

LENTEN JOURNEY REVOLUTION CHURCH

2019

▲revolution



LENTEN JOURNEY.

Lent. Not lint. One is about spiritual transformation over a period of forty days, excluding the Sundays, and the other is about...well...stagnancy and the attraction of other left overs from your dryer. Lent is meant to be a journey, a process, preparation for Holy Week and then ultimately the glory of Easter Sunday.

During this season of Lent, take the time to work through this booklet like this...

Weekday Readings...

There are five weekday readings meant to be read Monday-Friday. Each day has a Scripture reading, prayer focus, and a question or two for reflection. Take the time to do all three parts. Read, pray, and reflect.

Weekly Meeting...

There is one weekly meeting for each week of Lent. Use this weekly meeting study at your Renovation Group. You might also pick one of the questions within it to help focus your Renovation Band for deeper spiritual reflection and growth.

Sabbath Day...

Use Saturday as a Sabbath Day. Simply enjoy the goodness of God's presence.

Sunday Preparation...

Finally, Sunday Preparation is a Scripture reading and one question to help focus you as you prepare for worship. Do this before you come to Sunday morning worship as it will help prepare your heart and mind for the work God is about to do.

Prayer Meetings: March 21 + April 4 – 7:15 pm

Holy Week: Maundy Thursday 7:00 pm, Good Friday 7:00 pm, Easter Sunday 9:20+11 am

WEEK ONE: FROM CONFUSION TO CLARITY.



Weekday Readings...

On Sunday we learned that God is Triune – Father, Son, and Spirit, three persons and one God, and one God in three persons. If you've been a Christian for a bit, you've probably heard this before. However, as much as you've heard it, have you thought about why believing this matters? And more importantly, how can we even make sense of it?

Jesus offered us a beautiful invitation in John 14:1-14...it's an invitation not only to the Father's House, but also an invitation to see the very life of God in action. As you make your way throughout this week hold in tension that God is one and God is also three. How is that possible? Augustine said it best – it was madness to try and understand it all. Think bigger this week – think mystery, think of a God who is bigger and more infinitely complex than our human minds can comprehend, and yet knowable in a simple carpenter turned itinerant rabbi from Nazareth.

That's why we start with Jesus. Our confusion becomes clearer. Jesus reveals the Father and the Holy Spirit to us. Jesus is fully God, fully human, and in him we come to see the Father's heart, the activity and power of the Spirit, and the fullness of the Triune plan for all of creation



WEEKDAY READINGS

WEEK ONE: FROM CONFUSION TO CLARITY – START WITH JESUS.

3/11 Monday...

Scripture Reading: Deuteronomy 6:4-25

Prayer Focus: God thank you for being knowable and yet beyond our comprehension.

Key Question: How do I love God?

3/12 Tuesday...

Scripture Reading: John 5:19-47

Prayer Focus: Thank you Jesus for revealing the fullness of God's self to us.

Key Question: Why is it important for Jesus to reveal the Father to us?

3/13 Wednesday...

Scripture Reading: 1 Corinthians 12:1-11

Prayer Focus: Holy Spirit fill me and use me as I belong to you, and help others.

Key Question: How does the Holy Spirit's giving gifts to us imitate the Trinity?

3/14 Thursday...

Scripture Reading: Ephesians 1:3-14

Prayer Focus: Father, thank you that you have adopted me and call me your own.

Key Question: How do the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit adopt us into the divine family?

3/15 Friday...

Scripture Reading: Colossians 2:1-15

Prayer Focus: God make me alive with you today!

Key Question: In what ways are you “abounding in thanksgiving” for God's work in your life?

3/16 Sabbath Day...

Enjoy the goodness of God's presence throughout this day.

3/17 Sunday Preparation...

Scripture Reading: John 14:8-14

Prayer Focus: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, help me experience your power and presence today as I offer you the worship and praise that you are due.

WEEKLY MEETING WEEK ONE:

1. During this series, we are focusing on one of the most important beliefs for the Christian Church, the Trinity. What is your understanding and experience of the Trinity?

2. Read Deuteronomy 6:4-25.

Considering the ancient world is mostly a polytheistic system of beliefs (meaning there is a god for everything – sun, moon, stars, sea, land, crops, animals, etc.), in what ways is this Scripture a radical departure from polytheism? What might the idea of one God above all other gods say about the kind of God the Israelites worshipped?

The Israelites/Jews recited Deuteronomy 6:4 as a prayer during the morning + evening called the Shema. The Hebrew word “Shema” means “to hear.” Why do you think this prayer was recited daily? How might hearing this prayer twice daily have influenced their daily life in a polytheistic culture?

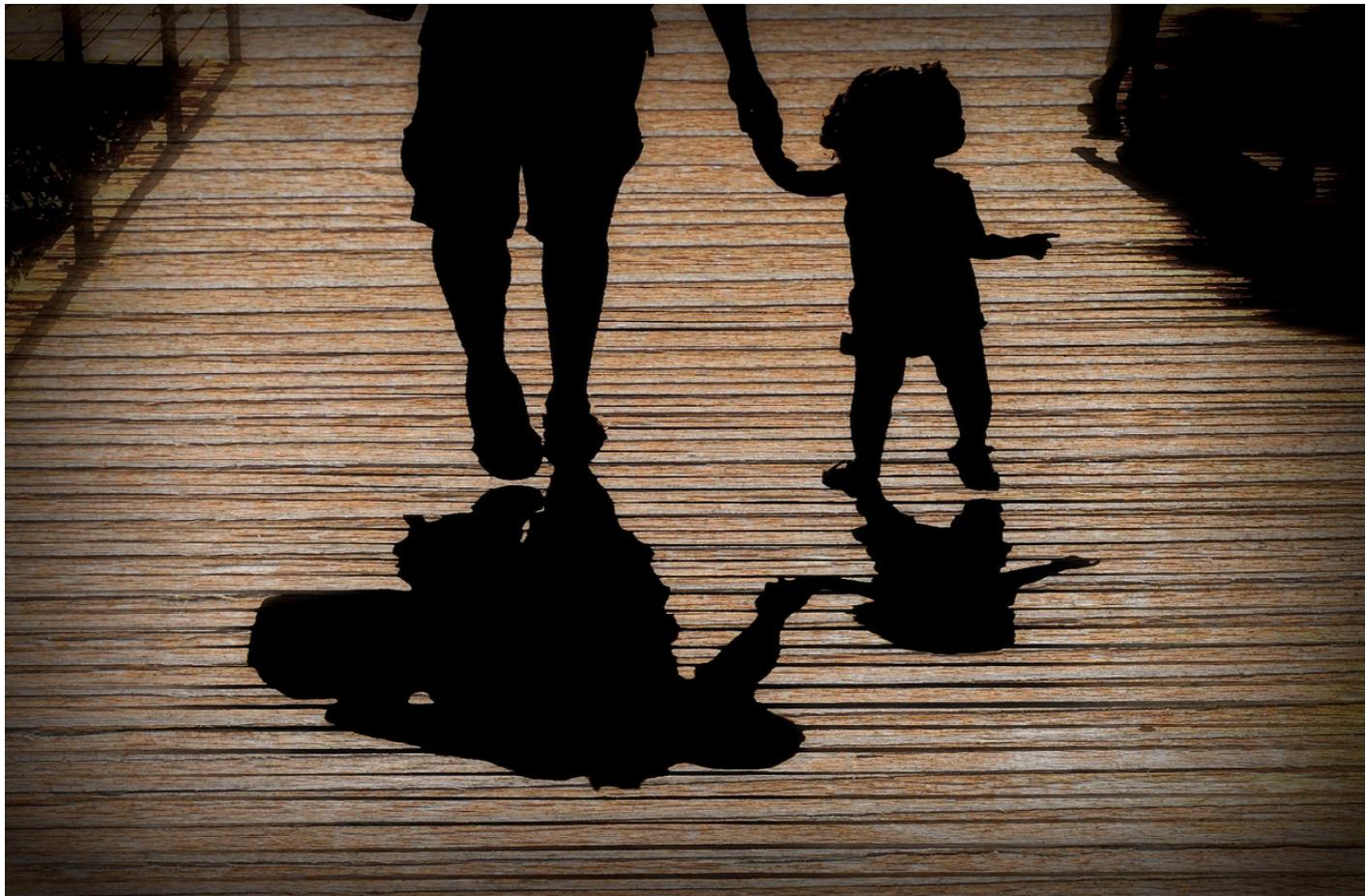
3. Read John 14:1-14.

Whereas Deuteronomy 6 focuses upon the oneness of God, John 14:1-14 focuses upon the three-ness of God. Why was it so important for Jesus to point to the Father throughout his earthly ministry? How by knowing Jesus do we come to know the Father?

How might Jesus’ words here have been a threat to the core beliefs of Judaism?

4. As you think about your own interaction with God, do you tend to think of God more as one, or of God as three? Which of the three persons of the Trinity do you tend to relate to most, and why? How might you incorporate the other persons of the Trinity into your prayer life, Scripture reading, or even the language you use for God? When you refer to God, are you really saying “Father?” Should you change or adapt this in your language?

WEEK TWO: A FATHER'S LOVE.



Weekday Readings...

On Sunday we learned more about the Father's love. The Father is all too often misrepresented, misunderstood as being either angry and judgmental or benevolent and loving. The one-sided polar extremes of the Father in these views either make him a dictator or a grandfather whose only job is to buy his kids ice cream each day regardless of whether or not there is a relationship or any kind of obedience.

This week, come to know a Father's love that's a different kind of love. It's just. It's good. It's welcoming. The Father desires relationship with each one of us and yet calls us to be someone...someone just like him.



WEEKDAY READINGS

WEEK TWO: A FATHER'S LOVE.

3/18 Monday...

Scripture Reading: Deuteronomy 32:1-14

Prayer Focus: God thank you for being a Father who provides for me.

Key Question: How has the Father provided for me throughout my life?

3/19 Tuesday...

Scripture Reading: 2 Samuel 7:8-17

Prayer Focus: Thank you Father God for guiding my life every day.

Key Question: How has the Father guided me into his purposes for my life?

3/20 Wednesday...

Scripture Reading: Isaiah 64:8-12

Prayer Focus: Holy Father, shape and mold my heart to be more like yours.

Key Question: When have I experienced the Father's redemption after a sin in my life?

3/21 Thursday...

Scripture Reading: Luke 15:11-32

Prayer Focus: Father, help me to know your heart and yield to your will.

Key Question: How well do I know my Heavenly Father – what evidences are in my life?

3/22 Friday...

Scripture Reading: Galatians 4:1-7

Prayer Focus: Father God, thank you for calling me your son or daughter.

Key Question: What does it mean to be an adopted son or daughter of the Father?

3/23 Sabbath Day...

Enjoy the goodness of God's presence throughout this day.

3/24 Sunday Preparation...

Scripture Reading: John 14:15-27

Prayer Focus: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, help me experience your power and presence today as I offer you the worship and praise that you are due.

WEEKLY MEETING WEEK TWO:

1. This past week, our reading focused upon the person of the Father within the Trinity. When you think about God, do you relate to God or understand God as Father? Discuss.

2. Read Isaiah 64:1-12.

The Israelites ask for divine power to be displayed in the midst of their adversaries. Why, according to the passage, have the adversaries come to exist in the life of Israel? Considering the evidences in the passage and using extra-biblical sources, is the punishment just? When you think about the Father, do passages such as this influence your thinking toward a God who punishes? Discuss.

3. In the second half of the passage starting at verse 8, there is a point of reference to God as Father. What does this image say about our relationship to God, and God's relationship to us? How might the remainder of the passage in verses 9-12 be an appeal to the Father's heart?

4. What is your experience and understanding of the role of a father, and how does this play into your own interpretations of God the Father? Discuss as a group.

Is it possible that when we think of the Father as being either a just/punishing Father or a loving/benevolent Father, we have unfairly painted our own human experiences/understanding upon the Father God? Is there a balance to be struck between the two? Discuss.

5. Read Luke 15:20-32.

How does this passage combine both the love of the Father's heart and the sense of being just? How might the passage influence our deeper understanding of the Father?

WEEK THREE: **THE POWER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT.**



Weekday Readings...

On Sunday we learned more about the power of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit brings power into our relationship with the Father and Son. The Spirit comes and dwells within us, changing our hearts, minds, will, emotions – it's an inside out kind of change. Along with the change in us that shapes us to be more like Jesus, come gifts, grace, and power to live the Christian life.

The Holy Spirit is the most forgotten, least related to, most misunderstood person of the Trinity. Christians believe that the Holy Spirit is only for certain groups/denominations, when the witness of Scripture points to the Holy Spirit's desire to not only live within us, but vitalize our relationship with the Father and Son. This week, PLUG-IN!



WEEKDAY READINGS WEEK THREE: THE POWER OF THE SPIRIT.

3/25 Monday...

Scripture Reading: Genesis 1:1-2

Prayer Focus: Holy Spirit, you have been active since the beginning – praise be to you.

Key Question: Why is it important that the Holy Spirit is equal with the Father+Son?

3/26 Tuesday...

Scripture Reading: Judges 13:21-25, 14:5-6

Prayer Focus: Spirit of the Living God, grant me power today to live for you.

Key Question: How might God grant me more power/strength in my life?

3/27 Wednesday...

Scripture Reading: Luke 4:1-13, 10:1-12

Prayer Focus: Holy Spirit you have dwelled in human flesh in Jesus, please do so in me.

Key Question: When have I experienced the Spirit's power to overcome temptation?

3/28 Thursday...

Scripture Reading: Acts 2:1-13, 42-47

Prayer Focus: Spirit of Truth, set your Church free that we might fulfill our purpose.

Key Question: Where is God's Spirit moving among the Church today?

3/29 Friday...

Scripture Reading: 1 Corinthians 12:1-11

Prayer Focus: Holy Spirit, reveal to me the gifts you have equipped me with for others.

Key Question: What are the spiritual gifts God has given me?

(Hint: use an inventory at revolutionky.org/resources if you need help ☺)

3/30 Sabbath Day...

Enjoy the goodness of God's presence throughout this day.

3/31 Sunday Preparation...

Scripture Reading: Genesis 2:18-25

Prayer Focus: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, help me experience your power and presence today as I offer you the worship and praise that you are due.

WEEKLY MEETING WEEK THREE:

1. This past week, our reading focused upon the person of the Holy Spirit within the Trinity. Describe your understanding and experience of the Holy Spirit. Do you agree with the introduction to this week's reading that the Holy Spirit is oft forgotten in our faith journey? Discuss.

2. Read Luke 4:1-13.

Jesus, fresh off his baptism, goes into the desert with the power of the Holy Spirit. How does the Holy Spirit operate in our baptism, and why is this important for our life in God?

In the temptation account, how is the Holy Spirit at work in Jesus? When you face temptations in your life, how have you sought the Holy Spirit's help + guidance? If you haven't done so, why is there some reluctance on your part to seek the Holy Spirit's aid?

3. **Read Luke 10:1-12.** After Jesus has done ministry for and with the people for a while, he commissions the disciples to go do the ministry themselves. What is the role of the Holy Spirit in this first mission? Do you think of yourself as a minister to the world around you? Do you believe that Jesus would have you do the same miracles, teaching, and signs he did because you have been filled with the same Spirit? Discuss as a group.

4. Would Christianity change if the Holy Spirit were more active in our churches today? Why or why not? What would be the fruit or outcome of this? How might we as ministers of the Kingdom seek to be filled with the Holy Spirit for the power to do this?

5. Take time to pray as a group for a fresh infilling of God's Spirit. If anyone is sick or hurting, be sure to pray for them individually and lay a hand on their head.



WEEK FOUR: THE TRINITY IN CREATION: GOD CREATES SPACE FOR RELATIONSHIP.



Weekday Readings...

In the beginning...

Who knew these three words were so radical when they were written, and would be so hotly contested in the years that followed? We tend to focus on how and when God created, and in the process miss the reality that God DID create. Why? Space and time give us a context, a construct, and a canvas by which life and relationship outside of God emerge. Father, Son, and Spirit have always existed, and in the beginning, God created something more and outside God's being. That radical notion of God making space for us should still grip us and bring us to our knees in worship and thanksgiving of our Creator God.

As we begin to enter into Spring, we will begin to see and experience the beginning glimpses of new creation all over again. Take the time this week to read Scripture and reflect on it while enjoying the wonder of God's creation. Who knows...it may just bring you to your knees in thanksgiving and worship.



WEEKDAY READINGS

WEEK FOUR: TRINITY + CREATION.

4/1 Monday...

Scripture Reading: Genesis 1:1-8

Prayer Focus: Father, Son, and Spirit, thank you for giving us this wonderful creation.

Key Question: Where is there light and darkness in my life?

4/2 Tuesday...

Scripture Reading: Genesis 1:9-13

Prayer Focus: Father, Son, and Spirit, as spring is upon us, let new life bloom in me.

Key Question: What new life might God plant in me during this season of Lent?

4/3 Wednesday...

Scripture Reading: Genesis 1:14-23

Prayer Focus: Holy God, I praise you for the heavenly lights to mark work + rest in my life.

Key Question: How am I finding rest in the weekly grind of life?

4/4 Thursday...

Scripture Reading: Genesis 1:24-27

Prayer Focus: Father, Son, and Spirit, thank you for creating me in your image.

Key Question: What does it mean to be created in the image of God?

4/5 Friday...

Scripture Reading: Genesis 1:28-2:3

Prayer Focus: Loving God, help me to fulfill your command of being a good steward of creation.

Key Question: How am I being a good steward of creation as commanded by God in Genesis 1:28-30?

4/6 Sabbath Day...

Enjoy the goodness of God's presence throughout this day.

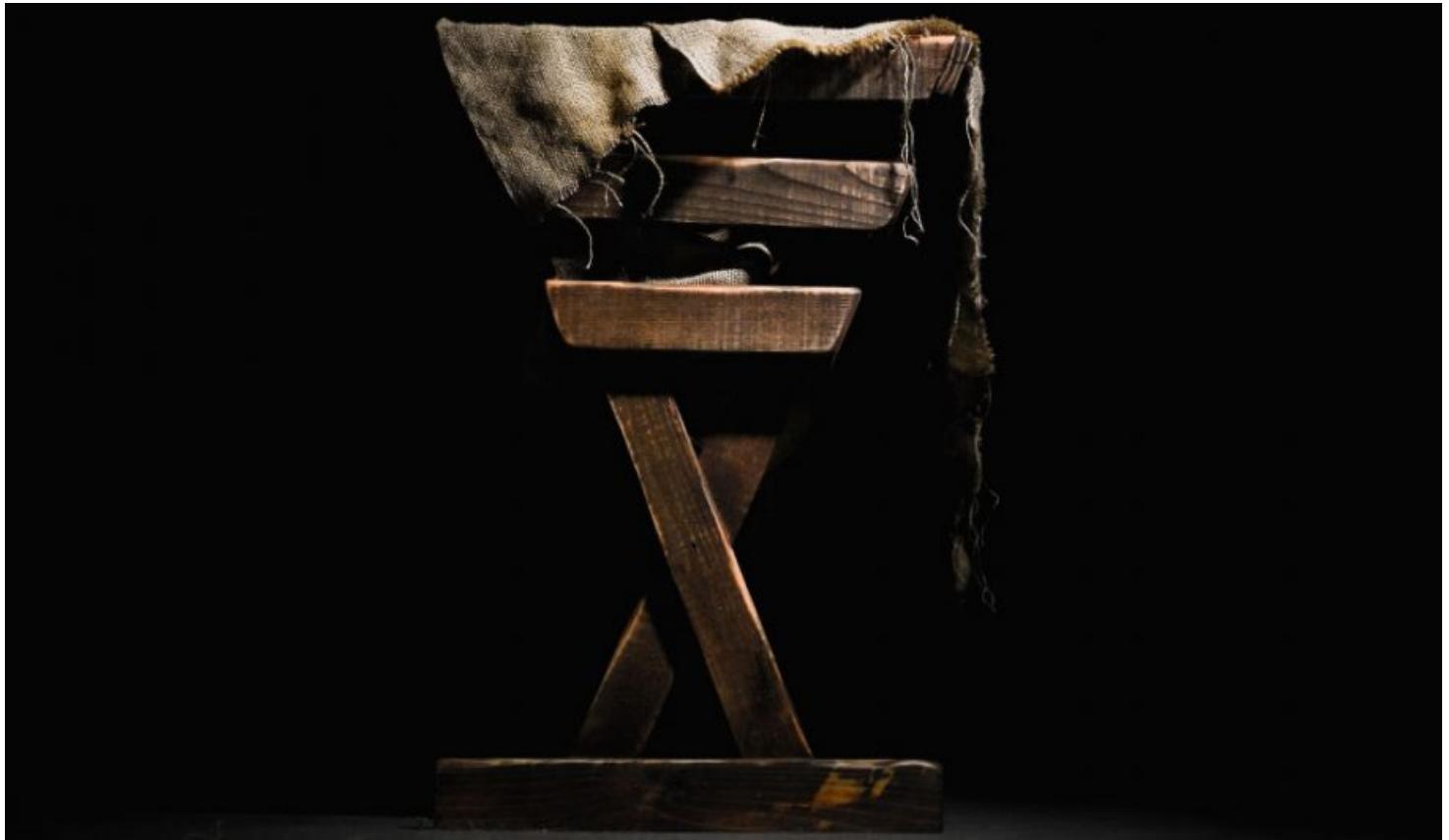
4/7 Sunday Preparation...

Scripture Reading: John 3:16-20

Prayer Focus: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, help me experience your power and presence today as I offer you the worship and praise that you are due.

**W E E K L Y M E E T I N G
W E E K F O U R -
N O M E E T I N G S P R I N G B R E A K**

WEEK FIVE: TRINITY+INCARNATION: GOD IS ACTIVE.



Weekday Readings...

It's likely that you have wondered from time to time... "Does God care?"

At the heart of the question is a doubt or fear that God doesn't actively intervene in our lives. It isn't that he isn't real...it's that he doesn't really engage. The philosophical idea behind this is called *deism (dee-ism)*, the notion that God exists but doesn't interact within creation. For some, this is easier to believe because a prayer went unanswered, a loved one was lost, or at a time when God was needed...life didn't turn out as expected or desired.

The hard part about deism is that there's just too much biblical evidence that this isn't true. How do we know? John 3:16-20 tells us that the Trinity had a divine plan conceived in the idea of the love of a Father, the power of the Spirit, and the activity of the Son to become flesh and blood and intervene in the world. The incarnation (literally meaning "to enflesh") of the Son, a willingness to undergo a permanent change that was conditioned by space and time, and the desire to experience human life for all of its joys and heartaches is God's greatest answer to the question, "Do you care God?" The incarnation of Jesus Christ is the Triune answer to us... "Yes, my beloved son or daughter...YES I DO."

Holy Week is rapidly approaching, and as it does, make this the week that you pour out your needs and cares to him.



WEEKDAY READINGS

WEEK FIVE: GOD IS ACTIVE.

4/8 Monday...

Scripture Reading: Isaiah 7:10-17

Prayer Focus: Thank you Father for the gift of the Son, Immanuel, God with us.

Key Question: Reflect on some reasons why you miss seeing God's presence in your life.

4/9 Tuesday...

Scripture Reading: Isaiah 40:1-11

Prayer Focus: Comfort me O God, and help me know today of your tender care.

Key Question: Where are you seeing God's work in your life during this time of Lent?

4/10 Wednesday...

Scripture Reading: John 1:1-18

Prayer Focus: Praise be to you Lord Jesus for being the light that shines in the darkness.

Key Question: What darkness, sin, or struggle exists in my life?

4/11 Thursday...

Scripture Reading: Hebrews 4:14-16

Prayer Focus: Incarnate Jesus, you know my struggles. Help me to live the Christian life.

Key Question: Knowing Jesus understands your struggles, how will you seek him in prayer?

4/12 Friday...

Scripture Reading: Romans 8:1-11

Prayer Focus: Thank you Almighty God for the Son who became flesh to set me free.

Key Question: What sin can I give over to God today that I might be free from it?

4/13 Sabbath Day...

Enjoy the goodness of God's presence throughout this day.

4/14 Sunday Preparation...

Scripture Reading: Mark 15:33-41

Prayer Focus: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, help me experience your power and presence today as I offer you the worship and praise that you are due.

WEEKLY MEETING WEEK FIVE:

1. This past week, our reading focused upon the incarnation of the Son. Is the Christmas miracle of the Son of God becoming Jesus of Nazareth an easy or difficult miracle to believe?

Discuss as a group.

2. Read John 1:1-18.

Last week you read extensively the creation accounts in Genesis 1+2. Why did John choose to begin writing his gospel in this similar manner? In what way do a reading of John 1 followed by John 20 reveal new life or new creation – an important theme through John’s Gospel?

Why is it significant that John makes the statement about the Word being God and with God in the beginning? What does this reveal about the true identity of Jesus?

3. Another theme in John is the idea of light and darkness. What does John say about light and darkness in John 1:9-13? How is this further evidence of what you learned last Sunday, namely that God cares deeply about people?

Why do people tend to reject the true light?

How have you rejected the true light in your life lately?

4. Read Hebrews 4:4-16.

Does this passage encourage you to know that Jesus sympathizes with us in our weakness? How so? Do you tend to pray when you are tempted or weak? How can you apply this in your prayer life? What systems of accountability exist within your life for your sins and struggles?

5. What are the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit teaching you during this Lenten Season? How can the group encourage, pray for, and help one another so as to be a reflection of the incarnate love of Jesus Christ for one another?

WEEK SIX: TRINITY+ATONEMENT: GOD SUFFERS TOO.



Weekday Readings...

“I hurt.”

“I’m in a great deal of pain.”

“This is agony.”

“They are gone.”

“My life will never be the same.”

Part of human life is suffering. We’ve all suffered to one degree or another, and some have suffered more than us. People wonder, “Does God care about my suffering? Does God get it? Do the Father, Son, and Spirit, understand my pain?” In a word...yes.

How do we know that? The cross. While the physical agony was upon the Son, the Father and Spirit experience profound grief over the loss of the Son. The Triune God’s collective experience with suffering, loss, and death is our human experience. Why was God willing to do this? To identify with the people whom God created, loves, and wants to redeem from sin and death.

Holy Week now begins. While you read, consider what the Father, Son, and Spirit all experienced during this week.



WEEKDAY READINGS

WEEK SIX: GOD SUFFERS TOO.

4/15 Monday...

Scripture Reading: John 12:1-11

Prayer Focus: Prepare me this week, O God, to see the mystery of your life + death.

Key Question: How can I serve Jesus during this Holy Week?

4/16 Tuesday...

Scripture Reading: John 12:20-36

Prayer Focus: Lord Jesus, help me to follow your call to come and die.

Key Question: What would Jesus have me surrender during this Holy Week?

4/17 Wednesday...

Scripture Reading: John 13:21-32

Prayer Focus: Lord Jesus, reveal to me where I have betrayed or sinned against you.

Key Question: What persons would Jesus have me forgive this Holy Week?

4/18 MAUNDY THURSDAY...

Scripture Reading: John 13:1-17, 31-35

Prayer Focus: Son of the Living God, thank you for modeling humility + grace.

Key Question: Where am I lacking in humility in my life?

4/19 GOOD FRIDAY...

Scripture Reading: John 19:1-42

Prayer Focus: Thank you Almighty God for your plan of divine mercy to set me free from sin and death. I renounce my sin and ask you to be Lord of my life.

Key Question: Have I submitted my life to Jesus Christ?

4/20 Sabbath Day...

Enjoy the goodness of God's presence throughout this day.

4/21 EASTER SUNDAY...

Scripture Reading: John 20:1-18

Prayer Focus: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, help me experience your power and presence today as I offer you the worship and praise that you are due.

**WEEKLY MEETING
WEEK SIX**

**NO RENOVATION GROUP MEETINGS -
HOLY WEEK.**

**MAUNDY THURSDAY - 7:00 PM
(INTERACTIVE WORSHIP)**

**GOOD FRIDAY - 7:00 PM
(TENEBRAE WORSHIP)**

EASTER SUNDAY - 9:20 + 11:00 AM

WEEKLY MEETING FOR THE WEEK FOLLOWING EASTER SUNDAY (4.21-4.27)

1. Having walked through Lent, how has your understanding, depth of the knowledge, and ability to relate to the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit grown or changed?

What were the unanticipated joys along the way? What questions remain for you?

2. Read John 14:1-6.

What invitation do you hear in the passage? How have you experienced+entered into the invitation?

Is Jesus speaking of life to come or life now? How does our answer to whether the invitation is for now or later affect our present life with the Father, Son, and Spirit?

3. Read John 20:1-18

How is Mary's mistaking Jesus' presence for the gardener a clue about what the Father, Son, and Spirit have done in the resurrection? How does seeing Jesus as a gardener mirror Genesis 1+2?

What invitation do you hear in this passage? How have you entered into this invitation?

Jesus says something peculiar in 20:17. He tells Mary not to cling to him because he has not yet ascended to the Father. Why would he say this? What are the implications of it?

4. Now that we move into the Easter-tide season (the season following Easter until Pentecost), how will you live into the new and resurrection life that comes through the Son, to be part of the Father's family, in the power of the Holy Spirit?

What required changes are needed in your life?

How can the group encourage or help you in your journey?

5. Spend time together as a group in prayer to close the study, taking specific prayer requests and inviting the power of the Holy Spirit to come and fill one another.