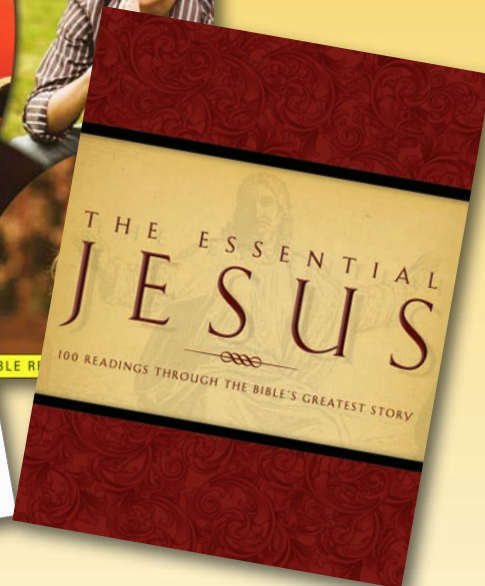


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JOURNEY TO THE CROSS

A 6-WEEK BIBLE READING GUIDE
ON THE LIFE OF JESUS
FOR INDIVIDUALS AND GROUPS



How to Use JOURNEY TO THE CROSS

This 6-week Bible reading guide can be used anytime, but it is especially appropriate for use during Lent. Choose a regular time and place for your "journey," have your Bible handy and you're ready to begin!

Week One: *His Saving Work Foretold*

- Reading 1: Isaiah 52:13—53:12**
Reflect: What parallels do you see in this passage with Jesus' suffering and death?
- Reading 2: Psalm 22:1-31**
Reflect: What can you learn from this psalm about dealing with terrible suffering?
- Reading 3: Isaiah 9:2-7**
Reflect: Ponder the four names for the Messiah. What does each mean to your life? Why?
- Reading 4: Job 19:23-27**
Reflect: How does Jesus' death and resurrection affect the way you feel about your death?
- Reading 5: Micah 5:2-5**
Reflect: How does Micah's prophecy help you trust that Jesus is the promised Savior?

Week Two: *He Predicts His Death*

- Reading 6: Matthew 12:38-45**
Reflect: What evidence from your life could you share with others to help them believe in Jesus?
- Reading 7: Matthew 26:6-13**
Reflect: What valuable things could you, like this woman, give to Jesus? What will it cost you?
- Reading 8: Luke 18:31-34**
Reflect: What does it mean to you that Jesus knew all that he'd suffer and did it anyway?
- Reading 9: John 12:20-36**
Reflect: How do you follow Jesus, even when it is difficult? How do you glorify God with your life?
- Reading 10: John 13:18-30**
Reflect: What temptations to betray Jesus do you face? What helps you remain faithful to him?

Week Four: *He's on Trial*

- Reading 16: John 18:1-11**
Reflect: How does Jesus' concern for his disciples as he was being arrested encourage you?
- Reading 17: John 18:15-27**
Reflect: How might a believer "deny" Jesus today? What are the pressures on you to do so?
- Reading 18: Luke 22:66-71**
Reflect: Why do you think some people refuse to believe Jesus today? What convinced you?
- Reading 19: John 18:28-32**
Reflect: What do people "charge" Jesus with today? How would you answer them?
- Reading 20: John 18:33-40**
Reflect: How can one know the truth about Jesus today? How do you know it?

Week Six: *His Death and Resurrection*

- Reading 26: John 19:25-27**
Reflect: How do these final acts of Jesus before dying encourage you to care for others?
- Reading 27: John 19:28-30**
Reflect: What was "finished" by Jesus? How has that affected your daily life and struggles?
- Reading 28: Luke 23:44-49**
Reflect: Jesus' death impressed the Centurion. What impression does your life make on others?
- Reading 29: John 19:31-37**
Reflect: How important is it that this is an eyewitness account of Scripture's fulfillment?
- Reading 30: John 19:38-42**
Reflect: What have you, like Joseph, risked for Jesus? What might he call you to risk?
- Resurrection Day: John 20:1-31**
Reflect: What convinces you that Jesus is alive? How can you share that Good News with others?

SCRIPTURE UNION'S BIBLE READING METHOD

- **PRAY** before you read, asking God to help you understand his Word.
- **READ** carefully the Bible passage, perhaps more than once.
- **REFLECT** on the Bible passage using the questions in this Guide.
- **APPLY** what God teaches you from his Word to your life.
- **PRAY** again asking God to help you live out his Word.

Week Three: *He Prepares for Death*

- Reading 11: Mark 14:1-9**
Reflect: Do you ever feel foolish about your faith? How could you change that?
- Reading 12: Luke 9:37-45**
Reflect: How do you "listen carefully" (44) to Jesus? What has he been saying to you lately?
- Reading 13: Mark 14:10-11**
Reflect: What role does money play in your life? In what areas do you struggle with money issues?
- Reading 14: Mark 14:12-26**
Reflect: In what sense are we all, like Judas, responsible for Jesus' suffering and death?
- Reading 15: Mark 14:32-42**
Reflect: How does this passage demonstrate to you the full humanity of Jesus?

Week Five: *He Goes to the Cross*

- Reading 21: John 19:1-16**
Reflect: Pilate was under a lot of pressure here. What gives you courage to stand for Jesus?
- Reading 22: Luke 23:1-25**
Reflect: Why did Pilate agree to crucify Jesus? Why do you think some people hate Jesus today?
- Reading 23: Mark 15:21-32**
Reflect: Would they have believed Jesus if he had "come down from the cross"? Why?
- Reading 24: Luke 23:26-43**
Reflect: Jesus forgave the repentant criminal. Meditate on all that Jesus has forgiven you.
- Reading 25: John 19:17-24**
Reflect: Jesus' death is only a few hours away. Meditate on his great love and suffering for you.

