



lent series

Jesus

life . suffering . death . triumph

DISCUSSION NOTES

INTRODUCTION

Throughout the history of the church, Christians would devote a period of time to prepare their hearts for the celebration of Jesus ultimate victory over sin and death — “The Resurrection” (aka Easter Sunday). Historically this season has been known as “Lent”, and was celebrated each spring as the days would lengthen (the word “lent” is from a Saxon word meaning “lengthen”). While Lent is not necessarily prescribed in the scripture as a season one *must* follow, it has nonetheless always served as a tool to narrow the focus of the Church to the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, to turn from our sin and trust in His atoning work.

Over the next several weeks we’ll devote our times on Sunday to consider and meditate upon the person of Jesus, and the work he accomplished on the cross, followed by his triumphal rise from the dead, on Easter Sunday (April 4). This guide is intended to help you to meditate and consider the biblical story of redemption. Use this in your private devotions, with your family or with a small group by reading the scriptures provided, making observations of the passages, asking what they appear to be saying, and then apply them to your life.

WEEK 1 - JESUS’ WORDS (3.15.15)

Jesus spoke frequently about who he was and what he came to do. When we approach Jesus, we must do so on his terms and according to who he says he is, and not according to our opinions or the consensus of popular culture. Take the time to read thru what are commonly called the “I am” statements of Jesus, and consider the below study tools.

Read: John 6:35, John 8:12, John 10:9, John 10:11, John 11:25, John 14:6, John 15:1

Observation: What is happening historically in these passages, and what is being said?

Interpretation: What do the passages appear to be teaching and saying? What is Jesus revealing about himself?

Application: How can you apply what’s being said in these passages to your life? What hope does it bring you?

notes: _____

WEEK 2 - JESUS’ WORKS (3.22.15)

The first four books which form what we call the New Testament as for the most part biographies of the life of Jesus. Among other things they are filled with stories of Jesus’ works.

Read: John 5:1–9, John 9:1–7, John 14:12–14

Observation: What is happening historically in these passages? What is Jesus doing?

Interpretation: What does John record these works of Jesus? What can we learn about Jesus from his works?

Application: How can you apply what’s being said in these passages to your life? What hope does it bring you?

notes: _____

Community Group Discussion

- **Information:** Read the passage/answer the questions.
- **Transformation:** Being honest/transparent, discuss how God through the gospel intends to change you.
- **Mission:** Pray together. Surrender to God’s mission.

Family Devotion Discussion

- **Information:** Have your child read the passage.
- **Transformation:** Make it personal. Help them to see God’s love through what He’s already done for them.
- **Mission:** Pray/sing together, give yourselves to God.



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WEEK 3 - JESUS' ACTIONS (PALM SUNDAY 3.29.15)

Throughout Jesus life there were several occasions where his actions were reminiscent of the prophets of old, who not unlike Jeremiah of Hosea acted out scenarios which creatively embodied a powerful message which words would've failed to accurately tell. One example would be Jesus washing his disciples feet. This non-dignifying action seemed to be a poignant portrayal of how his brutal death on the cross would serve as the means of making them clean.

Read: Mark 11:1-11, Zechariah 9:9

Observation: What is happening historically in these passages? Who is the key character in these passages?

Interpretation: What does Jesus seem to be acting out or portraying within this scripted moment? What does he seem to be declaring about himself and his purposes?

Application: How can you apply what's being said in these passages to your life? What hope does it bring you?

notes: _____

WEEK 2 - JESUS' DEATH (GOOD FRIDAY 4.3.15)

Jesus died. This reality sums up the depths to which God's gone to experience all the painful realities, fears and anxieties we face. Take time to consider this truth.

Read: Mark 14:25-15:47

Observation: What is happening historically in these passages? Image the full range of emotions Jesus experienced here.

Interpretation: What are the passages teaching and declaring? What are these passages telling us about our God?

Application: How can you apply what's being said in these passages to your life? What hope does it bring you?

notes: _____

WEEK 3 - JESUS' RESURRECTION (EASTER SUNDAY 4.5.15)

The good news is that because Jesus is the King (of all kings), He's come into this broken world to set it right, at great cost to himself, ultimately to point to death on the cross. Yet because he is stronger than death he conquered it and rose again. The bible claims that all who follow Jesus will share in the same fate as him...they too will victoriously rise and live again, remade and renewed.

Read: Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24, Isaiah 25:6-9, John 20:1-18

Observation: What is happening historically in these passages? Who are the key characters in the story?

Interpretation: What do the passages appear to be teaching and saying? What are they teaching about God?

Application: How can you apply what's being said in these passages to your life? What hope does it bring you?

notes: _____