

INTRODUCTION

The practice of preparing oneself for Easter stretches back to the earliest centuries of the church. Lent—a 40-day observance (not including Sundays)—has traditionally been a time of penitence and fasting, modeled after Jesus’ 40-day fast in the wilderness. Some Christians observe Lent while others don’t, yet we find common ground in marking Palm Sunday, observing Good Friday, and celebrating Christ’s resurrection on Easter Sunday.

This resource is an invitation to journey toward the Cross and to consider God as we meet him there. What does the Cross reveal to us about who God is? How might we encounter God and come to know him more intimately through our contemplation of Christ’s crucifixion and resurrection?

HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE

To use this devotional during Lent, start with Week 1 on Ash Wednesday (February 14). Then reflect on one reading each week throughout Lent. On Palm Sunday (March 25), begin the daily devotions for Holy Week, culminating in a final reading for Easter Sunday. Alternately, you can read these articles **at your own pace** during the weeks leading up to or following Easter.

Each weekly reading in this guide is followed by Bible study and reflection questions for use during your personal time with God or for discussion in a small-group setting. Our **Ideas for Families** and **Groups** offer creative suggestions, fun projects, and discussion starters to enrich your spiritual growth as you draw near to the Cross together.



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JOURNEY TO THE CROSS

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BIBLE READING GUIDE

Throughout this devotional, you'll be prompted to spend regular time in spiritual reflection and Scripture contemplation. Use this guide to structure your Bible reading. As an option, consider selecting some of these passages to memorize or to utilize in daily prayer.

WEEK 1

John 12:23-33, 17:1-5;
Hebrews 2:9; Revelation 5:5-6

WEEK 2

Matthew 11:28-30, 28:20;
John 15:13; Romans 5:6-8, 8:38-39;
Ephesians 3:17-19; 1 John 4:9-10

WEEK 3

Isaiah 10:1-2, Ezekiel 7:8,
Amos 5:18-24, Matthew 23:13-33,
Romans 5:8-10, Revelation 21:3-4

WEEK 4

Isaiah 53, 1 Corinthians 15:54-55,
2 Corinthians 1:3-5, Hebrews 4:15-16

WEEK 5

Psalms 103:7-12; Romans 2:4,
3:23-26; 2 Peter 3:8-9

WEEK 6

Mark 10:45; Luke 15:11-32;
John 2:1-11, 3:16, 10:17-18, 15:13;
Romans 8:32; Galatians 1:3-5

HOLY WEEK

Palm Sunday:

Genesis 49:10-11; 1 Kings 1:38-39;
Zechariah 9:9; Matthew 21:1-11,
27:27-37

Holy Monday:

Ephesians 2:13-16

Holy Tuesday:

Romans 3:22-24, 1 Corinthians 1:30,
Galatians 2:20

Holy Wednesday:

Philippians 2:6-11, Hebrews 12:2

Maundy Thursday:

Matthew 26:36-46, 2 Corinthians 1:3-4

Good Friday:

Psalms 22, Mark 15:22-37

Holy Saturday:

John 16:16-33

EASTER SUNDAY

John 11:1-44, 20:1-18; 1 Corinthians
15:20-21, 54-56; Colossians 2:13-15;
Revelation 21:1-4