" are you facing in your life right now?

How does Jesus ask you to respond to those mountains?

Jesus taught that when we pray we need to forgive "anything" we have "against anyone" so that we can be forgiven by the Father. Is there anyone you need to forgive today?

By What Authority?

Jesus' authority was questioned by the religious leaders in Mark 11:27–33.

Read Mark 11:27-33 Highlight or underline what stands out to you.

What jumps out at you about the way Jesus handled conflict with His accusers?

Parables, Parables, Parables

Look up the definition of a parable and write it below:

After a run-in with the religious leaders, Jesus moved on to teach the people in a series of parables (that's just a fancy word for a story with a point). The list of the parables Jesus taught on this day is below.

- The two sons (Matt. 21:28–32).
- The tenants (Matt. 21:33–44).
- The marriage feast—one of my favorites (Matt. 22:1–14).
- The fig tree (Matt. 24:32–35).
- The thief and the master (Matt. 24:36–44).
- The faithful vs. wicked servant (Matt. 24:45–49).
- The ten virgins (Matt. 25:1–13).
- The talents (Matt. 25:14–30).
- The sheep and the goats (Matt. 25:31–46).

APRIL 25TH

Holy Week

"WEDNESDAY"

"Very truly I tell you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not be judged but has crossed over from death to life."

John 5:24

The Plot Thickens

By this point, the religious leaders were working overtime to find a way to arrest and kill Jesus (Mark 14:1-2).

Read Mark 14:1-2. Highlight or underline what stands out to you.

What was it about Jesus that irritated the religious leaders so much?

What is it about Jesus that irritates you?

A Beautiful Thing

Jesus is anointed with expensive oil by a grateful woman in Mark 14:3-9.

Read Mark 14:3-9. Highlight or underline what stands out to you.

Jesus described what she did as “a beautiful thing to me.” Why was it beautiful to Him?

What can you do today to sacrificially show Jesus your love for Him?

The Betrayal

On this day, Judas agreed to betray Jesus in exchange for money (Mark 14:10-11).

Read Mark 14:10-11. Highlight or underline what stands out to you.

Have you experienced betrayal by a friend? Reflect on the fact that Jesus knows that specific pain.

APRIL 27TH

Holy Week

"THURSDAY"

"Very truly I tell you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not be judged but has crossed over from death to life."

John 5:24

Stinky Feet Made Clean

Jesus and His friends gathered for the Passover (Mark 14:12–21).

Read Mark 14:12-21. Highlight or underline what stands out to you.

*While they ate, Jesus taught them about the Lord's Supper (Mark 14:22–25).
During this meal, Jesus washed His disciples' feet as an object lesson on humility.*

Read Mark 14:22-25. Highlight or underline what stands out to you.

What is the definition of humility? (Look to past homework for help)

In John 13:12–16, Jesus teaches, "When he had washed their feet and put on his outer garments and resumed his place, he said to them, 'Do you understand what I have done to you? You call me Teacher and Lord, and you are right, for so I am. If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. For I have given you an example, that you also should do just as I have done to you. Truly, truly, I say to you, a servant is not greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him.'"

Does the way you treat others indicate that you want to be the servant or the master? Why or why not? Take an honest look at your life.

Whose feet is God calling you to wash or who is He asking you to sacrificially serve?

Gut-Wrenching Prayer

Jesus and His three closest friends went to pray in the Garden of Gethsemane. In that garden, Jesus was arrested (Mark 14:32–50).

Read Mark 14:32-50. Highlight or underline what stands out to you.

Jesus asked God to remove the cup from Him if possible. Is there anything in your life that you'd like God to remove?

Ultimately, Jesus deferred to the Father's will (v. 36).

Tell God that you want His will for your life.

Write it in a prayer below:

APRIL 29TH

Holy Week

“GOOD FRIDAY” - PART ONE

“Very truly I tell you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not be judged but has crossed over from death to life.”

John 5:24

A Speedy Trial, A Long Walk, A Slow Death

Jesus endured six trials in short order (John 18:12–27, Luke 22:66–71, Luke 23:1–25).

Read Mark 15:1-15 Highlight or underline what stands out to you.

He was then publicly humiliated and forced to take a death march (Matt. 27, Mark 15, Luke 23, John 19).

Read Mark 15:16-23. Highlight or underline what stands out to you.

In Mark 15:25, Jesus was crucified.

Read Mark 15:24-32. Highlight or underline what stands out to you.

Several hours later, Jesus died on the cross while His mother and followers watched (Mark 15:33–41).

Read Mark 15:33-41. Highlight or underline what stands out to you.

Let the impact of what Jesus did for you sink in deep.

Write down your response to what Jesus has done for you. I encourage you to write it as if you were talking to God:

The World's Saddest Funeral

Joseph of Arimathea petitioned the court for Jesus' body. He tenderly removed Jesus' body from the cross, prepared it for burial, and put it in a tomb. Jesus' mother, Mary, and follower Mary Magdalene were the only other people at the burial (Mark 15:42-47).

Read Mark 15:42-47. Highlight or underline what stands out to you.

Imagine you were Mary at the tomb. Feel the monumental sadness that this moment represents.

MAY 2ND

Holy Week

"GOOD FRIDAY" - PART TWO

"Very truly I tell you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not be judged but has crossed over from death to life."

John 5:24

Good Friday Article

Read the following article titled "Considering Good Friday." Highlight or underline what stands out to you.

After you finish reading the article, answer the follow questions:

How do you focus on the good work Christ accomplished for you on the cross?

What does Good Friday mean to you?

“Good Friday” Part 2
Article
Considering Good Friday

Today my calendar is stamped with the words “Good Friday.” What a strange way to commemorate this date. At least that’s how it seems at first.

If 2018 were the year of the very first Easter, today would not have been a good day at all. There aren’t words in the English language graphic enough to describe it. These feel like the tiniest tip of the iceberg:

Unfair.

Horrific.

Gut-wrenching.

Devastating.

Hopeless . . .

Today marks the day that Jesus died. Our hearts want to stop there. We don’t want to think any deeper about what Jesus endured for our sakes, but we must avoid the temptation to look away. For a moment, let’s peel our eyes away from all that is going on in our world and superglue them to what happened in His world that day.

They kept shouting, “Crucify, crucify him!” . . . But they were urgent, demanding with loud cries that he should be crucified. And their voices prevailed. So Pilate decided that their demand should be granted (Luke 23:21, 23–24).

Unfair.

Then Pilate took Jesus and flogged him. And the soldiers twisted together a crown of thorns and put it on his head and arrayed him in a purple robe. They came up to him, saying, “Hail, King of the Jews!” and struck him with their hands (John 19:1–3).

Horrific.

Two others, who were criminals, were led away to be put to death with him. And when they came to the place called The Skull, there they crucified him, and the criminals, one on his right and one on his left (Luke 23:32–33).

Gut-wrenching.

It was now about the sixth hour, and there was darkness over the whole land until the ninth hour, while the sun's light failed. And the curtain of the temple was torn in two. Then Jesus, calling out with a loud voice, said, "Father, into your hands I commit my spirit!" And having said this he breathed his last (Luke 23:44–46).

Devastating.

When it was evening, there came a rich man from Arimathea, named Joseph, who also was a disciple of Jesus. He went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. Then Pilate ordered it to be given to him. And Joseph took the body and wrapped it in a clean linen shroud and laid it in his own new tomb (Matt. 27:57–60).

Hopeless.

If that was how this story ended, there would be nothing good about today. Take every sad movie ending and multiply it times infinity. Take every “happily ever after” and turn it inside out. It’s impossible to fathom the sorrow that our world would be wrapped in if that tomb had stayed sealed.

But today is Good Friday. What happened on the day Jesus died was very good indeed. The day of Christ’s crucifixion was the worst day in human history. We want to skip the suffering and the gore and get right to Easter morning, but there could be no Easter morning without Christ’s sacrifice.

Without His death, we could never know new life.

Without His suffering, we could never be freed from ours.

Without His time in a dark tomb, we could never spend a millisecond in the light.

His death cracked history in two so that we could be made whole. Making Good Friday the best/worst day in history.

And you were dead in the trespasses and sins in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience— among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind.

But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved— and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus (Eph. 2:1–7).

Jesus was indeed placed in a borrowed tomb on Good Friday, our tomb. We were dead in our sins with no way out. The beatings, the crown of thorns, the nail-pierced hands, the cross. . . all of it. It's the punishment we deserve for chronically disobeying the God who made us. But Jesus took our place. He hung on our cross. He was buried in our tomb so that we would not have to be.

That is the best news that's ever been told!

Take some time to park in the details of Good Friday today. You can:

- Go for a walk, and consider all that Jesus did for you.
- Write a poem or song expressing your gratitude for His sacrifice.
- Read through the crucifixion story in the Gospels. Here are the verses for easy access:
- Matthew 27
- Mark 15
- Luke 23
- John 19

MAY 6TH

Holy Week

"SABBATH SATURDAY"

"Very truly I tell you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not be judged but has crossed over from death to life."

John 5:24

Saturday

The Bible is silent. Jesus remained in the tomb.

MAY 9TH

Holy Week

“RESURRECTION SUNDAY” - PART ONE

“Very truly I tell you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not be judged but has crossed over from death to life.”

John 5:24

Jesus Is Risen

Jesus is risen! (Matthew 28, Mark 16, Luke 24, John 20).

Read Mark 16. Highlight or underline what stands out to you.

Why does the resurrection still matter?

Read Romans 6:23 and Ephesians 2:1.

What do these verses tell us?

Scripture says “the wages of sin is death.” Another word for wages is price. The price everyone must pay for their sin is death. Because we can’t fix our own sin problem, we are spiritually dead. This reality is overwhelming, but there is hope.

In John 5:24 Jesus said, “Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life. He does not come into judgment, but has moved from death to life” (emphasis added).

What does this verse tell us?

Faith in Christ moves us from the tomb created by our sin to eternal life with Him. Yes, death is still the cost of sin, but Jesus paid that price on the cross. The empty tomb reminds us that Jesus defeated death in His resurrection. He is risen!

There’s never been a more important series of events. From His triumphal entry that fulfilled prophecies about the Messiah to His object lessons about true service to His death and return to life, the events of this week should dramatically impact you.

This week is holy because it represents the death of a holy God in the place of unholy people. Sunday is about a coming kingdom. Monday is about the power of God. Tuesday is about faith. Wednesday is about betrayal. Thursday is about service. Friday is about sacrifice. Saturday is about resting on God’s promises. Sunday is about a hope that only Jesus’ followers can know and the rest of the world is dying to hear about.

Now that you know the story of the Gospel (the good news), what are you going to do with it? Read Matthew 28:16-20

MAY 11TH

Holy Week

"RESURRECTION SUNDAY" - PART TWO

"Very truly I tell you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not be judged but has crossed over from death to life."

John 5:24

Resurrection Sunday Article

Read the following article titled "What's The Big Deal About Sunday." Highlight or underline what stands out to you. After you finish reading the article, answer the follow question:

What's the big deal about Easter Sunday?

“Resurrection Sunday” Part 2
Article
What’s The Big Deal About Sunday?

Raise your hand if you’ve been going to church since you were in the womb. Keep it up if you’ve celebrated at least fifteen Easters in church.

I can’t see those hands through the computer screen, but I am sure there are many of them raised. That’s a good thing! It’s great that so many of you are so familiar with the Easter story. But sometimes that means that when the day rolls around, we move into auto pilot—moving through the motions church services, and dinner with family without every pausing to consider why the empty tomb matters so much.

I don’t want you to miss it this year, so let’s start with the basics. As Christians, we set aside Easter to celebrate the fact that three days after Jesus was crucified, His friends came to His tomb to find it empty ([John 20](#)). At first they panicked, thinking His body had been stolen. Peter and John took off running to tell the bad news to the disciples. Mary Magdalene stayed at the tomb, glued there by her grief until she heard some of the most powerful words ever spoken

...

“Woman, why are you crying?” (John 20:13).

Those words came from angels. They weren’t being insensitive. They simply already knew that her grief was misplaced. Jesus was not dead. He had risen. Soon afterward, Jesus Himself appeared to Mary, then to the disciples, and then to people throughout the region before ascending back to heaven and promising to prepare a place for those of us who love and follow Him.

The moment the empty tomb was discovered was a turning point, a game changer. In fact, it changed everything. Jesus was dead. His body was in a tomb that was sealed with a stone. Mary’s wept because her friend and Savior was buried. Because He is our Savior, too, our hope was buried with Him. Everything seemed dark.

But then ... everything changed in an instant. Jesus didn’t stay in the grave. The grave was empty. He wasn’t dead. He was alive. Hope wasn’t buried. It was resurrected.

Here's a little perspective on that reality.

Buddha's body was cremated and placed into relics.

Muhammad is buried in a mosque in Saudi Arabia.

The founder of Scientology was cremated and his ashes were scattered in the Pacific Ocean.

The central figure of Rastafarianism is interred in a cathedral in Ethiopia.

Jesus alone conquered death and rose from the grave. It's the most dramatic difference between Him and other spiritual leaders. The resurrection not only confirms His divinity, it reveals why Jesus is a safe place to put our hope.

Since He overcame death, there is nothing in our lives or in our world that Jesus cannot overcome.

To be clear, Easter is not about you. It is about a God so big that nothing, not even death, can defeat Him. But the reason we should celebrate with intentional gladness this Sunday is that there is nothing in our lives that is impossible for Jesus to overcome. There is nothing dead in our hearts or circumstances that He cannot breathe life back into.

Are there circumstances in your life that feel hopeless?

Have you had to "bury" something that you love dearly this year?

Are you facing something that feels impossible to overcome?

That's good. You're in a prime position to look into the empty tomb this Easter and see hope. There is nothing that can defeat Jesus. There is no power that can hold Him. There is nothing that can stop Him. All of that means He is a safe place to put our hope.

What's the big deal about Easter? Simply put, Jesus is alive. May you worship Him with that in mind this Sunday.