



**Holy
Week**



DEVOTIONAL

A NOTE FOR FAMILIES

We're excited to walk through Holy Week together as a church family. We believe the story of the cross is meant to be heard by the whole family, and we're here to help bring that to all generations.

As you read these daily reflections together, you may encounter concepts that feel a bit heavy or complex for younger ears. To help you navigate these moments, we have provided a Family Glossary. Think of these as "bridges" - simple ways to translate profound truths so that every member of your household can participate in the conversation.

OUR FAMILY GLOSSARY

JUSTIFIED	Being made right with God; just as if I never sinned
UNJUSTIFIED	Not right; not okay; being separated from God.
SUFFERING	Feeling extreme pain or very deep sadness.
COMPLETION OF WRATH	Jesus taking all of God's "rightful anger" at sin so we don't have to
ETERNAL DEBT	A price we owed for our mistakes that we could never pay ourselves
ETERNAL FREEDOM	Being free forever from the power of sin.
ETERNAL / PARADISE	Forever and ever. A place of perfect joy with Jesus that never ends.
STRESS AND ANXIETY	Big feelings of fear or worry.
LIFE'S DAILY STRUGGLES	The hard or difficult times we face each day.
MOCKED	To be mean or make fun of someone.

To prepare your hearts as you walk through this devotional, scan the QR code to listen to a playlist with songs crafted for each day.

MONDAY

“Amazing Grace (My Chains Are Gone)”

METRO WORSHIP

TUESDAY

“How Deep The Father’s Love For Us”

ANNA GOLDEN

WEDNESDAY

“Love of God”

PHIL WICKHAM/BRANDON LAKE

THURSDAY

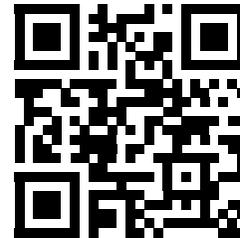
“What He’s Done”

PASSION

FRIDAY

“Gratitude”

ESSENTIAL WORSHIP



MONDAY

GRACE AND MERCY

Day One

This week, we will journey with Jesus to the cross as we prepare our hearts for Good Friday and Easter. We'll unpack some of the final statements of Jesus on the cross, and our prayer is the impact of Jesus' words will center our hearts fully on Him this week.

Our first passage comes from the Gospel of Luke:

LUKE 23:33-35

And when they came to the place that is called The Skull, there they crucified him, and the criminals, one on his right and one on his left. And Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do." And they cast lots to divide his garments. And the people stood by, watching, but the rulers scoffed at him, saying, "He saved others; let him save himself, if he is the Christ of God, his Chosen One!"

Someone once described God's grace and mercy as two sides of the same coin. God's grace is His undeserved love and kindness towards us as sinners, while His mercy is His undeserved compassion by withholding the judgment we

deserve for our sin. Here on the cross, while Jesus became the final sacrifice for sin and His blood ran down the beams of the cross, Jesus made an amazing statement. He pleaded with God the Father to show mercy, grace, and forgiveness over the very individuals who just beat Him, spit on Him, mocked Him, and nailed Him to that cross. What divine grace and mercy!

The truth is, we're all sinners in need of God's grace and mercy. And only the blood of Jesus could finish the job to eternally forgive our sins. That when we trust in Jesus through faith, instead of receiving God's wrath for our sin, we receive His eternal grace, mercy, love, and forgiveness.

As the Apostle Paul proclaimed:

EPHESIANS 2:4-5

But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved.

PRAYERFUL REFLECTION

Take time to reflect, pray, and thank the Lord regarding His daily grace and mercy given to us as Christians through faith in Jesus.

FAMILY DISCUSSION

When was a time when someone showed you kindness and forgiveness when you thought you didn't deserve it?

Based on what we just learned about Jesus, how would you describe God's grace and mercy to a friend at school or in the community?

TUESDAY

THE JUST WRATH OF GOD

Day Two

The word “wrath” describes a person’s emotional response to injustice or wrongdoing, often translated as extreme anger. As human beings, our wrath can sometimes be sinful and unjustified. But when it comes to God, His wrath is always justified and holy, including towards sin. Today, we focus on the moment the full wrath of God was poured out on Jesus for our sins.

Our first passage comes from Matthew:

MATTHEW 27:45-46

Now from the sixth hour there was darkness over all the land until the ninth hour. And about the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, “Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?” that is, “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?”

Matthew noted that from the sixth hour to the ninth hour, 12 - 3 PM, darkness came over all the land. In this dark period is when we infer Jesus became

the sin-offering for the world. When Jesus experienced, for the first time since eternity past, being forsaken by the Father, and as the Father’s wrath for our sin was poured out on Jesus, it became so overwhelming that Jesus cried out in a loud voice, “My God, My God, why have you forsaken Me?”

This moment connects to the anguish Jesus experienced in the Garden of Gethsemane, where he prayed to the Father:

LUKE 22:42

“Father, if you are willing, remove this cup from me. Nevertheless, not my will, but yours, be done.”

How humbling and marvelous that Jesus chose to bear all of God’s wrath for you and me. Today, remember that only because of Jesus, the just wrath that should have been placed on you and me for our sin was placed on Jesus.

PRAYERFUL REFLECTION

Take time to reflect, pray, and thank the Lord regarding the sacrifice of Jesus and how He chose to bear the wrath of our sin on the cross.

FAMILY DISCUSSION

When was a time when you got really angry over something? Looking back, was it appropriate for you to get that angry?

How should the understanding that Jesus took on God’s wrath for our sin on the cross impact our daily gratitude and worship to the Lord?

WEDNESDAY

THE SELFLESS LOVE OF JESUS

Day Three

A statement of Jesus on the cross that often gets missed or forgotten are the words He said to His disciple, whom we believe was most likely John, regarding the ongoing care of his mother, Mary.

Our first passage comes from John:

JOHN 19:26-27

When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing nearby, he said to his mother, "Woman, behold, your son!" Then he said to the disciple, "Behold, your mother!" And from that hour the disciple took her to his own home.

How amazing that as Jesus was going through the intense

physical, emotional, mental, and spiritual suffering of bearing our sin on the cross, He selflessly looked out for Mary. Jesus made sure that John would take care of His mother upon His death, and that John would also care for His mother after His resurrection and ascension. Even in the hours of intense suffering, Jesus demonstrated selfless love towards Mary. This was all while ultimately, Jesus was showing the ultimate selfless act of love towards Mary and John, by dying on the cross for their sin.

As God's Word declares:

ROMANS 5:8

But God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

PRAYERFUL REFLECTION

Take time to reflect, pray, and thank the Lord for the selfless love He gives us each day, especially that He ultimately demonstrated His love by sending Jesus to die for us.

FAMILY DISCUSSION

Read Romans 5:8 again. What about that verse sticks out to you regarding God's selfless love towards us?

The Bible teaches that we love because God first loved us. What's one way this Easter week you can show selfless love towards a family member, friend, or neighbor?

THURSDAY

ETERNAL FREEDOM IN JESUS

Day Four

Most Christians have a favorite Bible verse or passage that is dear to their hearts as God used that portion of Scripture to transform their life. I often say the greatest three words in all of history (one word in the original Greek language) are these words of Jesus in His final moment on the cross:

Our first passage comes from John:

JOHN 19:30

“He said, “It is finished,” and he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

When Jesus knew the completion of the wrath of the Father poured out on Him for our sin was complete, He cried out, “IT IS FINISHED!” That moment, the eternal debt and

penalty due for our sin was literally paid in full by Jesus on the cross. As believers in Jesus Christ, praise God we can walk in the eternal freedom of Christ, as our past, present, and even future sins have been washed clean by the blood of Jesus. May we never forget those beautiful words of Jesus that remind us of our daily freedom in Him, IT IS FINISHED! And every time an unbeliever repents of their sin and trusts in Jesus, they also become a free, new creation in Christ!

Our second passage comes from 2 Corinthians:

2 CORINTHIANS 5:17

If anyone is in Christ, He is a new creation, the old has gone, the new has come!

PRAYERFUL REFLECTION

Take time to reflect, pray, and thank the Lord for our eternal freedom in Jesus, and when it comes to the forgiveness of our sin, “it is finished”!

FAMILY DISCUSSION

There are many things in our lives that can cause stress and anxiety at times (work, schoolwork, relationships, sickness, etc.). How do the words of Jesus, “it is finished”, bring peace in the midst of life’s daily struggles?

How should a Christian’s eternal freedom in Jesus impact our witness to the lost?

FRIDAY

JESUS' MISSION TO SAVE US

Day Five

As we have reached Good Friday, let's close our devotion week by focusing on the amazing moment on the cross, when Jesus literally saved the criminal next to him.

Our first passage comes from the Gospel of Luke:

LUKE 23:39-43

One of the criminals who were hanged railed at him, saying, "Are you not the Christ? Save yourself and us!" But the other rebuked him, saying, "Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? And we indeed justly, for we are receiving the due reward of our deeds; but this man has done nothing wrong." And he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." And he said to him, "Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in paradise."

After one of the criminals mocked Jesus, the other acknowledged his sin and Jesus as his Savior when, through faith, he asked Jesus to remember him as Jesus entered the Kingdom of Heaven in victory over sin and death. So, just soak this in - while literally dying for this man's sins, Jesus forgave him and gave him the eternal security that the moment he died, he would be with Jesus forever in the paradise of heaven. Wow - how powerful, that even up to His last breath on the cross, Jesus continued to live out His mission that He declared was:

Our second passage comes from Luke:

LUKE 19:10

For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost.

PRAYERFUL REFLECTION

Take time to reflect, pray, and thank the Lord that Jesus came with the mission to seek and save us, as we all are like the criminal on the cross, sinners in desperate need of Jesus.

FAMILY DISCUSSION

What went through your mind and heart as you read that story about the criminal next to Jesus - that Jesus saved him while they both hung on their crosses?

Because of his faith in Jesus, the criminal was promised to be forever in "paradise with Jesus in heaven". What are you most excited about when it comes to one day being forever with Jesus in heaven?

