



30-Day Easter Preparation Guide

Day 1

The Moral Perfection of Christ

Scriptures for Meditation

- Isaiah 53:2-3; Hebrews 4:15; 9:11-15

Making It Personal

- Today, people often mock someone of high moral character—perhaps calling them “do-gooders” or “goody-two-shoes.” Consider the excellence of Christ. He kept the Law of scripture perfectly and never fell short. How do you think He responded to people who watched and couldn’t understand His moral excellence—people who “despised and rejected” him?
- Is Christ your most precious treasure? What about Him do you value most?
- Can you think of a person you have followed who disappointed you because of their sin? How can you be sure your expectations are in Christ alone?
- How does the Lord’s example of moral excellence encourage you to make wise choices in your own life?
- List three ways that you believe “the beauty of Jesus” can be seen in your life.

Day 2

The Preexistence of Christ

Scriptures for Meditation

- John 1:3; 8:56-58; Colossians 1:16; Proverbs 8:22

Making It Personal

- What does knowing that Jesus existed even before His birth on earth reveal to you about His basic nature?
- All things were created through and for Christ and He sustains the universe. As you look around at nature today, reflect on the creative hand of Christ. Thank Him for the beauty you see.
- How does the relationship that Jesus enjoyed with the Father give you hope that you can have joy-filled communion with God, too?

Day 3

The Incarnation of Christ

Scriptures for Meditation

- Luke 1:26-38; 2:1-20; Philippians 2:6-7

Making It Personal

- It is one thing to put out a nativity scene at Christmas, and quite another to remember *why* Jesus came. What is the most meaningful thing you do at Christmas-time to celebrate the coming of Christ?
- There are so many beautiful carols we sing at Christmas. If you have a hymn book handy, sing all the verses of “Hark! The Herald Angels Sing” *today*, to celebrate Christ’s coming. Or sing another song that warms your heart and helps you focus on Jesus, like the simple chorus, “Oh, come let us adore Him... Christ, the Lord.”
- The Christmas story doesn’t just include a cradle; it looks forward to a cross. The Bible teaches that Jesus came to be our Savior. Consider what your life would be like if no Savior had come. Where would you place your hope for forgiveness? For freedom and fullness in life? For your future in eternity? Thank God for giving us His Son.
- When was the last time—other than at Christmas—that you shared with someone the reason Jesus came?

Day 4

The Childhood of Christ

Scriptures for Meditation

- Luke 2:39-40, 52; Colossians 1:10, 28

Making It Personal

- Like any child, Jesus grew in every area of life. His life was balanced, without any area lagging behind. Consider your own life. How are you doing physically, mentally, emotionally, and spiritually? Are you living in balance? If not, what can you do to encourage balanced growth?
- If you have or teach children, or have influence on children or grandchildren, is there something you can do to encourage balanced growth in their lives?
- Sometimes we want “instant” growth, but Jesus’ growth was gradual as he came to maturity, depending on the grace of God. Discipline, training, and the normal process of learning were involved. In an area of need in your life, how can you add in daily discipline or training to encourage steady growth?
- If you are a parent, what is your vision for your child/children? What can you do to be more intentional in planting wise, godly “seeds” for growth into their lives?

Day 5

The Earthly Occupation of Christ

Scriptures for Meditation

- Matthew 13:55; Mark 6:3; 1 Thessalonians 4:10-12; 2 Thessalonians 3:7-12

Making It Personal

- How do you view your daily work or your career? How do you think God views the work of your hands?
- We would expect that Jesus always worked with excellence. Do you labor with determination to do your best, not shirking away from work, but striving for excellence to the glory of God? If not, why not ... and what can you change?
- The world often values impressive achievements or impressive occupations. God's ways are not our ways. He values faithfulness and obedience, even in the most obscure task. Consider your life work. Are you faithful and obedient to God's calling? Do you appreciate others who are? Tell someone in a "lowly" job how much you appreciate what they do.
- Jesus was a "single" who honored God. If you are single, what are your thoughts about God's present calling in your life? Any struggles? How can you follow Jesus example of singleness?

Day 6

The Baptism of Christ

Scriptures for Meditation

- Matthew 3:1-17; Luke 3:15-16, 21-22; Romans 6:1-4

Making It Personal

- How was Jesus' baptism different from the baptism most people experience? According to the scriptures, why did He submit to baptism when he had no need for repentance?
- Have you been baptized? See if you can explain the significance of your baptism in one sentence.
- Considering some of the miracles that happened at Jesus baptism—the heavens opening, the descending dove, the Father's words—what does this reveal about who Jesus is?
- Jesus was full of the Holy Spirit and led by Him (Luke 4:1). How is the Spirit of God empowering you for service, or helping you with your daily tasks? Do you ask for His help?
- God, the Father, said he was "well pleased" with Jesus. Are you? Are you delighting in and worshipping Him? Sing a song of praise as an expression of your heart (such as "I Love You, Lord").

Day 7

The Temptation of Christ

Scriptures for Meditation

- Luke 4:1-13; 1 Corinthians 10:13-14; Hebrews 2:18, 4:15-16; James 1:13-14

Making It Personal

- Temptation is not sin, but we cross the line when we respond to temptation (by attitude or action) in ways that do not please God or align with the Word of God. What is your first “signal” that you might be crossing that line?
- Think about the statement that Jesus was “tempted in every way—just as we are—yet he did not sin.” Jesus used the Word as his powerful “way out” of temptation. Think about a temptation you experienced recently. Did you discover God’s “way out” so you did not sin? Why or why not? Did you use the Word to combat your enemy?
- Why do you think Satan tempts us so often?
- What part does hanging around evil people play in the frequency of temptation?

Day 8

The Deity of Christ

Scriptures for Meditation

- Isaiah 7:14, 9:6; Matthew 1:23; Mark 14:61-62; John 1:1, 14; John 8:58, 10:30; 14:9-10; Colossians 1:15-17; Revelation 19:11-16

Making It Personal

- If Jesus were merely a man, and not also God, we would have no basis for serving or worshipping Him. Yet the scriptures are clear that Jesus, the Son of God, *is* God! As you consider His claim in John 10:30, ask yourself whether you honor the Son in the same way you honor the Father.
- Why do you think people today prefer a human Jesus—a good man, teacher, philosopher, or prophet—rather than a Jesus who is God?
- Jesus asked his followers why they called Him “Lord” (Master), yet did not obey Him (Luke 6:46). That is a convicting question, isn’t it? It suggests accountability. Ask your Master, “Where am I not obeying you, Lord?” Then make a clear choice to obey.
- The secular world and religious pluralists scoff when we say that Jesus is the “only way” to God. What would be your answer to someone who says Jesus can’t be the only way?

Day 9

The Humanity of Christ

Scriptures for Meditation

- Matthew 4:2; Mark 1:40-45; Luke 4:38, 7:11-17, 24:36-40; John 4:6; Philippians 2:6-8; 1 Timothy 2:5-6; Hebrews 5:7

Making It Personal

- Why does it matter to you that God the Son became human in order to offer you the opportunity to become a child of God (Galatians 4:4-5)? Do you appreciate salvation in Christ? How should this affect your attitude toward sin? (Read 1 Peter 2:21-22.)
- Jesus clearly showed us the Father's compassion as He healed others and met their needs. How can you model the compassion of Jesus this week?
- Because Jesus was fully God and fully human, He not only understands when you struggle, He is in the position to help you (Hebrews 2:17-18).
- Years ago, it was popular to ask, "What Would Jesus Do? (WWJD?) We are blessed to see many examples of what Jesus actually *did* do. What actions or attitudes of Jesus encourage you in your own walk of faith?

Day 10

The Manliness of Christ

Scriptures for Meditation

- Joshua 1:6-8; Isaiah 42:1-3; Matthew 12:17-21; 1 Corinthians 16:13-14; Ephesians 5:1-2; Philippians 2:5-7;

Making It Personal

- The world's image of Christ is often portrayed in artwork. Is it accurate? How have the paintings and sculptures of Jesus affected your view of Him?
- What is the scripture's portrayal of Jesus' manhood, according to the verses for meditation?
- Name some of the human (but completely holy) emotions you see in Jesus from the Gospels. What other righteous emotions do you think He had that are not revealed in the scriptures?
- There was something about Jesus that drew people to Him. What character trait of Jesus, as shown in his behavior while on earth, most inspires you to live for God?

Day 11

The Sinlessness of Christ

Scriptures for Meditation

- Matthew 1:18, 15:10, 27:4; Luke 1:31-35, 4:34, 23:41; John 1:29, 8:29, 46; 1 Peter 2:22; Hebrews 7:26-27; 1 John 3:5

Making It Personal

- One of the strongest attacks on Jesus is the circumstances of His birth. Why was it crucial that Jesus be born of a virgin?
- Why was it important for Jesus, the Lamb of God, to be sinless?
- Jesus' family and friends watched Him for many years. They would know if Jesus sinned. Those closest to Him, like John, his half-brother, said he was sinless. While we cannot achieve sinlessness today, we do not have to let it reign in our lives (Romans 6:6-13) because of what Jesus did for us. How does this passage in Romans say we can have victory over sin?
- Jesus was your substitute. He died for sin on your behalf. Take a few minutes to ponder that, and express your gratitude to God.

Day 12

The Transfiguration of Christ

Scriptures for Meditation

- Matthew 16:21-23, 17:1-6; Luke 9:28-36; John 1:14; Romans 12:2; 2 Corinthians 3:18; Philippians 3:20-21; 2 Peter 1:16-18

Making It Personal

- In the Old Testament, the Children of Israel sense the presence of God's glory in a pillar of fire, a cloud, and even a burning bush; but in the New Testament, the disciples saw the glory of God in one man, Jesus, during His transfiguration. Why couldn't they see His glory the rest of their time with Him?
- Consider Peter's spontaneous outburst at the Transfiguration. What was he misunderstanding about this important event?
- If not for Jesus, we would all be terrified of God, just like the disciples who fell down as God spoke from heaven. Read John 3:16-21, 36; Hebrews 4:15-16; and 1 Thessalonians 5:9 to see how Jesus satisfied God's righteous wrath over sin, offering us freedom to come to God as our Father.
- The believer anticipates total transformation into the likeness of Christ. What do you most anticipate in that change?

Day 13

The Prophetic Ministry of Christ

Scriptures for Meditation

- Luke 7:16; John 4:19, 6:14, 7:16, 7:40, 12:49-50, 17:8

Making It Personal

- Peter declared that we should pay attention to Jesus' prophetic words (2 Peter 1:16-19). What might be some of the consequences to not listening to Jesus, the Prophet?
- Jesus did not come to abolish the Law or the Prophets (scriptures) but to fulfill them (Matthew 5:17), and He also came to preach and share the Gospel (Mark 1:38). He was a courageous, loving, faithful spokesman for God and His plan to redeem mankind from sin. How can you follow in Jesus' footsteps in sharing the Good News of salvation this week?
- Jesus is greater than any past prophet (Hebrews 1:1-2), but many in his home town did not honor Him. We owe Jesus not only our attention, but our praise and honor. Sing a hymn or song of praise to Jesus—the Prophet, Priest, and King!

Day 14

The Teaching of Christ

Scriptures for Meditation

- Matthew 4:23-25, 5:1, 7:28, 13:53-55, 28:19-20; Mark 1:21-27, 6:34, 12:14; Colossians 3:16; Hebrews 5:12

Making It Personal

- Jesus' words were amazing and authoritative, yet sometimes His words offended people. How do you see that same reaction to the truth of scripture today?
- Unlike the scribes and teachers of the law in Jesus' day, He focused on matters of eternal significance. He didn't get hung up on things that didn't matter. Is that your focus as you share with others? How can you make your message or testimony clearer, drawing others to make choices for eternity?
- Jesus often taught truth in everyday conversations. Think about the people you rub shoulders with every day. How can you naturally weave comments about the Word of God or God's point of view into these conversations?
- Jesus had the power of a life message to back up His words. Think about your own testimony or teaching ... does your life back it up? Would there be enough evidence in your life to convince others that you know, love, and obey the Lord?
- The Bible calls older women to teach younger women (Titus 2:3-5). Ladies, what younger woman God placed in your life (at home, work, church, etc.) that you can teach in informal situations?

Day 15

The Humility of Christ

Scriptures for Meditation

- Matthew 21:5; Luke 22:42, 23:46; John 5:19, 30; 8:28; 1 Corinthians 15:28; Philippians 2:5-8

Making It Personal

- We get so proud sometimes, don't we? How does Jesus' example of humility touch your heart or make you think about your own life? Can you see areas of pride that are destructive to your life?
- We like to be "independent." Our culture promotes it. It's one thing to be competent, but quite another to be proud and independent, believing we need no one's help—even God's. Think about the different aspects of your life (finances, work, relationships, time, hobbies, habits, etc.), and consider whether you are independent of God in any area.
- Jesus submitted to the Father's will in all things. By submitting, He fulfilled the plan of the Father for His life. God has a plan for your life, too—have you fully submitted to His will? If not, what is your point of pride?

Day 16

The Serenity of Christ

Scriptures for Meditation

- Psalm 131:1-2; Daniel 3:17-18; Matthew 11:28-30

Making It Personal

- What kinds of circumstances are likely to trigger stress and drive you away from serenity? Can you identify the first signals that you have crossed over the line from serenity to stress, panic, or anxiety?
- Are you given to moodiness? Do you want to manage those emotions? Biblical mood management possible as we look to the example of Christ and the resources we have in Him, the Holy Spirit, and the Word of God.
- Think of the most serene person you know. What are some signs of his/her serenity?
- Consider Jesus' example of serenity in a storm, faced by a friend's death, when persecuted, and even facing death. Jesus had the same resources to face these struggles that we do. What does His example of serenity teach you?
- What part does praise play in serenity?
- How can knowing that God is sovereign and in control help us live in serenity?
- Maybe you have no struggles right now, but you are inwardly in turmoil. Take this anxious spirit to your heavenly Father, and ask Him to show you how to lay down your tension at His feet and fix your hope in Him.

Day 17

The Prayer Life of Christ

Scriptures for Meditation

- Luke 3:21-22, 6:12-13, 9:28-29, 11:1-13, 22:39-46, 23:34; John 11:41-42, 12:27-28, 17:1-26; 1 John 5:14-15

Making It Personal

- Jesus felt it was necessary, in His humanness, to rely on the Father. Do you sense this, too? Consider John 15:5: "...without me you can do nothing." How would embracing this truth change your prayer life?
- We tend to pray for the "biggies," the problems and challenges in our lives; but what does Jesus' example teach us about everyday prayer?
- What part of Jesus' high priestly prayer in John 17 motivates you to live closer to God or glorify Him more?
- When is your best time to pray, given your current workload? If it's a struggle, what can you do to alter your schedule to make time for this spiritual priority?
- Do you have the confidence that God hears you today when you pray? If not, what might be standing in the way, robbing you of intimacy in prayer?
- How can fervent prayer help you overcome temptation?
- How does the truth that Jesus is praying for you (Hebrews 7:25; Romans 8:34) make you grateful for this aspect of your incomparable savior?

Day 18

The Soul-Anguish of Christ

Scriptures for Meditation

- Matthew 26:36-37; Mark 14:33-39; Luke 22: 34, 43-44

Making It Personal

- As you read the account of Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane, picture yourself there, watching Him struggle. Consider that this struggle was not for Himself, but for the burden of sin that He would soon take on ... for you (2 Corinthians 5:21). How would you respond, if you were there?
- Jesus knew the intense battle He would face at the cross, and He resorted to "prayers and supplications with loud cries and tears" before the Father (Hebrews 5:7) in Gethsemane. Have you ever struggled in soul-anguish over the weight of your sin? What lifted the burden?
- Jesus, the Sinless One, was in agony over the horror of sin; yet we take sin so lightly sometimes. How does seeing sin the way Jesus saw it motivate you to examine your heart or confess your sin?
- Are you struggling with a temptation? Jesus died to give you victory. Go to Him now in prayer, and ask Him for the courage to be faithful and make the righteous choice when that temptation comes again.

Day 19

The Trial of Christ

Scriptures for Meditation

- Matthew 26:1-2, 57-68; Luke 23:13-25; John 18:28-40

Making It Personal

- Though Pilate declared of Jesus, “I find no guilt in this man” (Luke 23:4), the travesty of the trial continued. Even in this mockery of justice, God’s plan was not thwarted. He used these acts of sinful men to His own purposes, to make a provision to redeem us from sin. How does this help you to believe that God has a greater plan in the sufferings you might experience as a believer?
- Have you encountered some level of persecution in your community, on the job, or even in your church for your stand for holiness? Remember that Jesus experienced that, too, and He committed Himself to the Father. What would that “commitment” look like in your situation?
- We all deserve the unjust treatment that Jesus received before His crucifixion. Spend a moment in gratitude and worship of Jesus for His amazing grace in taking your place and giving you freedom.

Day 20

The Majestic Silence of Christ

Scriptures for Meditation

- Isaiah 53:6-7; Matthew 26:63, 27:11-14; Mark 14:57-61; Luke 23:8-10; 1 Timothy 6:13

Making It Personal

- Jesus—the serene, dignified Son of God—was such a contrast to those who cried out for his death. He did not speak up to defend Himself, but rather committed his fate to the Father. What is your typical response when others speak against you or falsely accuse you?
- The root of Jesus’ majestic silence was His humility. Read Philippians 2:1-11. How can you imitate Christ’s humility?
- Whenever Jesus did speak, He was completely in control. He knew what to say and when to stop talking. He was most concerned about God’s honor. How can you use your trials to bring glory to God?

Day 21

The Atoning Work of Christ

Scriptures for Meditation

- Leviticus 4:27-31; Isaiah 53:4-6; John 1:29; Galatians 2:20, 3:13; 2 Corinthians 5:21; 1 Peter 2:22-24; Hebrews 9:12, 26; 10:1-4

Making It Personal

- Though there is nothing, according to the Bible, that we can do to atone for our own sin, do you ever find yourself trying to “do” for God—to win His favor? In what part of your life are you most tempted to substitute good works for God’s sufficient provision?
- Do you know with confidence that you are a child of God? Have you received the sacrifice Jesus made as payment for your sin, and handed over your life to the Lord to follow and obey Him? If you have, take a moment to express your gratitude to Christ for His atoning work for you.
- Because of Christ’s atonement, you can be clean, reconciled to God, and restored to fellowship with Him. If you still have a guilty conscience, there may be some area/s that you need to confess and leave “under the blood” of that sacrifice. Ask God to show you where sin has crept in, and confess it (John 1:9).

Day 22

The Word of Forgiveness

Scriptures for Meditation

- Isaiah 53:13; Luke 6:2-28, 23:32-34; Acts 3:15, 17; 1 Timothy 1:13-14

Making It Personal

- Jesus illustrated the importance of prayer during His life on earth, and His prayers on the cross were profound—full of rich truth. What does it mean to you that Jesus felt it was important to pray on the cross for others, and especially His enemies?
- On the cross, Jesus turned to His father when life seemed darkest. How does His example encourage you to turn to Father God when trials come?
- Ignorance of God’s truth is not the same as innocence. Think of people you know who do not know the truth of the Gospel. Consider this: they will not stand in “innocence” before God. Will you be the one to bring them the truth they so desperately need?
- In spite of our sinful rebellion against God, Jesus longs to forgive us. He shed His blood to make forgiveness possible (Hebrews 9:22). Have you received His forgiveness? If you have, do you forgive others, as He has forgiven you? (See Matthew 6:12.)

Day 23

The Word of Assurance

Scriptures for Meditation

- Luke 23:32-43; John 6:37; 2 Corinthians 5:6-8; Ephesians 2:8-10; 1 Peter 1:3-5

Making It Personal

- Although it is good to examine our hearts to be sure we have trusted in Christ alone for salvation (2 Corinthians 13:5), God never intends for His children to doubt their salvation. How do you know that you are a child of God? How do Jesus' words of assurance on the cross encourage your faith?
- God opened the eyes of the dying thief to his need for Jesus. He knew that he could never save himself. When did you first realize that you needed the Lord? What did God use to open your eyes to your need of the Savior?
- Entrance into eternity with God is not a matter of our religion, ritual, heritage, or good works. It's all a matter of our plea for mercy and God's rich grace toward us. Meditate a few minutes on the love, mercy, and grace of God in your life.... and express your thanks to Him for this precious gift.
- Perhaps you have loved ones or friends who are still rejecting Christ. Ask God for fresh opportunities to extend the Gospel message to them. They may come to know him in their final moments, just like the penitent thief. Take time to pray for them now.

Day 24

The Word of Devotion

Scriptures for Meditation

- Matthew 12:48-50; John 19:23-27; 1 Peter 5:7; Hebrews 4:15

Making It Personal

- Jesus glorified God by providing for His earthly mother before His death, thus fulfilling the law to honor her (Exodus 20:12). His life example of caring for family responsibilities should encourage us to care for our own families' needs. Is there an area where you could do better in this area – honoring parents or caring for family needs?
- Jesus' family is now made up of all who have trusted Him for salvation. How can you help your relationship with Him grow? What part of that relationship blesses or encourages you the most?
- How can you encourage the great family of God in your community – spiritually, socially, and financially?
- Ask God to open your eyes as you look around your local church. Find someone who needs caring "family" connections—perhaps an orphan, a widow, a single mom, a college student, or someone in the military. Use your spiritual gifts or resources to meet a specific need, or open your home and include that person at family gatherings or a private meal.

Day 25

The Word of Dereliction

Scriptures for Meditation

- Psalm 22:1, 23:4; Isaiah 53:6; Matthew 27:45-49; 2 Corinthians 5:21; Hebrews 13:5-6

Making It Personal

- In the intense darkness of the hour, Jesus cried out in anguish, "... God, why have you forsaken me?" As the Father laid our sins upon His Son, the weight of the curse we deserved (Galatians 3:10-13) made Jesus feel forsaken. Indeed, He *was* forsaken! He endured that awful separation with you and me in mind. Can we ever thank Him enough? Take a minute to express your gratitude.
- Have you felt the full impact of your sinfulness? Consider that Jesus bore not only your sin, but the sins of the whole world (1 John 2:2). Though He suffered, He knew the joy awaiting Him (Hebrews 12:2)—eternity with those who would place their faith in Him. If you have placed your trust in Jesus, are you willing to obey God, no matter where it leads you?
- Jesus suffered, yet He knew His Father's purpose, and it helped Him endure to the end. Though you might not have understood the purposes of God in your trials, how does trusting that He is in control and has a plan help you endure suffering?

Day 26

The Word of Agony

Scriptures for Meditation

- Psalm 22:14-5; 29:4, 9, 20; John 19:28-30

Making It Personal

- If anyone ever doubted the humanness of Christ, His words of physical anguish—"I thirst"—made it clear that He was one of us. How does this simple declaration move you to identify with Jesus, who was not ashamed to identify with you?
- Jesus took the full cup of suffering so He could be sympathetic to our need. He was a "merciful and faithful high priest" (Hebrews 2:17). If He was so committed to you before His death on the cross, what does this say to you about His commitment to intercede for you now? (See Romans 8:34)
- Jesus deeply respected the Word of God, and waited to express His physical anguish until "all was finished" (John 19:28). He was submissive to the Father's will, even in the midst of suffering. How do you respond in suffering? Are you seeking God's will, or entirely focused on circumstances?
- Nancy presented a picture of spiritual thirst for restoration of fellowship with God (Psalm 42:1-2). What in your life shows that you are spiritually thirsty for intimacy with the Lord? Where is your thirst going to be satisfied? (See John 7:37-38.)

Day 27

The Word of Triumph

Scriptures for Meditation

- Luke 2:49, John 17:4, John 19:28-30

Making It Personal

- On the cross, Jesus fulfilled prophecy and finished the mission God sent Him to do. His suffering was ended and glory was ahead. But many other things were accomplished when Jesus cried, “It is finished.” For one, the debt of sin was cleared—paid in full—and God was fully satisfied. If you have trusted Christ, rejoice in thanksgiving now that no more sacrifice is required.
- Have you ever considered the terror in a criminal ready to die for his crimes? We are all sinners, worthy of condemnation, death, and separation from God. But the Bible says there is now “no condemnation” for those who are in Christ Jesus” (Romans 8:1). What does this mean to you?
- The Father was satisfied by the death of His Son for our sins. This means that nothing else is necessary; there is nothing that can be added. Think of a time when you thought your good works would appease God and make Him accept you more, and then read Ephesians 1:6. Where does your acceptance lie?
- The battle against Satan has been won. He is a defeated foe, because of Jesus’ victory on the cross. How does your life illustrate this truth? If not, do you need to apply this truth? Read Hebrews 2:14-15 and Romans 6:1-14 to encourage yourself to live in holiness—your life “crucified with Him” (Jesus).

Day 28

The Word of Confidence

Scriptures for Meditation

- Psalm 31:1-15; Luke 23:44-49; Acts 7:59-60; 2 Timothy 1:12

Making It Personal

- As people watched Jesus die, some were no doubt transformed by His words. One thief sought Him for salvation. One centurion saw Jesus’ true nature as the Son of God. As people watch your life, what do they understand about Jesus from observing your conduct and responses?
- We’ve studied how Jesus committed His life’s work to the Father’s will, and then committed His spirit to the Father’s care in death. Have you committed your life into the hands of your Heavenly Father? How does your life show that you believe your life is not in the hands of circumstances, but in God’s hands?
- Jesus died as He lived. If you die as you have lived, how will you die? What do you think that would look like?
- David said to God, in Psalm 31:15, “My times are in your hand...” David believed that God is in control, and that he could trust God with his life (verse 14). How does your life show that you believe your “times” (life, length of life) are in God’s control?
- Stephen’s words in death (Acts 7:59-60) show that he understood the victory he had in Christ, and he even forgave those who killed him. As Paul said, for the believer there is no “sting” of death (1 Corinthians 15:5). How does knowing this help you prepare for your own death?

Day 29

The Calvary Miracles

Scriptures for Meditation

- Matthew 27:45-53; John 2:11

Making It Personal

- People came to spend time with Jesus for many reasons—for example, the power of His words, because they were fed, or because they'd heard stories about His miracles. Why did you first come to Jesus? Why do you come to Him now?
- Darkness accompanied the death of Jesus. Darkness is often a symbol of judgment in the Bible. What was the judgment of the cross? What does this mean to you, personally?
- We can praise God for the miracle of the torn Temple veil. Read Hebrews 9:12 and 10:19-20). What is true for you, because of this miracle?
- One of the most amazing miracles in the Bible was the “saints” who were raised from the dead after an earthquake. Why do you think God performed this miracle? Read about the resurrection of the saints in the future. (John 5:29; 1 Cor. 15:51-52; 1 Thessalonians 4:15-17).

Resurrection Sunday

Day 30

The Resurrection of Christ

Scriptures for Meditation

- Matthew 16:21-22, 28:5-6; Romans 1:3-4, 6:4-12; 1 Corinthians 6:14, 15:1-4; Ephesians 2:6; 1 Peter 1:3

Making It Personal

- Some people wear crosses to symbolize gratitude for the death of Christ, but perhaps we should wear “empty tomb” jewelry. Why does it matter that Jesus rose from the dead—to you?
- Think about how the resurrection of Jesus transformed His disciples—they were courageous in telling people about His death and resurrection, even to the point that they were willing to die for the truth. How has His resurrection transformed you?
- Have you been to a funeral recently? If you have, you know that Christians grieve differently than those who haven't put their faith in Christ. How did the resurrection change our view of death? (John 11:25-26; Philippians 3:21)
- The resurrection was the proof that God has accepted the “payment” of Christ's death for our sin. How does this help you deal with any sin in your past, or your current desire to please God?
- Because of the resurrection, you have the same power that raised Jesus from the grave. Read Ephesians 1:19-20 and Colossians 3:1-4, and then examine your life as you ask, “Am I living today as if Christ rose from the dead? Am I living in resurrection power?”