



Holy Week

March 29-April 5, 2021
7 Days of Devoted Attention to Jesus

With Easter on its way and our world feeling off-kilter, we have every reason to press in to Jesus. This guide is intended to be a tool to help us do that. Each day, it will provide a Jesus-focused scripture reflection, an engagement activity, and an extra family-focused suggestion. Our desire is that everyone will find hope and inspiration in Jesus this week.

While this guide is designed for individual use, we also want to give an opportunity to interact as a larger church family.

Each day we will be posting short videos corresponding to the day's reading on Facebook and Youtube and inviting you to share your thoughts and questions in the comments there.

Facebook Page
YouTube Channel

We pray that you find space this week to approach each of these readings with a quiet and expectant heart, ready to hear from our living Lord Jesus.

***Parents be sure to grab your Holy Week Box for the kids!**

Monday, March 29th, Day 1

JESUS IS WITH US

Today, I invite you to quiet your mind and your heart and to recognize that Jesus is here. He is with you right now. He has promised to be with you always and never to leave you alone.¹(Matthew 28:20)

Stop and let that sink in. Jesus is here with you. You are not alone. Knowing this truth makes a big difference, doesn't it? In the midst of all that is going on in your life and heart right now, Jesus is here too. He is present. In fact, one of His names is Immanuel, which means "God is with us."² (Matthew 1:23) While our circumstances can often make us feel small and vulnerable, we are safe and secure with God.

REFLECT:

Read **Matthew 19:13-14**

Allow this picture of Jesus to help you perceive His presence with you today. Read the passage twice.

Jesus welcomed the littlest ones, hugged them, and blessed them. In the same way, Jesus is holding you right now. Others may have tried to get in the way or tell you off, but Jesus has pushed them aside, come to you, and wrapped you up in His strong arms. Even now, He is speaking His blessing over you.

Go ahead, ask Him what He is saying. Spend time with Him right now.

Jesus, as I come close I wonder: what are you praying over me? What is on your heart for me? ...Thank you, Jesus, for your love and presence today.

ENGAGE:

It's true, the Bible tells us again and again about Jesus' love. Is there a particular verse that Holy Spirit is bringing to your mind right now? How can you share that word with someone else today?

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BENEDICTION:

Be glad. Jesus LOVES you and is with you!

FOR FAMILIES:

Find your favorite blanket and have a family show-n-share. Let everyone feel your blanket- why is it so special to you? Wrap yourselves in all your blankets and snuggle together on the couch. How does this make you feel? Do you feel loved? Remember that Jesus loves you SO MUCH MORE.

CHECK-IN:

See what others are saying in response to today's reading and share your thoughts on our [Facebook page](#)

Tuesday, March 30, Day 2

JESUS RAISES THE DEAD

In John 11, we read the amazing account of Jesus raising his friend Lazarus from the dead. This is an incredible demonstration of Jesus' omnipotence and a powerful foreshadowing of the significance of His own resurrection. We see that Jesus raises the dead. He speaks life into a cold corpse. I'll say it again: our God raises the dead!

This is an earth-shaking truth. Death, the assumed final arbiter and final end, is unmasked. In Jesus, there is life after death. In Jesus, there is resurrection. In Jesus, there is life and hope that is stronger than death. For frail human beings like us, this is good news.

REFLECT:

Read John 11:17-44.

How does this miracle and Jesus' claim in verse 25 to being "the resurrection and the life" speak to you today?

...In the face of loss, Martha boldly believed in Jesus. Her faith was not overwhelmed by her grief, but rather it was her faith that overcame, even before seeing the miracle.

In this moment, allow Holy Spirit to encourage your faith. Perhaps you are grieving a significant loss or feeling powerless or afraid. Jesus says "I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in Me will live." Center your heart on that truth today and speak aloud your own confession of faith.

Yes, Lord Jesus, I believe that You...

ENGAGE:

In verse 44, Jesus speaks to the people regarding Lazarus: "Take off the grave clothes and let him go." The one who was dead was now alive and Lazarus needed to adjust to that new reality. The grave clothes needed to come off.

Grab a sweater or a coat (towel will work) and wrap yourself up. Consider the things of this world that reek of sin and death, that try to cling to you, the things that bring you down. Then remember how Jesus has called you into a new life with Him. Throw aside the coat or blanket and celebrate your new life in Jesus.

BENEDICTION:

Be encouraged. Jesus raises the dead and gives life

FOR FAMILIES:

Act out **John 11:38-44**. Take turns having Lazarus hide under bed-sheets and Jesus call him out. Remind each other that Jesus promises life after death

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Wednesday, March 31, Day 3

JESUS IS IN CONTROL

Life has a way of reminding us that we are not in control. In fact, sometimes we find ourselves quite powerless. Interruptions wreck our routines and problems surface that we can't solve. We are vulnerable people. We might get sick, lose a job, or be disappointed by a friend. Often these things are out of our control.

However, in Psalm 46, it says that though the earth give way and the mountains fall into the sea (though everything that seemed solid in our world collapses), we don't need to be afraid or troubled. This is because "God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble" (**Psalm 46:1**). Even though we are sometimes overwhelmed, Jesus isn't. His sovereignty is not threatened. He is the Lord Almighty and He is in control.

REFLECT:

Luke 8:22-25 is a passage that demonstrates Jesus' sovereign authority. At His command a stormy sea becomes calm. Read this passage twice and consider the disciples' question: "Who is this?" (v. 25).

Caught in a dangerous storm, the disciples cry out to Jesus for help. And they are amazed to discover that Jesus speaks with the authority of God, the Creator. Consider the raging waters in your own life, the places where you feel vulnerable or powerless. Then ask yourself: Who is Jesus? Who is really in control? Allow Holy Spirit to bring peace and calm to those stormy places of your heart as you recognize the rule of Christ Jesus. Then praise Him for being in control.

ENGAGE:

Recreate the storm by bringing 1 cup of water to a boil in a small sauce pan. Watch the raging waters. Then drop in two ice cubes and turn off the heat. Thank Jesus for the peace that He brings to our hearts.

BENEDICTION:

Be at peace. Jesus is in control.

FOR FAMILIES:

Find materials around the house that float and choose 1 to be a boat. Put it in the tub during bath time and move around to "make waves", then stretch out your hand and say "Peace, be still!". Stop moving and watch the water calm down. Talk about how you can control the waves in a bathtub and how Jesus can calm the seas- He can calm us too.

<https://coloringhome.com/coloring-page/1676903?album=fully-rely-on-god-coloring-page>

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Thursday, April 1, Day 4

JESUS WASHES FEET

It is good to take a bath or a shower on a regular basis, to wash our hands after playing outside or working on the car. We get dirty. We encounter germs. We need to wash. A harder thing is that we also get dirty on the inside. We harbor angry thoughts and jealousies. We whine, we fuss, we treat other people badly. We put ourselves first and we put other people down. Our hearts are not yet free from the yuck of sin. We need to be washed clean on the inside too. And though this is a dirty and shameful job, Jesus does this for us. Jesus makes sinners clean. Jesus washes feet.

REFLECT:

We see this clearly portrayed in **John 13:1-17**.

Here, Jesus acts out a parable that explains His impending crucifixion. Though the Exalted One, He will make Himself nothing. He will take the lowest place of a condemned criminal. He will suffer to make others clean.

Recognize that Jesus humbled Himself for you. He laid down His life for your cleansing and forgiveness. He took care of your dirt. Take a moment to give thanks for such extravagant love.

ENGAGE:

Enter into the experience by soaking your feet in the tub, a dishpan, or a even a creek. Think about how Jesus became a servant and suffered in order to make you clean. Then humble yourself before the Lord, quietly confess your sins and thank Jesus for washing away the dirt on the inside.

Lord Jesus, I confess...

BENEDICTION:

Be grateful. Jesus washes feet.

FOR FAMILIES:

Take your Holy Week Box materials out. Draw a simple cup and loaf of bread on the lid of the box. Stand the Jesus figure at the table and talk about how he shared the meal with His disciples. How can you share with others?

CHECK-IN:

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Friday, April 2, Day 5

JESUS DIED TO RESCUE YOU

Apart from Jesus, we are in a bad spot. God created us to flourish in an intimate relationship with Him, but our sinful selfishness chose another way. Now, like oil and water, we experience separation. On our own, we have no place to stand before a holy and just God. Through our misbehavior, we accumulated a debt we cannot pay. Our guilt demanded a consequence. And our guilt also brought us into bondage both to more sin and to the evil powers of this world. Separated from God because of our disobedience, we belonged to darkness.

But because God loved you, He sent His Son. Because God loved you, Jesus died. Jesus took all your guilt, sin, and shame to the cross and through His own agonizing death canceled this horrid debt. While you were still running away, Jesus paid for your redemption. Jesus died to rescue you. Through the cross, God brought you out of the kingdom of darkness and into marvelous light.³ (Colossians 1:13) He broke the power of evil over you.

REFLECT:

Taking the place that rightfully belonged to us, Jesus bled and died on a Roman cross. **John 19:28-30** shows that final moment. Read this passage, being mindful of what Jesus has done for you...

Jesus gave it all, once and for all. And in that place of pain, He joyfully exclaimed: "It is finished!"

Your guilt, your shame, your separation- Finished!

Right now, invite Jesus to show you anew what He has finished on the cross. Allow Him to show you the debt that was paid and the powers of darkness that He broke for you. Then, in light of all Jesus has cleared away, receive in your heart the fullness of His mercy and grace.

ENGAGE:

Break an egg into a bowl. Can you put it back together? Or squeeze out a big glob of toothpaste, then put it back. You can't. And neither can the enemy, Satan, undo what Jesus had finished on the cross. What Jesus accomplished, He accomplished once and for all.⁴(Hebrews 9:26)

BENEDICTION:

Be confident. Jesus died to rescue you.

FOR FAMILIES:

Take your Holy Week Box and draw a simple cross on the back of the box. Stand it up and put the Jesus figure in front of the cross. Talk about how sad all of Jesus' friends were. Set the box down and open it. Wrap the Jesus figure in the white cloth and lay him in the box.

CHECK-IN:

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Saturday, April 3, Day 6

JESUS KEEPS HIS PROMISES

What a somber day it must have been after Jesus was crucified. I cannot imagine the shock and sadness of Jesus' disciples or the heavy silence that weighed on them that day. They saw Hope crucified. They could hardly understand what was coming. But we do. And as much as we might want to rush to Sunday morning, it is good to pause on Saturday. It is good to recognize the dark that comes before the dawn, to acknowledge the human experience of emptiness and of longing.

Where do you feel empty or sad? What are you longing for right now? For the disciples, everything was dark that day. But God was faithful. They couldn't see what they couldn't see. But Jesus was still trustworthy. Jesus was coming back. Jesus keeps His promises. We will sometimes walk through dark days, but Jesus is faithful, even when He's hard to see.

REFLECT:

Sit for a moment with **Psalm 23**. Let it speak a word of comfort and encouragement to you.

ENGAGE:

Often it is hard to wait in silence. Get quiet, close your eyes and listen to a clock tick or better a dripping faucet. Sit with the disciples for a moment. Sit with your own longing and feelings of emptiness. Wait on the Lord. Ask Him to give you faith, courage, and patience. *Lord Jesus, I know you are faithful. Please help me to trust your goodness and...*

BENEDICTION:

Be patient. Jesus keeps His promises.

FOR FAMILIES:

Tell everyone in the family to stay in one place and be quiet while you watch the 2 minute hourglass video at this [YouTube link](#).

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HjaLxPIndWI&feature=youtu.be> (for those of you with a paper copy or you can use the timer on your phone)

When the timer goes off, talk about how difficult it was to wait just a little bit. Teach children a simple prayer of trust to pray during times of waiting; 'Hold my hand Lord, show me the way. Lead the way, Lord, I trust in You.'

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Sunday, April 4, Day 7

JESUS IS RISEN

Glory, glory, alleluia! Jesus is risen! This is such wonderful news. Jesus did what He said He would do. He triumphed over the grave. Sin's curse over the world has been broken and new creation has begun bursting forth. Jesus rising from the dead is proof positive, that the toil and struggle of life in a fallen world, will someday be overcome by resurrection life and give way to a glorious future. In Jesus, that transformation has already begun. The brokenness, pain, and struggle of the old way of life cannot last. Its' days are numbered. With Jesus, powerful new life has come and you can be certain that a better day is coming on the horizon.

REFLECT:

Hear afresh the words of **Matthew 28:1-7**.

Let the angel's surprising announcement of resurrection and life shake off any doubts that hinder you from joyfully running into all the good that God has for you.

"He is not here; He has risen," the angel proclaimed. What was is no longer. The one who was dead is alive. The old has given way to the new. Are you ready for new?

Are there things in your life, even in your heart that need to change? Then know this. When you come to Jesus, He changes you. Whenever you come to Jesus, He changes you. Because He loves you, Jesus died and rose again to share with you His new and everlasting life. He is risen; He has the power to replace the old with new. If that is your desire, call out to Him today.

Pray: *Lord Jesus, I believe that You rose from the dead and I come to You today because I want less of the old and more of Your resurrection life. I invite You to change me....*

ENGAGE:

The resurrection of Jesus from the dead is both a foretaste of and the means by which God is redeeming the whole creation. Because Jesus lives, the old order of things must one day pass away. God's perfect kingdom is coming. Set a timer for 1 minute. Consider the pain, brokenness, and darkness of this present world and know that its' days are numbered. When the timer goes off, praise God for His promise to make all things new in Jesus, including you.

FOR FAMILIES:

Step outside and search for signs of new life. Try using all your senses to detect signs of spring. Remind each other that, because of Jesus' resurrection, we can experience new spiritual life. Then share where you see signs of the life of Jesus in each other. What positive growth in Christ-like character can you celebrate together?

Take the Jesus figure out of the box and celebrate the empty tomb!

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