



Journey to the Cross

A HOLY WEEK DEVOTIONAL GUIDE

Park Cities
BAPTIST CHURCH



DURING THE EASTER SEASON, WE SLOW DOWN TO REMEMBER JESUS' JOURNEY TO THE CROSS.

Though Jesus is the King of kings, he temporarily laid down his crown for our sake. Jesus walked on the same earth we do, wrestled with the same temptations we do, and experienced the fullness of what it means to be human – just like us. In his death, Jesus paid everything we owe for our sin, so we no longer need to be separated from God. In his resurrection, Jesus showed the world he is most powerful and glorious over all creation.

Throughout this Holy Week, as we join with believers around the world, let us pause and reflect on God's word together as we collectively await Resurrection Sunday. With each new day, may we look to Jesus as our one true King, beholding him in his presence and asking him to continue to transform us by the power of his love. May we never forget the gift of the cross and the glory of the resurrection. May we always run to Jesus in prayer and gratitude. He is risen!

Happy Easter from your PCBC family!

Palm Sunday, April 10, 2022

JESUS THE PROMISED KING

ZECHARIAH 9:9-13

In Zechariah's time, God's people were returning to Jerusalem from a long exile. They expected physical and spiritual blessings, but they were disappointed when their home did not seem any better than before. Amid their doubts and fears, God promised his people the Messiah as a savior, peacemaker, and warrior.

After hundreds of years of waiting, Jesus entered Jerusalem riding on a donkey (Matthew 21:1-11) just as Zechariah prophesied. Jesus was the rescue God promised, and the people celebrated Jesus' coming by shouting, "Hosanna!"

God is faithful. Even when life seems grim and we are waiting for God to move, we can trust God to make a way for his people. Let Easter be a reminder that God fulfills all his promises!

REFLECT

- Where in your life do you have the hardest time trusting God's promises?
- Considering God's faithfulness to send Jesus as the Messiah, how can we be confident God will care for us?

PRAY

God, thank you for providing Jesus the Messiah to be our rescue. Even when we cannot see your hand moving, you are faithful. Give us patience to wait for your answer and hearts that are content with your perfect plans.

FAMILY TIME

- **FOR YOUNGER KIDS:** Ride on Dad or Mom's back like you are a king coming into town. Shout "Hosanna" as he or she rides into town. Or you can talk about a time when someone has broken a promise to you.
- **FOR OLDER KIDS:** Play "Two Truths and a Lie." Everything God says is true. Take turns as a family to come up with three statements about yourself, "Two Truths and One Lie," and see which family members can spot the lie.

Monday, April 11, 2022

JESUS THE PERFECT KING

ISAIAH 11:1-5

History is filled with bad kings and queens. Just think of King Herod's raid when Jesus was born (Matthew 2), King Manasseh's failure to lead Judah out of sin (2 Kings 21), or King Nebuchadnezzar's spiral into insanity (Daniel 4). All three of these kings were defined by their pride. Jesus, however, is radically different.

Isaiah tells us the Messiah would be wise, just, and righteous. Jesus, a carpenter from Nazareth, demonstrated these qualities better than anyone in history. Jesus cared for those in need, and he loved those who felt hated. In the climax of his love, Jesus died on a cross to rescue his people – even though he had done nothing wrong.

Jesus is the best king we could ever imagine, and he is far above every ruler in the world. Jesus laid down his royalty and was killed on a cross for those who hated him. Today, Jesus wants to be the Lord of our lives. May we take refuge in Jesus being a perfect leader and open ourselves up to his rule and reign in us.

REFLECT

- Why do you think you may not be the best ruler of your own life?
- What is one way you can let Jesus, our perfect King, be the ruler of your life today?

PRAY

God, thank you for being perfect in every way. You are perfect in your wisdom, justice, and righteousness. We trust in you as the Lord of our lives, and we ask for a humble spirit to follow your commands.

FAMILY TIME

Have your kids pretend they are rulers of their own kingdom. What are some of the craziest laws they can create?

Tuesday, April 12, 2022

JESUS THE CARING KING
MATTHEW 5:1-12

Think about the values that are prized in your workplace, at school, and in the world. Bold, driven, goal-oriented team players tend to get ahead in life, don't they? Now, think about the people our world loves to honor and praise.

Jesus could have honored and praised the leaders, the courageous, the go-getters, and the strong-willed as those who are the blessed ones in his kingdom. Instead, Jesus honored and praised the poor in spirit, the meek, the persecuted, and the peacemakers. Jesus promised an eternal reward to those marked by these less-than-popular qualities when he said, "theirs is the kingdom of heaven...for they shall inherit the earth."

Jesus' kingdom is upside-down. Jesus wants us to be unique, and we can only be this type of person when we allow the Holy Spirit to fill us up. Easter is a reminder that Jesus has transformed us from the inside out! May the Holy Spirit fill us up and shine through us in all we do.

REFLECT

- Of all the qualities listed in Matthew 5:1-12, which do you think best describes you?
- Likewise, which quality do you think least describes you?

PRAY

God, there is nothing we could ever do to make you love us more. Thank you for blessing us and caring for us just as we are. Holy Spirit, fill us up where we are in need, and help us to look more like Jesus with each new day.

FAMILY TIME

- **OPTION 1:** Write encouraging notes to your neighbors or your teachers to let them know you care about them.
- **OPTION 2:** Bake or cook something for a neighbor and deliver it to them to let them know you care about them.

Wednesday, April 13, 2022

JESUS THE HOLY KING

MATTHEW 17:1-9

Up to this point in the biblical story, Jesus' disciples had seen him do incredible things. He fed 5,000 people with a boy's lunch, walked on water, and even cast out demons. But here, in the story of the transfiguration, Jesus showed himself to be more than a prophet, a magician, or anything else the disciples had ever encountered.

Peter equated Jesus with Moses and Elijah, offering to build a tent for each of them. But God the Father revealed Jesus to be greater than Moses and Elijah when he said, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased."

Jesus is more than a prophet or a good man. Jesus is God's own Son. Jesus is the only one who is truly holy and righteous (Acts 3:14). Jesus' holiness makes his death even more meaningful, because although Jesus could have avoided the cross for his sake, he chose the cross for our sake.

Today and always, Jesus is high and lifted up. May we join with the angels in heaven and declare, "Hallelujah! For the Lord our God the Almighty reigns," (Revelation 19:6).

REFLECT

- What do you think it means for Jesus to be holy?
- How does knowing Jesus is holy affect the way we read the story of Jesus in the Gospel of Matthew?

PRAY

God, you are more holy than anyone and everyone else, and you deserve all the glory. Thank you that in your holiness, you became human for our sake. We want to follow you as our Most High and Holy King, not looking to anyone but you to lead us.

FAMILY TIME

- **FOR YOUNGER KIDS:** Make a crown with your kids. Scan the QR code for easy instructions!
- **FOR OLDER KIDS:** What is an item or toy that you would set apart from everything else? Choose what is most special to you, and then explain why.



Thursday, April 14, 2022

JESUS THE HEAVENLY KING

JOHN 18:33-37

Put yourself in Jesus' shoes. You are on trial for a crime you did not commit. No one understands who you really are. Then, when the man who holds your life in his hands asks what you have to say for yourself, you tell him you are a ruler from out of this world.

Even in his last moments, Jesus made it clear he was unlike any other ruler. Rather than begging Pilate for his life, or blaming someone for what was happening to him, Jesus said his power to rule and reign does not come from this world. Jesus' power is from God the Father – the Creator of heaven and earth – and his power extends beyond this world.

No one and nothing can stand in God's way. Everything he commands is good, pleasing, and perfect. Jesus never grows tired of us or impatient with us when we fall short. Today, we can choose to live according to the power of Jesus, who rules and reigns over us, and who chooses to reside within us.

REFLECT

- Imagine powerful people in the world. What are they like?
- Jesus said his power is not of this world. Why does that make Jesus more trustworthy than anyone else?

PRAY

God, no one is more powerful than you, neither is anyone more loving. Thank you for your never-ending power and love. Your ways are higher than our ways, and we trust in you above all.

FAMILY TIME

- Play your favorite kids' worship song(s) and have a fun dance party. We are thankful Jesus is our heavenly king and how heaven is described as the ultimate dance party. Scan the QR code for one of our favorite videos!



Good Friday, April 15, 2022

JESUS THE CRUCIFIED KING

MATTHEW 27:32-56

The crucifixion of Jesus was beyond humiliating. Jesus was stripped, mocked, hated, and killed as a traitor by the very ones he came to save. The same people who listened to Jesus teach about the Kingdom of God and watched as he performed miracles, later nailed Jesus to a cross to die between two criminals.

Jesus was supposed to be the king who would save the world. Instead, hanging on the cross, Jesus looked more like a liar. Jesus came to proclaim the arrival of the Kingdom of God, but when he refused to deny his identity as the Son of God, people killed him for it.

Try to imagine what the cross must have been like for Jesus. Though he was God, Jesus willingly endured the cross for us. The cross had always been a symbol of pain and death, but when Jesus died for us, it became a symbol of his love.

REFLECT

- How does it make you feel to know Jesus died on the cross for you?
- Just as Jesus changed the meaning of the cross, how has Jesus changed the meaning of your life?

PRAY

God, thank you for enduring the cross for us. We could never pay you back for all you have done for us, and you will never ask us to. Instead, you invite us to live in a daily relationship with you. Jesus, because of your love, we give you our lives for your glory.

FAMILY TIME

- Go to your local hardware store and purchase 2 pieces of wood or go out to your yard and find two sticks or branches to make a cross. Talk about how Jesus may have felt. How do you feel when looking at this cross?
- Read “A Dark Night in the Garden” from the Jesus Storybook Bible.



Holy Saturday, April 16, 2022

JESUS, NO LONGER THE KING?
MATTHEW 27:62-66

Death often makes us ask, “What’s next?” After Jesus died, what were people supposed to do with his promises? Jesus warned them he would be killed one day, but he promised he would be raised to life on the third day (Matthew 16:21, 17:22-23).

In today’s reading, we see the religious leaders did everything in their power to avoid any future challenges associated with Jesus after his death. Jesus’ disciples were so afraid of the religious leaders after seeing Jesus crucified, they locked the doors when they met together (John 20:19).

Still, on this silent Saturday, God was working. By going out of their way to prevent anyone from breaking into the tomb where Jesus was buried, the religious leaders left no explanation for Jesus’ resurrection other than a miracle. If Jesus did manage to escape the tomb, wouldn’t that prove all his promises were true?

We can continue to trust God in the silence. If we do not hear from God when we cry out to him, we can rest assured he is always working everything out for his glory and our good. Even in the silence, God is still faithful and his promises are still true.

REFLECT

- Where does it seem like God has been silent in your life lately?
- What is a promise from Scripture that can help you trust God in the silence?

PRAY

God, thank you for always working even when it feels like you are not. Only you can turn our worst days into glorious days for your name and our good. Give us hearts to trust you every step of the way, especially when life is hard and you seem silent.

FAMILY TIME

- **FOR YOUNGER KIDS:** Play the quiet game. Take turns seeing who can stay quiet the longest. (Parents, you’re welcome!)
- **FOR OLDER KIDS:** Go on a family walk around the neighborhood and use that time to pray for friends and neighbors. Pray for people in your neighborhood to know the good news of Jesus.

Easter Sunday, April 17, 2022

JESUS THE RESURRECTED KING
MATTHEW 28:1-10

On this Easter Sunday, we celebrate the resurrection of our King, Jesus! Not only did Jesus beat death by rising on the third day, but Jesus conquered every sin that captures our hearts. By dying on the cross for us, Jesus was the perfect sacrifice to pay for our sin once and for all. By rising from the grave, Jesus proved he is the one true King, high and lifted up. All power in heaven and on earth belongs to our resurrected King, Jesus (Matthew 28:18).

Imagine Mary and Mary Magdalene's joy when the angel told them, "I know you seek Jesus who was crucified. He is not here, for he has risen, as he said." As soon as Jesus came to see his disciples after being killed, buried, and raised to life, they came to him – to hug him and worship him.

Just as Jesus' disciples were filled with joy in the presence of their resurrected King on that Sunday, let us rejoice with them in worship today. Jesus is alive!

REFLECT

- Why do we celebrate the resurrection of our King, Jesus?
- What has been holding you back from fully believing in Jesus and giving him your whole life?

PRAY

God, you are alive and seated on your throne. Thank you for defeating sin and death so we can spend forever with you. Help us to live in your victory today, knowing your great love has already won every one of our battles. King Jesus, we give you all the glory!

FAMILY TIME

- As a family, make Resurrection cookies. Scan the QR code for a great recipe!
- Talk about the gospel with your family today. The "Four Part Gospel" resource available at pcbc.org/kids is a terrific guide.





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