

A LENTEN DEVOTIONAL
from H2O Church

Introduction: What is Lent?

H2O Church Community,

Welcome to Lent. On the Christian calendar, Lent (Latin for “fortieth”) is the season that begins with Ash Wednesday and concludes with Easter Sunday. It is a season that, like Advent, has marked believers for centuries.

Traditionally, Lent has been known to last 40 days. What most people do not know is that the math doesn’t quite add up if you simply count the days from Ash Wednesday to Easter. Technically, there are forty-six days. Most traditions exclude the six Sundays (which are meant to act like mini-Easter celebrations) from this calculation and thus are left with the forty days of Lent.

What’s the deal with the number forty? Simply put, forty is a biblical number. Noah and his family endured rain for forty days on the ark (Genesis 6), Israel wandered in the desert for forty years (Numbers 32), Jesus was tempted for forty days in the wilderness (Matthew 4) and spent forty days on earth after his resurrection (Acts 1).

Forty days has been used by God to represent a period of repentance, trial, suffering, temptation, preparation, and so much more. It’s these themes that mark the season of Lent for the formation of God’s present-day people: the Church.

What might it mean then for us, as a local community, to participate in Lent? Every year, we are assured that Good Friday and Easter are coming, but the disciples who followed Jesus were not privileged with such certainty. Whenever Jesus spoke of his dying and rising, the disciples were confused. The confusion was for good reason, but many had missed the meaning of John the Baptist’s proclamation:

“The time is fulfilled and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe the gospel” (Mark 1:15).

In order to await and receive Jesus’s death and resurrection afresh we must first hear the prompting of John the Baptist into a season of repentance and preparation. If we are honest, we aren’t ready for Easter. We do our best to muster up some sense of joy on that glorious day, but we know that there is often more to be had. A pastor in Chicago says “Easter Sunday is a victory feast, but in many churches it feels like a company picnic where everyone is expected to show up and be happy.”

If we want our Easter to be filled with more than pastel colors and family brunches, won’t we consider a season in which we weed out all of the false narratives of our world in order to live at home within the one true narrative? Politics, social media, and the daily news fill our imaginations with all sorts of stories that unconsciously shape us. What if instead of unconsciously absorbing these lesser stories, we consciously focused our hearts, souls, and minds on the story of God?

Lent is not a season where we go to find God, but instead a season we willingly enter because God has already found us. Let us commit to a season in which we “lay aside every weight, and sin that clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us” (Hebrews 12:1). We hope and pray that God meets you in deep and profound ways through these coming weeks.

-The H2O Kent Staff Team

Guide

This PDF is a devotional guide for the season of Lent. Each day will consist of prayer, Scripture reading, reflecting, and responding, which are all aimed at connecting you with God during these six weeks of preparation for the death and resurrection of Jesus.

Pray: Each day we will have an opening prayer that will remain the same throughout the course of Lent. This written prayer is meant to be freshly recited in your heart in order to prompt you into deeper prayer and meditation before God. We hope that this prayer helps to usher you into God's presence.

Read: The readings each day are from the four gospels and follow the lectionary calendar. We have the Scripture references listed, so you will need your Bible to read the sections for each day. Because these references are shorter, feel free to spend time re-reading them. The reflect and respond portions are connected to the gospel readings, but we also include a few readings at the end of each day if you wish to utilize these as well.

Reflect: This section is meant to help you foster a thoughtful posture towards each Gospel reading for the day. Allow the question(s) to draw you into deeper reflection on Jesus and whatever the Scripture might bring up in your heart that day. This would be a perfect time to spend journaling if that is a practice that helps you give focused thought to these questions and the Scripture reading.

Respond: While the reflection portion is meant to foster deeper thought, the response portion is meant to help you live out whatever the Gospel reading might be prompting you to do. We realize that as disciples it is far easier to simply believe correctly as opposed to live in accordance with what we believe. Some argue that we can only know we truly believe something when our life reflects that truth. So, allow this section to urge you towards following Jesus in your daily life.

PRE LENTEN DAYS
March 2-5

Daily Prayer: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, I present my heart, mind, soul, and body to you to be made one with you and to be restored in you. I ask for your Holy Spirit to fill me as I read your word, and ask for you to lead me deeper into truth and lead me deeper into Jesus today. Amen.

Wednesday, March 2, 2022

Read: Luke 18:9-14

Reflect: Jesus tells a story about two men who pray radically different prayers. One man, who was “standing by himself,” reported his resume to God, while the other “stood far off” and humbly called on God to forgive him. How has the pride in your own life affected how you relate to God and others?

Respond: During each morning until the end of this week (Sunday), pray the tax collector’s prayer a few times throughout the day. Set a reminder on your phone to pray that prayer in hopes that the Spirit would help you to more fully depend on God.

Additional Readings: Psalm 95, Jonah 3:1-4:11, Hebrews 12:1-14

Thursday, March 3, 2022

Read: John 1:29-34

Reflect: John was acutely aware of not only his role in the story of God, but also Jesus’ true identity as the “Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world.” How aware are you today that Jesus died for your sin—the acknowledged and unacknowledged—so that you could be restored to God?

Respond: Spend today looking for God in expected and unexpected areas of your life. Where do you see him forgiving and restoring you and others? At the end of the day, journal about where you saw God.

Additional Readings: Psalm 37:1-8, Deuteronomy 7:6-11, Titus 1:1-16

Friday, March 4, 2022

Read: John 1:35-42

Reflect: John’s disciples wanted to be with Jesus, but instead of assuming what they needed or wanted, Jesus asked them directly. How would you feel if the creator of the universe, the Son of God, sincerely asked you, “What do you want?”

Respond: Take some time today to respond to Jesus’s question, “What do you want?” Jesus cares about what you want—but he will always be faithful to point us towards that which is often underneath our short-sighted wants. Allow your response to form a prayer to God.

Additional Readings: Psalm 31, Deuteronomy 7:12-16, Titus, 2:1-15

Saturday, March 5, 2022

Read: John 1:43-51

Reflect: Nathanael's response to Philip is one of honesty and sincere doubt. In what ways can you relate to Nathanael's initial response to Jesus? In what ways are you doubting Jesus's goodness but hoping he surprises you?

Respond: Can you recall a time when Jesus surprised you by revealing the truth about his goodness towards you or others? Recall this moment and ask God to use it to break down your cynicism and restore trust in him.

Additional Readings: Psalm 30, Deuteronomy 7:17-26, Titus 3:1-15

WEEK ONE
March 6-12

Daily Prayer: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, I present my heart, mind, soul, and body to you to be made one with you and to be restored in you. I ask for your Holy Spirit to fill me as I read your word, and ask for you to lead me deeper into truth and lead me deeper into Jesus today. Amen.

Sunday, March 6, 2022

Read: Mark 2:18-22

Reflect: Fasting is a practice that helps us to limit distractions and focus our attention on the King who is still to come. Where in your life do you feel distracted from Jesus and what do you sense is causing that distraction?

Respond: Whatever distraction or unnecessary dependence you've located, would you consider fasting from it for a day or even for an hour (depending on what it is)? Reflect on what God did in your heart afterward and consider continuing this practice throughout Lent.

Additional Readings: Psalm 63, Deuteronomy 8:1-10, 1 Corinthians 1:17-31

Monday, March 7, 2022

Read: John 2:1-12

Reflect: Jesus's miracles are always meant to point back to his identity as the Son of God. In this instance, we see Jesus's generosity and glory on full display. In what ways have you noticed and/or experienced God's extravagant generosity towards you or others?

Respond: Has God's generosity made you a more generous person or have you held more tightly to what he has given to you? Choose a practice of generosity that you want to recover or begin for the first time and try to practice it throughout Lent.

Additional Readings: Psalm 41, Deuteronomy 8:11-18, Hebrews 2:11-18

Daily Prayer: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, I present my heart, mind, soul, and body to you to be made one with you and to be restored in you. I ask for your Holy Spirit to fill me as I read your word, and ask for you to lead me deeper into truth and lead me deeper into Jesus today. Amen.

Tuesday, March 8, 2022

Read: John 2:13-22

Reflect: Jesus was repulsed by the impurity and exclusion of the temple because it was meant to be a place of purity and inclusion. Because Paul refers to the body of Christ as the Church, Christians are essentially the new temple. Now imagine this story with the temple as your own heart. What would Jesus find and how would he respond?

Respond: Contact a friend to confess or share whatever you felt God highlighted in your own heart. Jesus sheds light on sin not to shame us but to free us—when we confess our sin, we participate in that process.

Additional Readings: Psalm 45, Deuteronomy 9:4-12, Hebrews 3:1-11

Wednesday, March 9, 2022

Read: John 2:23-3:15

Reflect: Nicodemus was so desperate to see Jesus that he came to him by night. When he met with Jesus, he seemed surprised by the radical nature of what Jesus was proposing. In what ways does your vision for personal transformation need to be enlarged by Jesus?

Respond: Ask a close friend or mentor within the next week about three areas where they see a need for growth in your life. Approach the meeting with humility and grace and receive what they share not as something you need to change, but an area where you can welcome God's Spirit to work.

Additional Readings: Psalm 49, Deuteronomy 9:13-21, Hebrews 3:12-19

Thursday, March 10, 2022

Read: John 3:16-21

Reflect: Many people think that Jesus came to condemn and judge the world. However, this section states that Jesus came in order that the world might be saved through him and that the judgement was only for those who don't believe in Jesus as the Son of God. How does this change your perspective on why Jesus came into the world?

Respond: Write out a prayer today that repents from the ways you are most prone to condemn your enemies. Ask God to make you into someone who reflects his goodness and grace to the world.

Additional Readings: Psalm 50, Deuteronomy 9:23-10:5, Hebrews 4:1-10

Daily Prayer: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, I present my heart, mind, soul, and body to you to be made one with you and to be restored in you. I ask for your Holy Spirit to fill me as I read your word, and ask for you to lead me deeper into truth and lead me deeper into Jesus today. Amen.

Friday, March 11, 2022

Read: John 3:22-36

Reflect: When John is given the opportunity to compare himself to Jesus, he responds with gratitude for the role he has been given in the story of God. Too often we respond out of envy or jealousy when we find ourselves in a position like John's instead of responding with gratitude. Where in your life have you been ungrateful recently?

Respond: Allow your response to form an honest prayer to God and spend time writing out at least five things you are grateful for today. Share those with a friend.

Additional Readings: Psalm 40, Deuteronomy 10:12-20, Hebrews 4:11-16

Saturday, March 12, 2022

Read: John 4:1-26

Reflect: Jesus breaks all of the rules to get to this woman in Samaria because his love for her is that strong. Read the story a second time, but now imagine the woman is you. How do you sense Jesus's love for you in that interaction?

Respond: Who is one person in your own life that Jesus wants to pursue and love through you? Contact that person within the next week and set a time to get together with them.

Additional Readings: Psalm 55, Deuteronomy 11:18-28, Hebrews 5:1-10

WEEK TWO
March 13-19

Daily Prayer: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, I present my heart, mind, soul, and body to you to be made one with you and to be restored in you. I ask for your Holy Spirit to fill me as I read your word, and ask for you to lead me deeper into truth and lead me deeper into Jesus today. Amen.

Sunday, March 13, 2022

Read: Mark 3:31-4:9

Reflect: Jesus asks, “Who are my mother and my brothers?” and responds to his own question with “those who do the Father’s will.” How does Jesus redefine our concept of family? Should we define family primarily by our blood relation or by spiritual connection to Jesus?

Respond: If you were to care for your spiritual brothers and sisters as much as your genetic family members, what might change? Is there a brother or sister that is struggling to remain “good soil,” and how can you protect them from rocks, thorns, and the scorching sun?

Additional Readings: Psalm 24, Jeremiah 1:1-10, 1 Corinthians 3:11-23

Monday, March 14, 2022

Read: John 4:27-42

Reflect: Certainly Jesus needed to eat as well, just like every other human. When he told his disciples that his food was “to do the will of the Father and to finish His work,” what could he have meant?

Respond: The fields are ripe for harvest! Do you believe that there are people all around you (in your family, classes, and work) that are longing to meet Jesus like this Samaritan woman? If so, pray for a deeper hunger to introduce them to Jesus.

Additional Readings: Psalm 56, Jeremiah 1:11-19, Romans 1:1-15

Tuesday, March 15, 2022

Read: John 4:43-54

Reflect: “‘Unless you people see signs and wonders,’ Jesus told them, ‘you will never believe.’” How do you think Jesus meant this statement? What do you think Jesus was trying to provoke in the hearts of the people he said this to?

Respond: We certainly believe in a God of miracles. Do you need to spend time today trusting in God’s power and strength to perform miracles around and through you? Or do you need to confess apathy and disbelief because of the lack of miracles you see around you?

Additional Readings: Psalm 61, Jeremiah 2:1-13, Romans 1:16-25

Daily Prayer: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, I present my heart, mind, soul, and body to you to be made one with you and to be restored in you. I ask for your Holy Spirit to fill me as I read your word, and ask for you to lead me deeper into truth and lead me deeper into Jesus today. Amen.

Wednesday, March 16, 2022

Read: John 5:1-18

Reflect: What could Jesus be referring to when he warns the healed man that something worse may happen to him if he sins? How can we relate to these two interactions that Jesus had with him?

Respond: Jesus's primary and ultimate concern never seems to be about physical healings or resurrection, but spiritual redemption and restoration. God wants to heal you of your brokenness and sin. How does he want to heal you today?

Additional Readings: Psalm 72, Jeremiah 3:6-18, Romans 1:28-2:11

Thursday, March 17, 2022

Read: John 5:19-29

Reflect: Jesus says the Father gives life to those he raises from the dead and the Son gives life to those whom he wants (5:21). He also says whoever hears and believes God has eternal life (5:24). Additionally, "those who have done what is *good* will rise to live." (5:29) How do you make sense of all these statements about resurrection and eternal salvation?

Respond: Micah 6:8 speaks into the question of what is good: "To act *justly* and to love *mercy* and to *walk humbly* with your God." How might you pursue what is good today?

Additional Readings: Psalm 70, Jeremiah 4:9-10; 19-28, Romans 2:12-24

Friday, March 18, 2022

Read: John 5:30-47

Reflect: Sometimes Jesus's words can be extremely harsh. Imagine how the Jewish leaders felt as he spoke these criticisms toward them. How have you reacted when God has revealed to you your own ignorance or blindness? Has there been a moment like this recently?

Respond: Reread John 5:44 several times over. Spend as much time as you need to understand these words and what God might be speaking to you through them.

Additional Readings: Psalm 69, Jeremiah 5:1-9, Romans 2:25-3:18

Daily Prayer: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, I present my heart, mind, soul, and body to you to be made one with you and to be restored in you. I ask for your Holy Spirit to fill me as I read your word, and ask for you to lead me deeper into truth and lead me deeper into Jesus today. Amen.

Saturday, March 19, 2022

Read: John 7:1-13

Reflect: “Some argued, ‘he’s a good man,’ but others said, ‘He’s nothing but a fraud who deceives the people.’” How does today's society view Jesus ? Is it indifferent towards him as simply a “good man;” is it against him, calling him a fraud and deceiver; or is it reacting differently today?

Respond: The people would not defend Jesus as more than a good man because of their fear of the religious leaders. Spend some time deciding for yourself who Jesus really is and how you would respond if you were there. How do you respond to others who are indifferent to Jesus as God?

Additional Readings: Psalm 75, Jeremiah 5:20-31, Romans 3:19-31

WEEK THREE

March 20-26

Daily Prayer: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, I present my heart, mind, soul, and body to you to be made one with you and to be restored in you. I ask for your Holy Spirit to fill me as I read your word, and ask for you to lead me deeper into truth and lead me deeper into Jesus today. Amen.

Sunday, March 20, 2022

Read: Mark 5:1-20

Reflect: Jesus has authority over all darkness because he is the light. Read the first five verses again and imagine how this man felt after his encounter with Jesus. Did anything change? Consider an encounter you've had with Jesus; what did he make new for you?

Respond: "And everyone marveled." These are the last words of the story. Jesus did an awesome thing, and then the man went out to show everyone that awesome thing. Imagine the belief that was experienced. Today, go and tell/text a friend/stranger something God has done in your life.

Additional Readings: Psalm 93, Jeremiah 6:9-15, 1 Corinthians 6:12-20

Monday, March 21, 2022

Read: John 7:14-36

Reflect: In this text we see people clearly trying to decipher who this man, Jesus, is. What proof or examples do we have that Jesus is the Son of God and not just another prophet or crazy person? How can these things strengthen your faith in God?

Respond: Jesus made so many sacrifices here on earth—the ultimate one being his death on a cross so that we could have life. What sacrifices are we called to make as followers of Jesus? Why are some of these sacrifices so valuable to our lives and the lives of those around us?

Additional Readings: Psalm 80, Jeremiah 7:1-15, Romans 4:1-12

Daily Prayer: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, I present my heart, mind, soul, and body to you to be made one with you and to be restored in you. I ask for your Holy Spirit to fill me as I read your word, and ask for you to lead me deeper into truth and lead me deeper into Jesus today. Amen.

Tuesday, March 22, 2022

Read: John 7:37-52

Reflect: In verses 40-52 we see division among the people that were listening to Jesus. Specific to this text, why do some not believe? Why do some believe? Why didn't God make it so that everyone, no questions asked, would believe in Jesus?

Respond: Take time to write down reasons that you believe in Jesus—specific ways God has spoken to you, books you've read, conversations you've had, etc. If you are in need of more, pray and ask God to fill you with his Spirit, so that you would overflow with faith in Him.

Additional Readings: Psalm 78:1-39, Jeremiah 7:21-34, Romans 4:13-25

Wednesday, March 23, 2022

Read: John 8:12-20

Reflect: Verse 15 says, "You judge according to the flesh; I judge no one." Jesus says this to them right after the encounter with the woman caught in adultery, where he showed her grace that the crowd did not show her. How does God's judgment differ from that of man?

Respond: Pray over the relationships in your life. Consider how you have or have not shown forgiveness and understanding to friends or strangers around you. Ask God to fill your heart with compassion and love in place of harsh judgment and ignorance.

Additional Readings: Psalm 81, Jeremiah 8:18-9:6, Romans 5:1-11

Thursday, March 24, 2022

Read: John 8:21-32

Reflect: What does it mean to "abide in my word" as Jesus says in verse 31? How do we know if we are abiding in his word?

Respond: What steps can you take this season to abide in God's word? Are there any sacrifices to make? Is there a spiritual discipline you could practice? Take a few minutes to think, pray, and be challenged.

Additional Readings: Psalm 43, Jeremiah 10:11-24, Romans 5:12-21

Daily Prayer: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, I present my heart, mind, soul, and body to you to be made one with you and to be restored in you. I ask for your Holy Spirit to fill me as I read your word, and ask for you to lead me deeper into truth and lead me deeper into Jesus today. Amen.

Friday, March 25, 2022

Read: John 8:33-47

Reflect: “You are of your father the devil.” These words Jesus said to the Jewish people are harsh and hard for them to hear. However, they are the same words true of us before being forgiven at the cross by Jesus’s sacrifice. Why was this conversation so difficult for those listening to Jesus?

Respond: In Christ, your father is God. He is over everything, and he bought you out of love. Find space to praise God for adopting you and giving you the ability to hear his voice. Maybe listen to some music that helps put you in his presence or write words of praise to him in a journal.

Additional Readings: Psalm 88, Jeremiah 11:1-8;14-20, Romans 6:1-11

Saturday, March 26, 2022

Read: John 8:47-59

Reflect: “Truly, truly I say to you, before Abraham was, I am.” This statement is outside of our grammatical understanding, let alone the understanding of linear time. God is outside of time, and Jesus is God. Why did God have to come in the form of Jesus?

Respond: When you pray today, know that you are praying to the God that does not die—the God that knows all things. Pray to him and know that he is powerful beyond any measure you can even think of. Then, understand that he is listening to you and that He knows everything about you.

Additional Readings: Psalm 87, Jeremiah 13:1-11, Romans 6:12-23

WEEK FOUR
March 27 - April 2

Daily Prayer: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, I present my heart, mind, soul, and body to you to be made one with you and to be restored in you. I ask for your Holy Spirit to fill me as I read your word, and ask for you to lead me deeper into truth and lead me deeper into Jesus today. Amen.

Sunday, March 27, 2022

Read: Mark 8:11-21

Reflect: Why was it so easy for the disciples to worry about their lack of bread? Jesus reminds them right away of who he is, and what he has done for them before when they were in need. Can you relate to the disciples here? Why do our hearts know worry and doubt so intimately?

Respond: What are you in need of right now in your life? What are others around you in need of? Pray for provision. Pray for faith, that God would guide you into abundance. It may help to reflect on all the ways he has provided for you before, just like the disciples.

Additional Readings: Psalm 66, Jeremiah 14:1-9;17-22, Galatians 4:21-5:1

Monday, March 28, 2022

Read: John 6:1-15

Reflect: Imagine being there with Jesus. How did this happen? Jesus made a legitimately impossible thing possible. Maybe a more realistic question: why did Jesus do this? Try to think of multiple reasons.

Respond: Take a piece of fish, and a slice of bread from your kitchen. Now feed five-thousand people! This sounds silly, but God did it here in John 6 and he hasn't changed since that day. He is big and awesome and powerful. What have you asked for in prayer lately? Pray more boldly. He is bigger yet.

Additional Readings: Psalm 89:1-18, Jeremiah 16:10-21, Romans 7:1-12

Daily Prayer: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, I present my heart, mind, soul, and body to you to be made one with you and to be restored in you. I ask for your Holy Spirit to fill me as I read your word, and ask for you to lead me deeper into truth and lead me deeper into Jesus today. Amen.

Tuesday, March 29, 2022

Read: John 6:16-27

Reflect: In verses 26 and 27 Jesus searches the hearts of the people and challenges them to seek his eternal power rather than only seeking the signs he displayed to them. What is “food that endures to eternal life,” and how can we seek it daily? Can we still experience his miracles and blessings and also fully seek his eternal power?

Respond: If you don’t already, begin spending time “on the lookout” for answered prayers and miracles God is doing. Share these with your small groups and friends, to praise God and also to keep each other aware of how powerful he really is.

Additional Readings: Psalm 97, Jeremiah 17:19-27, Romans 7:13-25

Wednesday, March 30, 2022

Read: John 6:27-40

Reflect: “I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in me shall never thirst.” Do you ever find yourself going to things outside of Jesus to find joy or satisfaction? What are those places? Why do they often feel so easily accessible?

Respond: We are constantly giving ourselves away to things that are not Jesus. God is jealous for us; let your idol be him. Spend time brainstorming a bunch of ways God is generous towards you. Reflect and see how much he provides, and how much more he is willing to give to you.

Additional Readings: Psalm 101, Jeremiah 18:1-11, Romans 18:1-11

Thursday, March 31, 2022

Read: John 6:41-51

Reflect: In verse 51 Jesus talks about who he is and what he means to us. Why does he choose to use “bread” as the metaphor here? Are there examples in the text to support the metaphor? Can you think of other places in Scripture where we see similar things?

Respond: If Jesus is the bread of life, what should we do about it as Christians? Do you need Jesus? Figure out why and where.

Additional Readings: Psalm 69, Jeremiah 22:13-23, Romans 8:12-27

Daily Prayer: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, I present my heart, mind, soul, and body to you to be made one with you and to be restored in you. I ask for your Holy Spirit to fill me as I read your word, and ask for you to lead me deeper into truth and lead me deeper into Jesus today. Amen.

Friday, April 1, 2022

Read: John 6:52-59

Reflect: As we read these words from Jesus, they sound a bit outlandish. However, we know how God intends to sacrifice his son in order to conquer death. How can we achieve life? What does it mean to feed on the flesh and drink of the blood?

Respond: As you have received life from Jesus's flesh and his blood, do you know anyone who could use life in Christ just like you? Who are they and how can you begin to share Jesus with them?

Additional Readings: Psalm 107:1-32, Jeremiah 23:1-8, Romans 8:28-39

Saturday, April 2, 2022

Read: John 6:60-71

Reflect: Only 12 disciples stayed and followed Jesus. What keeps you with Jesus? Why do you choose to get up and follow him?

Respond: Jesus paid for us, so that we could be with the creator of the universe, to be with our father again. He has given you a life where death has no hold on you. What would you say or ask God if you were sitting down with him over coffee right now? What might he say or ask of you?

Additional Readings: Psalm 102, Jeremiah 23:9-15, Romans 9:1-18

WEEK FIVE
April 3-9

Daily Prayer: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, I present my heart, mind, soul, and body to you to be made one with you and to be restored in you. I ask for your Holy Spirit to fill me as I read your word, and ask for you to lead me deeper into truth and lead me deeper into Jesus today. Amen.

Sunday, April 3, 2022

Read: Mark 8:31-9:1

Reflect: How much do you fix your mind on the things of men instead of the things of God? Do you follow Jesus for eternal security? For belonging to a community? For material benefits (networking, a place to stay, finding a spouse)? How can you purify your mixed motives?

Respond: Awareness of mixed motives is a first step toward refinement. Start by answering the question, “What’s in this for me?” Then, invite the Holy Spirit to lead you into *all* the different aspects of following Jesus.

Additional Readings: Psalm 118, Jeremiah 23:16-32, 1 Corinthians 9:19-27

Monday, April 4, 2022

Read: John 9:1-17

Reflect: We’ve all experienced darkness: feeling disoriented, defenseless, afraid... When light penetrates that darkness, it changes everything! Jesus, the Light of the World, gives us purpose, protection, and peace. How can our experiences inform others, and how might their prejudices interfere?

Respond: It’s not good to just sit, smug and satisfied, by the glow of the Light. We provide illumination for others! They may or may not be receptive, but that shouldn’t stop us from testifying to God’s work in our lives! With whom can you share the Light you’ve seen?

Additional Readings: Psalm 35, Jeremiah 24:1-10, Romans 9:19-33

Tuesday, April 5, 2022

Read: John 9:18-41

Reflect: What kind of presuppositions, prejudices, and pride are you carrying into your approach toward Jesus? How do your eyes need to be opened, to see things as they really are?

Respond: How can you allow your eyes to be swabbed with mud and washed in the Pool of Siloam (Sent)? Ask God to give you new eyes to read the newspaper. Ask God for opportunities to hear and speak the Gospel with new hope. Ask God for breakthroughs in your life.

Additional Readings: Psalm 121, Jeremiah 25:8-17, Romans 10:1-13

Daily Prayer: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, I present my heart, mind, soul, and body to you to be made one with you and to be restored in you. I ask for your Holy Spirit to fill me as I read your word, and ask for you to lead me deeper into truth and lead me deeper into Jesus today. Amen.

Wednesday, April 6, 2022

Read: John 10:1-18

Reflect: Why would Jesus mix metaphors? How is he the Gate *and* the Shepherd *and* the Owner of the flock?! What is the significance of each angle?

Respond: To which metaphor do you need to cling today? Jesus as an access point? Jesus as a source of mobilization? Jesus as a protector? Thank God for his role in your life and look for opportunities to lean into his care today.

Additional Readings: Psalm 128, Jeremiah 25:30-38, Romans 10:14-21

Thursday, April 7, 2022

Read: John 10:19-42

Reflect: There is no ambiguity in what Jesus said or did that would cast doubt on his identity as the Son of God. Still, we doubt. If we look away for any length of time or forget the sound of his voice calling to us, we can dismiss the obvious. How have you wrestled with doubt about Jesus's character in the past? In what ways are you struggling with that doubt today?

Respond: Write down a bullet-point list of the ways you see God working in, around, and through you. Think back on the last few months and include those data points as well. Thank God for His work in your life. Choose to adopt an attitude of faith and gratitude.

Additional Readings: Psalm 131, Jeremiah 26:1-16, Romans 11:1-12

Friday, April 8, 2022

Read: John 11:1-27

Reflect: How do you respond when God allows tragedy in your life? Consider the extra readings for today, as they sketch out a consistent theme of pleading with God for justice, deliverance, and the triumph of good over evil, appealing to God for the blessing he longs to bring his people.

Respond: What is your crisis at the moment? Is it another tragic headline in the news? A difficult diagnosis for a loved one? A personal hardship? Do you believe John 11:25-26 regardless? Is Jesus trustworthy?

Additional Readings: Psalm 22, Jeremiah 29:1, 4-13, Romans 11:13-24

Daily Prayer: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, I present my heart, mind, soul, and body to you to be made one with you and to be restored in you. I ask for your Holy Spirit to fill me as I read your word, and ask for you to lead me deeper into truth and lead me deeper into Jesus today. Amen.

Saturday, April 9, 2022

Read: John 11:28-44

Reflect: God will accomplish his purposes, with or without an appreciative audience. Yet he chooses to invite you along for the journey, and indeed he travels *with* you through all the peaks and valleys of life. If we believe, we will see the glory of God. Where do you hope to see the glory of God in your life?

Respond: Borrow words from the Psalms to share your emotions with God, like Mary did with Jesus. Pray Psalm 144 if you've recently experienced God's deliverance. Pray Psalm 43 if God's deliverance feels far away. Either way, let him minister to both your emotional and practical needs.

Additional Readings: Psalm 137, Jeremiah 31:27-34, Romans 11:25-36

HOLY WEEK
April 10-16

Daily Prayer: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, I present my heart, mind, soul, and body to you to be made one with you and to be restored in you. I ask for your Holy Spirit to fill me as I read your word, and ask for you to lead me deeper into truth and lead me deeper into Jesus today. Amen.

Sunday, April 10, 2022

Read: Matthew 21:12-17

Reflect: In the temple Jesus interacts with money changers, the lame and blind, chief priests and scribes, and little children. What do each of these interactions teach you about Jesus and His kingdom?

Respond: Consider that you are God's temple. Spend some time in silence and ask God if there is anything he would like to show you about your temple (heart, mind, body), and ask if there is anything he would like to heal in you.

Additional Readings: Psalm 24, Zechariah 9:9-12, 1 Timothy 6:12-16

Monday, April 11, 2022

Read: John 12:9-19

Reflect: The miracle of Jesus raising Lazarus from the dead catalyzes some people to seek him out and others to want to kill him. What is your response to God's miraculous works in our present day? How are the works of your life pointing people to Jesus and his kingdom?

Respond: Find a quiet place and ask God to guide you in prayer. Ask God for a few ideas of good works that you can do this week that honor him and also for your good works to point people to Jesus and enable them to experience God's love.

Additional Readings: Psalm 51, Jeremiah 12:1-16, Philippians 3:1-14

Tuesday, April 12, 2022

Read: John 12:20-26

Reflect: Jesus clearly implies to Andrew and Philip that a person's outer man must be broken in order for the Holy Spirit to bring about fruitfulness and abundant life. How does Jesus model for us a life that is open to brokenness and a filling of the Holy Spirit?

Respond: In each conversation you have with another person today take a moment to silently ask the Holy Spirit what he would like you to say or do.

Additional Readings: Psalm 6, Jeremiah 15:10-21, Philippians 3:15-21

Daily Prayer: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, I present my heart, mind, soul, and body to you to be made one with you and to be restored in you. I ask for your Holy Spirit to fill me as I read your word, and ask for you to lead me deeper into truth and lead me deeper into Jesus today. Amen.

Wednesday, April 13, 2022

Read: John 12:27-36

Reflect: Jesus explains that the response to his prayer from the Father was for the sake of the crowd and not for himself. Consider that Jesus's prayer was also for our sake. What can you learn from his cry to the Father?

Respond: Use Jesus's prayer in John 12:27-28 as a model and write out a personal prayer. Detail how you are feeling today, ask God for what your heart longs for, and ask that above all, God would be the hero of your story and all of life.

Additional Readings: Psalm 55, Jeremiah 17:5-10, Philippians 4:1-13

Thursday, April 14, 2022

Read: John 17

Reflect: What privileges has Jesus bought for you by making it possible for you to be in union with the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit? What might it look like for you to be one with Jesus?

Respond: Consider cutting out all unnecessary noise today. Unplug from music, social media, and television. Try to listen to God as much as possible and take notice of how much closer you feel to the Lord when you are listening to him.

Additional Readings: Psalm 102, Jeremiah 20:7-11, 1 Corinthians 10:14-17

Friday, April 15, 2022

Read: John 13:36-38

Reflect: Jesus plainly asks, "Will you lay down your life for me?" How can you cultivate a love for Jesus that will make you ready to lay down your life when an opportunity presents itself?

Respond: Be on the lookout today for ways that you can show honor and delight for other people. As you put the interests of others above your own, take notice of how Jesus satisfies your soul today.

Additional Readings: Psalm 95, Genesis 22:1-14, 1 Peter 1:10-20

Daily Prayer: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, I present my heart, mind, soul, and body to you to be made one with you and to be restored in you. I ask for your Holy Spirit to fill me as I read your word, and ask for you to lead me deeper into truth and lead me deeper into Jesus today. Amen.

Saturday, April 16, 2022

Read: Job 19:21-27a

Reflect: Our Redeemer Jesus lives. How does that good news speak to your hardest sin struggles and your greatest life trials in this season of your life?

Respond: Take some time to listen to a song that helps you praise the Lord for His mercy. Reflect on the lyrics and sing, dance, or position yourself in another way to worship the Lord with all of your heart, mind, soul and strength.

Additional Readings: Psalm 88, Hebrews 4:1-16, Romans 8:1-11

EASTER SUNDAY

April 17

Daily Prayer: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, I present my heart, mind, soul, and body to you to be made one with you and to be restored in you. I ask for your Holy Spirit to fill me as I read your word, and ask for you to lead me deeper into truth and lead me deeper into Jesus today. Amen.

Easter Sunday, April 17, 2022

Read: John 20:1-29

Reflect: We all know that we are “supposed to” be joyful on Easter Sunday, but what are you really feeling as you enter into this story today? Are you sad? Angry? Fearful? Joyful? How does the promise of the resurrection speak into your life today?

Respond: Be real with God and with others today. Don’t fake your way into the Easter story, but instead ask that God would shape you by the power and joy of this narrative. Whether or not you realize it right now, this story has and will change everything!