

# Come to Christ



## Easter Reading Guide 2025

“Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.”

Matthew 11:28-30 NIV



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Indian Nations Baptist Church  
Santalo, Oklahoma  
Est. 1975

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## 40 Days of Preparation Celebrate Christ's Resurrection

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### Need help or accountability?

Strengthen your community:

- ⇒ Attend Wednesday Night Bible Study—the group will be discussing the readings each week—in-person or ZOOM
  - ⇒ Ask someone from church or a strong Christian friend to let you check in with them each week.
  - ⇒ Start a group text with a few people about your reflections and/or prayer requests as you work through the guide.
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### Instructions:

- Set aside a daily time to read and reflect personally. *Suggestion:* One day a week, join with family and/or friends for this time, if you can't attend Wednesday Night Bible Study.
- Begin with prayer for understanding, an open heart to hear God, and peace for honest reflection.
- Read the scripture passage; list questions on things you don't understand or want to understand more fully. Talk with a church leader about your questions.
- Read the daily reflection and write down your thoughts and answers. Groups can discuss the questions.
- Consider sharing/discussing your answers with someone from church.
- Write down personal prayer requests. Pray about your reflections and for requests from church family. If comfortable, share your request(s) with someone and/or the church family.
- Don't give up if you miss a day; let this guide encourage your daily Bible reading and study.

# Come to Christ – March 5

**Wednesday** Matthew 11:28-30

Jesus invites us to himself and to know and follow him. In coming to Jesus, we must recognize our need for him, willingly enter into his service, and learn from him. This season, we will journey together to consider how we can rest in Him while taking up his ‘yoke’.

What is the difference between knowing and being acquainted with someone? What is His yoke? Compare His yoke to the one you are or have carried of your own making. How are you encouraged to rest in Him today?

**Thursday** Ephesians 1:3-6

The Father has blessed, chosen, predestined, adopted, and accepted us. Take a moment to consider each of these actions and how you it affects you. Through sending His son, Jesus, for us, we learn how God loves and values us.

What do these verses say is His purpose? Does knowing the Father has a purpose that includes you encourage you to rest in Him? Something we must do is recognize any limitations we put upon ourselves in truly following him. Have you tried to put conditions on your following of God? “Once this happens, I’ll. . .” “As long as I can still. . ., then. . .” “I can’t do that until. . .”

**Friday** Ephesians 1:7-12

The Beloved Son has redeemed, forgiven, enlightened, and given an inheritance to us. Take a moment to consider each of these actions and how you it affects you. Although Jesus’ ‘yoke is easy’ we can struggle to serve him. In coming to him, we can see all that he calls us to do is beneficial to us. In what ways do we need Christ? In what manner do we need to come to Christ?

**Saturday** Ephesians 1:13-14

The Holy Spirit has sealed and assured you. Take a moment to consider each of these actions and how you it affects you. God, the Holy Spirit’s continual presence gives us assurance, security, and is a ‘first installment’ of an inheritance given to us by God. We haven’t done anything to deserve, earn, or secure anything from God.

Reflecting on this week’s verses, we can see how much God truly loves us and makes us His own. How does the Holy Spirit’s presence in your life encourage you to rest in Him?

“Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.



Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.”

Matthew 11:28-30

# Trust in Christ – March 9

## Monday Proverbs 3:1-8

As we learn more about God from the Bible and through Christian fellowship, application of this truth to our lives is important. Our actions reflect what we believe and value. To our shame, there are times our actions and thoughts do not accept God’s teaching because we lean on (trust) our own understanding. We may be doing “good things” but still be leaning on our own reasoning and abilities, fall into old patterns of problem solving or living in order to comfort ourselves, remain comfortable in our lifestyle, and/or to control our life. What gets in your way of trusting in Him? To trust Him, we also have to realize and recognize any distrust that arises in our lives. Do you find yourself setting aside God’s calling and leading. What actions, thoughts, and/or commitments can show our distrust in some part of God’s teaching? How are you encouraged to trust in Him?

## The Shema

**Hear, O Israel, the Lord our G-d; the Lord is one**

אֶחָד	יְהוָה	יְהוָה	אֵל	יְהוָה	אֵל	יִשְׂרָאֵל	שְׁמַע
(2)   (1)	(1)	(4)   (3)   (2)   (1)	(1)	(3)   (2)   (1)	(2)   (1)	(2)   (1)	
e-chad	Adonai	e-lo-hey-nu	Adonai	yis-ra-el	she-ma'		
(is) one LORD		our God	The LORD	O Israel	Hear!		

## Tuesday Deuteronomy 6:1-3

God wants us to have a good life. His purposes toward us and commands always have purpose – purpose that blesses us. What are the purposes you see in these verses? What do we receive? Take a moment to consider how His purposes and blessings encourage you to trust Him – trust in Christ.

## Wednesday Deuteronomy 6:4-9

Our God is One – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. In these verses, we are given several commands. List them and explain why they are important for us and to help us love God with an all-encompassing love.

Last week, we considered what each person of the Trinity has done for us. When thinking about loving God with your whole self, how does God’s actions and purposes stir us to love Him with an all-encompassing love? How are you encouraged to trust in Him?

## Thursday Deuteronomy 6:10-12

God blesses us; let's remember that the Christian-walk is more than getting blessings and being good. We must reflect on God's purposes and how He includes us in them. What is the importance of the caution in verse 12? How do the commands in yesterday's verses help us to remember all God has done for us? How are you encouraged to trust in Him?

## Friday Deuteronomy 6:13-19

Follow God because he is a holy and just. At times, we can forget God's love for us, the truth of His word, and the perfectness of His will and purposes. We glean teaching from people and sources around us that don't follow Him, which can lead to forgetting Him and not believing wholly in His word. In Exodus 17, the Israelites began to riot and even wanted to stone Moses because they didn't find drinking water. They forgot that God had been providing for them – their faith and trust waned. They even asked, "Is the LORD among us or not?" List traits of God's character. How do these traits encourage us to remember who our God is? How do they encourage us to trust Him and not get to the point where we ask "Is the LORD among us or not?"

## Saturday Deuteronomy 6:20-25

God is faithful. Reading about His faithfulness to His Israelite people should remind us of His love for us but also His holiness and righteousness. How has God been faithful to you? How are you encouraged to love God with your whole self? List reasons you are able to trust in Him.

# Weariness and Burdens – March 16

What are things that make us weary? What burdens do we carry? We can list many things: problems, relationships, hardships, consequences of our actions, responsibilities, relationships, etc. This week, we are going to consider suffering and put it in light of God's purpose and will.

## Monday 1 Peter 1:3-9

We suffer **various trials** – how do we see them in light of God's working in our lives? First, place God's work on our behalf front and center to remember to praise Him. There are reasons for our suffering—maybe we cast blame, seek some kind of vengeance, look for excuses, etc. **CAREFUL!** God can use suffering to refine you, making you more holy and trusting of Him. Remembering that our inheritance is eternal, we begin to see suffering is temporary. What is God's promise to us in verse 9? Listen to a hymn or song that speaks of God's faithfulness during trials.



## Tuesday 1 Peter 2:18-25

Suffering can come under the actions of **unjust authority**. When we've been wronged in this manner, it can seem overwhelming because it effects so much of our life. Our example for responding shouldn't be people encouraging equal repayment – evil for evil. Our example is Christ in His suffering. Responding with good is not a passive action. Our feelings and desires that need to be made holy in these times certainly are proof that responding with good is not passive. From this passage, describe Christ's suffering. What was His purpose? God is just; how do we entrust ourselves to Him? How do we see this type of suffering in light of God's work in our lives?

## Wednesday 1 Peter 3:13-17

Circumstances can arise when you suffer for **doing what is right**. Early Christians were called people haters because they wouldn't participate in pagan festivals and beliefs, atheists because they held Christ as Lord and not Caesar, and immoral because people thought they literally ate flesh and drank blood. Unbelievers of that time were influenced by the story of Oedipus, so they even believed the Christian "brothers and sisters" relationship was sexual. Yikes!

### Oedipus Rex

A Greek tragic story of powerful king Oedipus who can't escape the fate the gods have set for him.

Despite his efforts to avoid a dreadful prophecy, **Oedipus** was doomed from birth. Sealing his fate, he unwittingly kills his father and marries his mother.

Isaiah 8:13 says, "The Lord Almighty is the one you are to regard as holy, he is the one you are to dread."

Knowing who our God is, you can give a confident reply when people try to slander or shame you. We need to be careful not to misunderstand the instructions here. Our desire should not be to shame people. How do these verses guide a reply to someone persecuting us for doing good? Are there similar accusations against Christians today? How do we see this type of suffering in light of God's work in our lives?

## Thursday 1 Peter 4:1-11

Our suffering can come as a result of our **NOT wanting to sin**. Christians can face ridicule, slander, and other abuse because they have chosen and strive to live a godly life. In choosing to follow Jesus, we have made a choice against sin. As we grow in our faith, we learn and recognize it more easily, although we don't always turn from it easily. In this passage, Peter emphasizes love for other Christians as a central part of our faith. Our having given up sin ourselves, love toward each other guides our actions. It isn't that we are to be accepting of sin but rather that our Christian love brings us together despite our faults and encourages us toward godliness. We especially need one another in persecution and difficulty. Why is Christian fellowship important for our growth and support? How do we see this type of suffering in light of God's work in our lives?

## Friday 1 Peter 4:12-19

Persecution for the **Christian faith** happens daily and to varying degrees around the world. Christ, always our example, suffered on our behalf, establishing the faith we now have in Him. Suffering for Christ refines us; it is an honor! The passage clearly points out that suffering due to sinful behavior is shameful. As yesterday's passage pointed out, we must be sober (clear) minded about ourselves. Is it easy to continue to do good when you know it will lead to suffering? How do we trust our lives to God in the midst of persecution and suffering? Have you praised God for your suffering before? How do we see this type of suffering in light of God's work in our lives?

## Saturday 1 Peter 5:6-11

There are times **Satan does attack** us. Remember where your faith is rooted – in our Almighty and all-powerful God. He has also given us a community of brothers and sisters who walk alongside us. Jump in and stay in! It is important not to just jump into the fold when convenient or when in distress; we need the continual support given by Christian brothers and sisters during trials and between them for spiritual growth. Suffering difficulty and persecution can bring shame; how does God lift us in honor? List reasons why we don't give our worries and cares to God. How does God use other Christians to encourage you? How do we see this type of suffering in light of God's work in our lives?



# God's Love in Action – March 23

## Monday 1 John 4:7-12



Always our example, God gave us love and showed us what perfect love is in the giving of His Son. God's actions are done in love, and he is love. Understanding ourselves, it is humbling that our all-powerful, all-knowing, and faithful God loves us. He sees us perfectly and loves us.

Pause a moment to consider His love for you. Now, how then are we to love each other? How do the examples of God's love in this passage guide your actions toward others? Does it stir your desire to draw closer to Him?

“A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.” John 13:34-35

## **Tuesday** 1 John 4:13-16

As Christians, we can be assured of God's love because we have been given salvation through Jesus Christ and the presence of the Holy Spirit in our lives. There are times we need this reminder. God loved us, so we love Him. From this passage, what is the indicator of our love for God? How is God's love to reflect in our lives (actions, purpose, intents, desires, etc.)? Are you struggling with assurance of your faith? What can you do to seek encouragement in your faith?

## **Wednesday** 1 John 4:17-21

To be able to stand before God confidently, we must know Jesus as our Savior and live like Him. Even though we live in this sinful world and all it brings, we don't belong to it because God has made us His own through Jesus' work on the cross. What does it mean for our fear to be gone? If we say we love God, but live as we want, where are we placing our faith? How does God's love give you confidence in sharing your faith with others? In suffering difficulties or persecution?

♥ **Christian Love in Action** ♥

## **Thursday** Philemon 1-7

In this letter to Philemon, Paul is reaching out to a faithful Christian brother. Paul also addresses the devoted Christians Apphia, Archippus, and the church that meets in Philemon's home. From this introduction, we see that he is not only a strong believer but also a leader and benefactor. It was normal for wealthier Christians to open their homes as a meeting place for the church. Paul expressed his gratefulness for the love and faith of these people. How do we pray for the ministry of other Christians? How have you been encouraged by the ministry of other people?

## **Friday** Philemon 8-16

It may seem strange to see Paul suggest he could order Philemon to do something. But we understand Paul's position as an elder and leader in the church. He knows Philemon has high social standing and is a man of faith and godly love, which Paul believes will guide his actions. Honesty, humility, and transparency run throughout this letter, wherein Paul advocates for Onesimus. Although the full details of the situation are unknown, we can surmise from this letter and Colossians that Onesimus (common slave name meaning 'useful') most likely ran away and committed another offense. His life had since been transformed by Christ; now he needed restoration to Philemon. We don't know if he was born into Philemon's house, purchased, indentured, or etc. Onesimus' position was lowly but now the Apostle Paul describes him as his son, fellow man, and a dear brother in the Lord. How difficult is the cultural shift that Philemon must make to love Onesimus as Paul does? What areas of our lives need change in light of this passage? Who do you need to exercise God's love toward?



## Saturday Philemon 17-25

Paul models for us here bearing another's burdens. His advocacy for Onesimus and desire to have him return to serve alongside him displays godly love and belief in God's power to change someone. God's work in Onesimus' life displays how God seeks relationship with all people and is willing to honor and uplift even the lowliest. The work of God's love also led Paul to believe the best of others – here, that Philemon would embrace this man he owns, a slave, as a brother in Christ.

Explain how God's love is able to make this appeal successful. How does God's love radically change our view to value of other people? Maintain relationships over our plans? How are you honored by God's love for you?

## Faith – March 30

### Monday Hebrews 11:1-7

Through faith, we embrace the certainty of God's promises, become confident of His power, as well as recognize and trust in His divine design. It is amazing to consider the faith of the people listed in this chapter. Yet, living through the development of our own faith can be daunting at times. Why do we need to remember the work God did through other people? How does knowing that God has a divine plan encourage you?



### Tuesday Hebrews 11:8-22

In this section of the chapter, we see people acting on God's promises. We can look back on their lives and see how they ultimately trusted in God's plan. If you go back and read the accounts of their lives, we also see that they struggled, just as we do today.

Look back on your life; how has God worked, been faithful, and fulfilled His promises to you? How have you been part of His divine design?

### Wednesday Hebrews 11:23-40

The phrase 'by faith' leads us through the brief accounts of people's lives, which includes a lot of suffering as well as victory and fulfillment of God's promises. All these accounts point to Christ, who is esteemed above all and ultimate fulfillment of God's love, promises, and grace.

#### **The Body of Christ:**

Followers of Christ—the local church, the universal church; the term refers to a congregation or the whole Church. Each member having at least one spiritual gift to use in service to the Lord.

How are we tied to these people? How do their victories and sufferings encourage you to be faithful? Does your understanding of faith include both victory and difficulty?

## Thursday James 1:2-11

Our faith will be tested. God is able to provide the wisdom and everything we need in order to endure. At times, we seek God's help, protection, and provision yet do not walk in it because doubt creeps in. Doubt divides our heart. Just when we need to step into faith, we may instead embrace a plan of our own – a plan that leads us away from God's calling and purposes for our life.

When have you taken joy in a time of trouble? How does doubt divide our



hearts? Are you struggling with doubt in your life? When have you stepped away from God's purposes and calling? What was/is the result? God is faithful and wants to uplift you, even if the world sees you as lowly. What do you need to trust Him with today?

## Friday James 1:12-18

We are blessed when we endure temptation. Throughout trials and suffering, we need to take the opportunity to express grateful to God for His faithfulness and the growth He will bring to our lives.

Knowing that God is faithful and, unlike us, does not fall into sin, we can be confident in His presence and help when facing temptation.

From these verses, where does temptation come from? Why do we need to recognize and acknowledge its source? What results from temptation that is embraced? What are you grateful for during this season of your life?

## Saturday James 2:14-26

Actions reflect what we believe. You sit in a chair because you believe it will hold you. When the temperatures drop, you cover outdoor pipes because you want to protect your home. You report to work when scheduled because it is important to you. These everyday actions display the importance of maintenance, use of skills, investment, contribution, etc. Our faith and action should also have everyday importance because they display that our faith in Christ Jesus is more than belief.

What does it mean that our faith is perfected by works? We are made righteous by God; how do our actions reflect this incredible gift? Does active and regular service alongside other Christians matter? Why?

### Matthew 7:21-23

"Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. Many will say to me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name and in your name drive out demons and in your name perform many miracles?' Then I will tell them plainly, 'I never knew you. Away from me, you evildoers!'"

# Walk in Christ—April 6

This week we will examine some evidences that we follow Jesus. Through faith in Christ Jesus, we have been made holy before God – in our daily walk with Him, we are being continually refined inward and outward. It is the process of sanctification.

**Sanctification:** devoting , setting apart of anything to the worship or service of God; the process by which one is made holy

**Holy :** being set apart and dedicated to God, characterized by moral purity, righteousness, and conformity to God's will

## Monday Matthew 5:1-16

**The Beattitudes** relate that even in difficulty we can acknowledge we are blessed. We don't live to earn blessing. Jesus teaches us that we are blessed in our present life and also points to blessings to come. Our daily actions reflect our faith in Jesus to the world.

How does recognizing our need for Him (being poor in spirit) lay a foundation for following Him daily? How does our Christian walk and service reflect in our message to others when sharing our faith with them? How do verses 11-12 encourage you?

## Tuesday Romans 12:1-2

**A transformed mind** expresses a spirit of genuine love and respects God's authority. When teachings from the Bible are difficult to accept, evaluate the reasons why. Sometimes, we just don't understand the context of the passage. But other times it is the guidance we accept. Passively and actively, we accept guidance from TV, social media, movies, etc., that isn't biblical. Also, we may seek guidance from people who do not actively follow Christ or are unbelievers. *These sources* become the means for explaining the world rather than the Bible.

Does scripture challenge your lifestyle and beliefs? Do you fear losing or straining something (habit, activity, relationship(s), etc.) if you follow biblical teaching? If scripture conflict with a belief you have, consider whether its foundation has the same value as scripture. What steps do you need to take? Seek out a faithful Christian to support and pray with you.

## Wednesday 1 Corinthians 13

This passage on **Love** is introduced in the previous chapter about how Christians, although diverse in our people groups and spiritual gifts, are united in Christ. We are meant to come together in love – love for God with our whole being and love for our neighbor as ourselves. The chapter following speaks about using our gifts to serve and minister to one another usefully in love. God the Holy Spirit enables us to live a holy life in love.

From chapter 13, how is love defined? what is the source of love? What is not love? What is love greater than? Why is love greater than faith and hope?

## Thursday Galatians 5:16-26

**Fruit of the Spirit** Through life in the Spirit, Christians are called to be free – but what does that freedom look like? You may have heard someone say something like, ‘How I live is between me and God.’ Usually, such a statement declares a desire to live a self-focused life. Paul points us to the Holy Spirit’s ability to make the best use of our freedom. Our guidance includes loving our neighbor as ourselves.

### Spiritual Gifts

Passage: I Corinthians 12-14

Purpose:

- A gift from God the Holy Spirit for *His* good purposes
- Used for service within the Body of Christ—the church
- Brings unity among and encouragement to believers
- All believers have at least one in varying measure

### Are talents spiritual gifts?

No. Talents are abilities one is physically born with; spiritual gifts are given when we are ‘born again.’ Athleticism, musical talent, artistic skill, etc., are abilities we can use and develop for Christian service.

How do verses 19-21 describe actions that buck against this commandment? Which characteristics in verse 22 relate to our relationships with God, fellow Christians, and ourselves? How do these characteristics help us not become conceited, instigating, or envious of others?

## Friday Philippians 2:1-11

**Humble Unity and Care** Take time to reflect on how God loves you. Consider all He has done and continues to do for you. We cannot help but honor and worship Jesus when we consider his humble birth, ministry, and work upon the cross on our behalf. In this passage, we’re told to love each other humbly in the same manner. Jesus’ humility was not fearful or from intimidation, nor a

sign of inferiority, simplemindedness or being defeated. Pridefulness, arrogance, and asserting oneself over someone is not being humble.

How does Jesus’ humbleness encourage you? How is humbleness active and not passive behavior?

## Saturday Jude 17-25

Here, in this brief letter, we are encouraged to **Hold to truth and Defend the faith** – our obedience to God demonstrates our love. Christians should also not allow false teaching to divide us. In holding to the truth, we also have a responsibility to others. We extend loving mercy to those struggling in their commitment to the truth. To those proclaiming false teachings, mercy is given through prayer, being careful not to embrace false teaching in our care for them. God’s faithfulness is able to keep us secure.

How do the last two verses encourage you to hold to the truth? What do we learn about the future from these verses? Describe how God embodies the qualities listed in verse 25.

## Holy Week Timeline

<b>FRI</b>	<b>Jesus and disciples arrive in Bethany</b>	John 12:1
<b>SAT</b>	<b>Day of Sabbath Rest</b>	
<b>SUN</b>	<b>Triumphal Entry</b>	Mt 21:1-11; Mk 11:1-11; Lk 19:28-44; Jn 12:12-19
<b>MON</b>	<b>Cleansing of the Temple</b>	Mt 21:10-17; Mk 11:15-18; Lk 19:45-48
<b>TUES</b>	<b>Controversy and Teaching</b>	Mt 21:23-24, 51; Mk 11:27-13:37; Lk 20-21:36
<b>WED</b>	<b>Day of Rest</b>	
<b>THU</b>	<b>Passover Begins – Last Supper</b>	Mt 26:17-30; Mk 14:12-26; Lk 22:7-23; Jn 13:1-30
<b>FRI</b>	<b>Arrest — Crucifixion</b>	Mt 27:1-66; Mk 15:1-47; Lk 22:66-23:56; Jn 18:28-19:37
<b>SAT</b>	<b>In the Tomb</b>	
<b>SUN</b>	<b>Resurrection</b>	Mt 28:1-13; Mk 16:1-20; Lk 24:1-49; Jn 20:1-31

## Holy Week – April 13

### “I AM”



We first see this statement in the **Exodus 3:13-15**.

Moses said to God, “Suppose I go to the Israelites and say to them, ‘The God of your fathers has sent me to you,’ and they ask me, ‘What is his name?’ Then what shall I tell them?” God said to Moses, “I AM WHO I AM. This is what you are to say to the Israelites: ‘I AM has sent me to you.’” God also said to Moses, “Say to the Israelites, ‘The LORD, the God of your fathers—the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob—has sent me to you.’ This is my name forever, the name you shall call me from generation to generation.

**In the Gospels, Jesus is I AM. This title declares that Jesus’ works, spoken word, and acts are divine.**

### Monday John 15:1-17

**I AM the true Vine** Jesus is our source of life. Apart from Him, we are unable to be fruitful and remain true. In this passage we learn that we are Jesus’ friend, chosen, and loved by God. He desires you to be part of His divine work. We have become His friend because He gave His life for us. Yesterday, we celebrated His entry into Jerusalem. As we look toward Easter Sunday, how does His divine work upon the cross move you to live? From these verses, describe a life lived in Christ. What, then, does a life look like for those who do not hold to Christ?

### Tuesday John 14:1-7

**I AM the Way, the Truth, and the Life** In the previous chapter, Jesus has just told His disciples that one of them will betray Him, that He will give his life for them, and to love one another. Their hearts are literally ‘shaken.’ Here, understanding their distress, he comforts them. Jesus assures them He will bring them to the place He prepared for them. They don’t understand, thinking the way to this unknown place is literal. Reflect on the last six weeks; how is Jesus the way, truth, and life? Share with someone how this truth has worked in your life. How can it comfort someone when their heart is shaken?

Wednesday John 10:1-10

**I AM the Door of the sheep** Jesus begins this passage telling the Pharisees that the true shepherd enters by the door to the sheep pen and knows each sheep by name. Sheep that belong to the shepherd know him and follow; they won't follow a stranger. The Pharisees don't understand what he's talking about. We probably think Jesus is about to tell us that He is the shepherd but instead tells us He is the Door of the sheep. Only through Jesus can we be saved. Going through the Door, what is received? How? As we look toward Easter Sunday, what is the significance of Jesus being the Door of the sheep?

Thursday John 6:35-51

**I AM the Bread of life** On this day, we mark the Last Supper, which institutes our Lord's Supper, Jesus washing the feet of the disciples, and the institution of the new covenant. In today's passage, Jesus declares that He is the Bread of Life to people who had received physical sustenance from Jesus. Yet, He didn't mean that He is a physical bread that can be eaten to fill one's stomach. In Exodus, God gave His people manna in the wilderness for a time to supply their physical needs. These people eventually died, as physical bread is for the physical body. Yet, just like the manna, Jesus – the Bread of Life – was given by the Father to give life. Jesus came willingly to do God the Father's will. Today, pause to consider how Jesus is hours away from shedding His blood on the cross for us. What does the Bread of Life promise you in verses 39-40?

And he took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to them, saying, "This is my body given for you; do this in remembrance of me." In the same way, after the supper he took the cup, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood, which is poured out for you Luke 22:19-

## GOOD FRIDAY TIMELINE

(Times approximate)

**4:00 to 6:00 a.m.** — Jesus's trial before Annas and Caiaphas. (Matthew 26:57–68)

**6:00 to 8:00 a.m.** — Trial before Pontius Pilate and Herod; crucifixion sentence. (Mt. 27:11–26)

**8:00 to 8:30 a.m.** — Jesus carries his cross to Golgotha — Simon of Cyrene helps. (Mt. 27:27–32)

**9:00 a.m. (Crucifixion)** — Jesus is crucified the third hour—6:00 a.m. is the first hour. (Mt. 27:35)

**9:00 to 9:30 a.m.** — The soldiers divide Jesus's clothing. He prays for them. (Mt. 27:35)

**9:30 to 11:00 a.m.** — The soldiers watch over the crucifixion and mock Jesus. (Mt. 27:36–43)

**11:00 a.m. to Noon** — Jesus speaks from the cross to the thieves on either side. (Mt. 27:38–44)

**Noon to 3:00 p.m.** — A 3-hour darkness until the 9<sup>th</sup> hour. Jesus cries out and thirsts (Mt. 27:45-49)

**3:00 p.m.** — Jesus dies at the 9<sup>th</sup> hour; tombs break open, holy people raise to life, earthquakes, temple curtain tears, the amazed centurion. (Mt. 27:46–54)

### THE PASSOVER



**Passover** was established during the 10<sup>th</sup> plague (death of Egypt's first born) as God rescued his people from slavery. To escape, the meal was eaten quickly; bread had no time to rise, so it had no leaven. Bitter herbs were eaten to remind people of their deliverance from bitter slavery. The meal included lamb; its uneaten blood spread on the doorposts so the angel of death would 'pass over' the people's households. The blood marked the Israelites as God's people, who were saved from His wrath. **Read** —Romans 3:23-26

## Good Friday John 10:11-18

**I AM the Good Shepherd** Jesus declares Himself not just the shepherd but the Good Shepherd. He isn't just a paid hand whose investment is contingent on pay and has the ability to walk away when things get tough or a threat arises. The Good Shepherd's love and care for His sheep is complete. Unable to save themselves, He gives His life for them. To our benefit, Jesus tells His Jewish audience that He has 'other sheep,' who will be included – Gentiles. Through a relationship with Him, they will become one in their love for each other and in mission. As we mark Jesus' death on the cross today, list ways you are thankful for His care. How does His divine statement of love and devotion stir your commitment to Him?

## Saturday John 8:12-20

**I AM the Light of the world** When the Bible speaks of darkness, it describes fear, evil, ignorance, lies, sinfulness, judgement, distress, death. . . a terrible life. God created the world with light but sin cast darkness over it. In this passage Jesus is talking with the Pharisees. Their words show that they are unable to see that Jesus was sent from God. Here, they are the picture of walking in darkness. They knew scripture well yet still could not accept the truth of Jesus. Only God can create light, and so only God could send the Light of life to dispel darkness. How has Jesus guided you into life?

John 1:1-5

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

**Easter Sunday – John 11:17-27 I AM the Resurrection and the Life** In this passage, Jesus is a few days from entering Jerusalem triumphantly. The larger story in this chapter is filled with sadness, Jesus even weeps. It is the story of Lazarus' death, and Martha expresses the anguish people feel during the loss of a loved one, ““Lord, if only you had been here, my brother would not have died.” We are powerless to death. Yet, Martha was not without faith, at this point, she was still learning the fullness of Jesus being the Messiah. “But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask.” Astoundingly, Jesus raises Lazarus from the dead. Jesus has power over death.

He is the resurrection and the life. Do you believe this? He is Risen! He is Risen, Indeed! Celebrate Jesus' resurrection today and strengthen your trust to Him.

The angel said to the women,  
“Do not be afraid, for I know that you are  
looking for Jesus, who was crucified.  
He is not here; he has risen, just as he said.  
Come and see the place where he lay.  
Matthew 28:5-6



# Prayer List Guide

Add people to your list each day. Ask someone each week how to pray for them.

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<b>Sunday</b>	Pastor Randy, DOM Tim Green and their families Friends and family members who need Christ Hunger to know God better Our desire to reach out to others in the community
<b>Monday</b>	Deacons and their families Ilunga Family serving in Zambia Local Community The church family's spiritual growth and health Vacation Bible School
<b>Tuesday</b>	Sunday School Teachers Families in mourning People without hope, depressed, suicidal Families ministered to through the food ministries
<b>Wednesday</b>	Adult Men Sunday Worship Service and Fellowship Members' desire to be active in regular service and giving
<b>Thursday</b>	Adult Women New Building and Maintenance of current building Indian Falls Creek and Choctaw & Chickasaw camps Physical health of church family members
<b>Friday</b>	Youth and Young Adults Members desire to develop spiritual disciplines Families struggling financially People struggling with addictions
<b>Saturday</b>	Children Local, State and National Leaders Conflict around the world Hunger to know God better

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**Requests:**