

Easter

For many people, Easter wouldn't be Easter without colored eggs, chocolate bunnies, and bright jelly beans. This week we will take a close look at a different type of meal, one that Jesus shared with his disciples the night before he died. We'll also get to see the wonder of his resurrection and the new life he offers us. For our part, it comes down to faith in Jesus, serving him and worshipping him. That's what his disciples did as they lived out God's plan for building his kingdom. Let's join them in doing so as well.

Monday – Just as He Said

“Unless he obeys, a man cannot believe.” Dietrich Bonhoeffer, 20th c. German pastor

1. Please read Luke 22:7-15. How would you have felt if you were sent instead of Peter or John?
2. Compare this scene, which happened on a Thursday, with the one from the previous Sunday in Matthew 21:1-11. How might knowing the events of Sunday helped Peter and John carry out this instruction?
3. Take a look at Exodus 12:1-14 for the first Passover. Why would Jesus take such care to make sure that he and his disciples would be able to celebrate this feast together?

Making it Personal: What can you do to celebrate all God has done for you in bringing you into a relationship with him?

Tuesday – Communion

“Do this in remembrance of me.” 1 Corinthians 11:24

1. Please read Luke 22:14-20. What comes to mind when you read about Jesus giving his body and pouring out his blood for you?
2. 1 Corinthians 11:23-26 contains Paul's insights on the meaning of communion. What does it mean to “proclaim the Lord's death until he comes”?
3. What warnings does Paul give in 1 Corinthians 11:27-29 for those who do not treat communion properly?

Making it Personal: Do you approach communion with the right attitude? Pray for God to make taking part in the Lord's Supper a blessing for you and for him.

Wednesday – God's Purpose

“Our Lord's determined purpose and design was to overcome the devil, not by the exercise of His power, but by means of His own self-abasement.” Jerome, 4th-5th c. Bible translator and apologist

1. Please read Luke 22:21-30. What two topics are being discussed in verses 21-24? In what way does Jesus' response in verses 25-30 answer both issues?
2. See John 13:1-17 for an event that took place at the start of that same evening. How would this have helped the disciples understand Jesus' words in Luke 22:25-27?
3. Many people in this world can understand easily the disciples' desire for power and authority. Take a look at Isaiah 55:6-9, though. How does it help you understand that the world's ways are not the right ways?

Prayer Focus: Pray for God to bring a servant's heart to every believer, yourself included, in order to build his kingdom.

Thursday – Peter

“All men will be Peters in their bragging tongue, and most men will be Peters in their base denial; but few men will be Peters in their quick repentance.” Owen Feltham, 17th c. English chaplain

1. Please read Luke 22:31-34. How would you have felt if Jesus had said this to you? Have you ever denied him in your words or actions? How?
2. In Luke 22:54-62, Jesus' words came true that same night. Why do you think Peter acted that way?
3. How did Jesus restore Peter in John 21:15-19? What was Peter's responsibility according to Luke 22:32?

Making it personal: How has Jesus restored you? What is your responsibility now?

Friday – Fulfillment

“The sacred books are pervaded by the Spirit. There is nothing either in the prophets, or in the law, or in the Gospels, or in the epistles, which does not spring from the fullness of the divine majesty.” Origen, 3rd c. Bishop of Alexandria, Egypt

1. Please read Luke 22:35-38. What is Jesus' conclusion in verse 37?
2. See Isaiah 53:12 for the context of the passage Jesus quoted to his disciples. According to this verse, what are two results of Jesus giving his life for us?
3. Take a look at Luke 24:1-8, where the disciples see fulfillment of scripture happening right in front of them. What does Jesus remind his disciples of in verse 44-47? How does verse 44 relate to Luke 22:37?

Making it Personal: Spend time in God's word regularly so you can know more about all the things that are written there concerning Jesus, both in the Old and New Testaments.

For the Weekend: Read Luke 24:36-53 and Acts 2:1-40. How did God's power come upon Jesus' followers after they stayed in the city as he instructed? What did it do for those who witnessed this event?