

Mar 27 -  
Apr 17

# EASTER

*the road to resurrection*



# THE ROAD TO RESURRECTION

## A STUDY

*of Easter*

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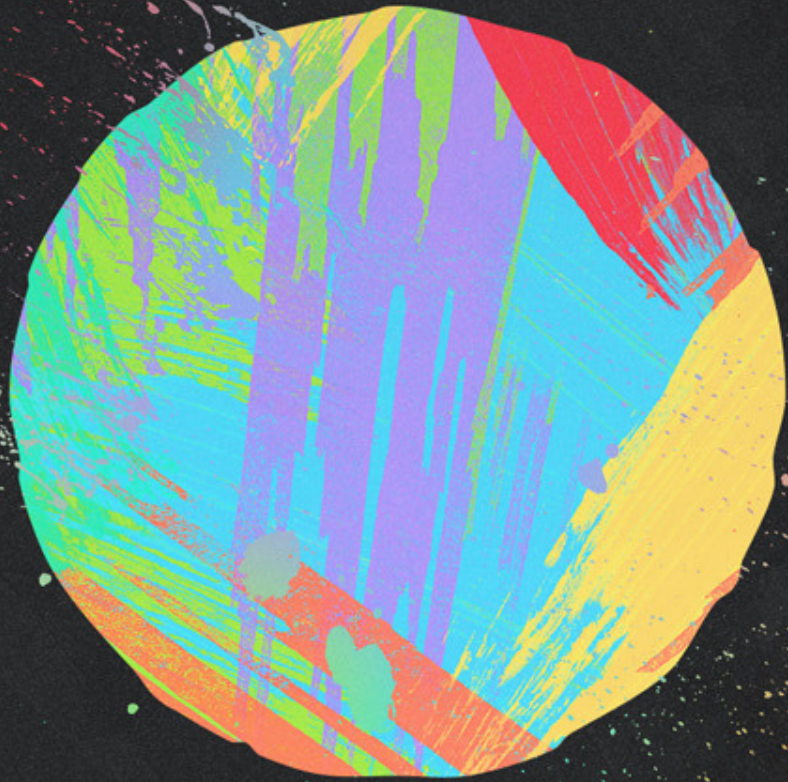
**March 27 - April 17**

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Written by TJ Johnson

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TRIUMPHAL ENTRY

*Luke 19:28-48*

Mar 27

EASTER

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*the road to resurrection*

# Triumphal Entry

Luke 19: 28-48

28 And when he had said these things, he went on ahead, going up to Jerusalem. 29 When he drew near to Bethphage and Bethany, at the mount that is called Olivet, he sent two of the disciples, 30 saying, "Go into the village in front of you, where on entering you will find a colt tied, on which no one has ever yet sat. Untie it and bring it here. 31 If anyone asks you, 'Why are you untying it?' you shall say this: 'The Lord has need of it.'" 32 So those who were sent went away and found it just as he had told them. 33 And as they were untying the colt, its owners said to them, "Why are you untying the colt?" 34 And they said, "The Lord has need of it." 35 And they brought it to Jesus, and throwing their cloaks on the colt, they set Jesus on it. 36 And as he rode along, they spread their cloaks on the road. 37 As he was drawing near—already on the way down the Mount of Olives—the whole multitude of his disciples began to rejoice and praise God with a loud voice for all the mighty works that they had seen, 38 saying, "Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!" 39 And some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to him, "Teacher, rebuke your disciples." 40 He answered, "I tell you, if these were silent, the very stones would cry out."

41 And when he drew near and saw the city, he wept over it, 42 saying, "Would that you, even you, had known on this day the things that make for peace! But now they are hidden from your eyes. 43 For the days will come upon you, when your enemies will set up a barricade around you and surround you and hem you in on every side 44 and tear you down to the ground, you and your children within you. And they will not leave one stone upon another in you, because you did not know the time of your visitation."

45 And he entered the temple and began to drive out those who sold, 46 saying to them, "It is written, 'My house shall be a house of prayer,' but you have made it a den of robbers."

47 And he was teaching daily in the temple. The chief priests and the scribes and the principal men of the people were seeking to destroy him, 48 but they did not find anything they could do, for all the people were hanging on his words.

# Triumphal Entry

Κυριακή των Βαΐων (Palm Sunday)

Holy Week is considered to be the central and climactic moments in the life of Christ. Since at least the 4th century the church has used it as a remembering of the final week of Jesus leading up to the cross. There are several key events that are highlighted:

- Palm Sunday (Jesus' entry into Jerusalem)
- Maundy Thursday (Jesus' Passover with the disciples)
- Good Friday (Jesus' death on the cross)
- Easter Sunday (Jesus' victory over death through resurrection)

Over the next four weeks we will focus on each of these events as recorded in the Gospel of Luke. As a body, let us take this month to remember what God has done in Jesus Christ. Might I encourage you to take time each week to read the various Biblical accounts of each event? Furthermore, take time to listen to songs that focus on holy week. One album that I have on repeat is Fernando Ortega's, "The Crucifixion of Jesus". Lastly, spend time every day in prayer, meditating over our Savior who came to save us from our sins.

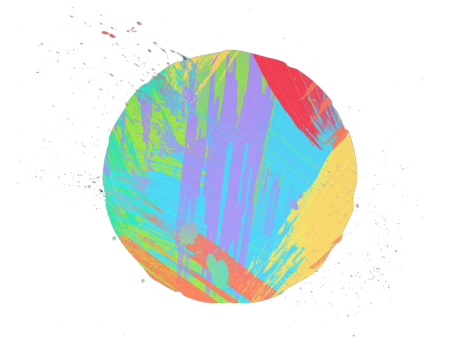
This week we turn our attention to Palm Sunday.

Zechariah 9:9

Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem! Behold, your king is coming to you; righteous and having salvation is he, humble and mounted on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey.

In Him,

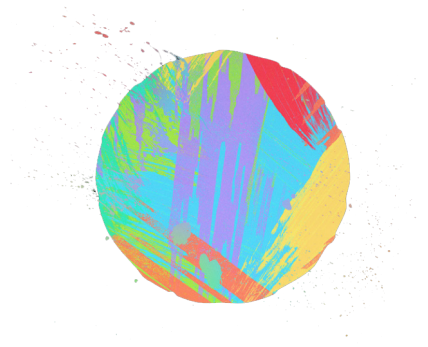
Pastor TJ



*Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion*

## Discussion Questions

1. Holy Week (the week before Easter) has a special meaning in Christianity. Tell the group if you know the meaning of each day of the week according to tradition.
2. Do you have any tradition in your family or household for the celebration of Holy Week (the week before Easter)? If you come from a Christian family background, maybe you can share how you celebrate Easter or the week that leads to Easter.
3. The text we are discussing today starts with describing the last week of Jesus' life before his crucifixion. Please summarize the life of Jesus up to this point.
4. Read Luke 19:11-28. How does the preceding parable relate to Jesus' entry into Jerusalem and his encounter in the temple?
5. How does this parable encourage us as Christians in discipling others?
6. Read Luke 19:29-32, 38, 40. What Old Testament prophecies were fulfilled in these verses?
7. What effect does the fulfilment of those messages have on you?

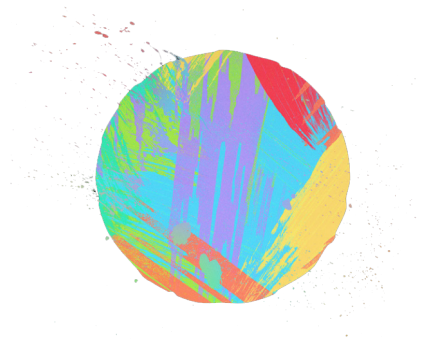


*Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion*

## Discussion Questions

8. Read Luke 19:30-37. In what ways do you see Jesus' humility in this passage?
9. How should Jesus' humility encourage us today?
10. Read Luke 19:41-44. How is the great love and compassion of Jesus displayed in the passage?
11. How do you feel knowing that Jesus, the most worthy person in the universe, stops to weep over us to have a real relationship with Him?
12. How is the Lord calling you to show compassion to those around you today?
13. Read Luke 19:45-46. How is Jesus' strength displayed in the passage?
14. What does this passage (and the previous parable) teach us about Jesus and judgment?
15. Read Luke 19:47-48. How is Jesus presented as a sacrificial lamb here?
16. How does Jesus' sacrifice on the cross help you to overcome your sin daily?





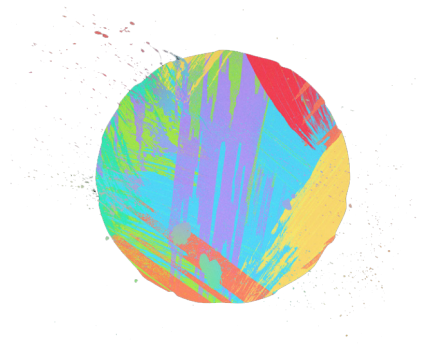
*Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion*

## Discussion Questions



*Jesus' triumphal entry to Jerusalem. Source: anonymous.*

17. In summary, how does Jesus' triumphal entry to Jerusalem encourage you to change the ways you live as a believer?



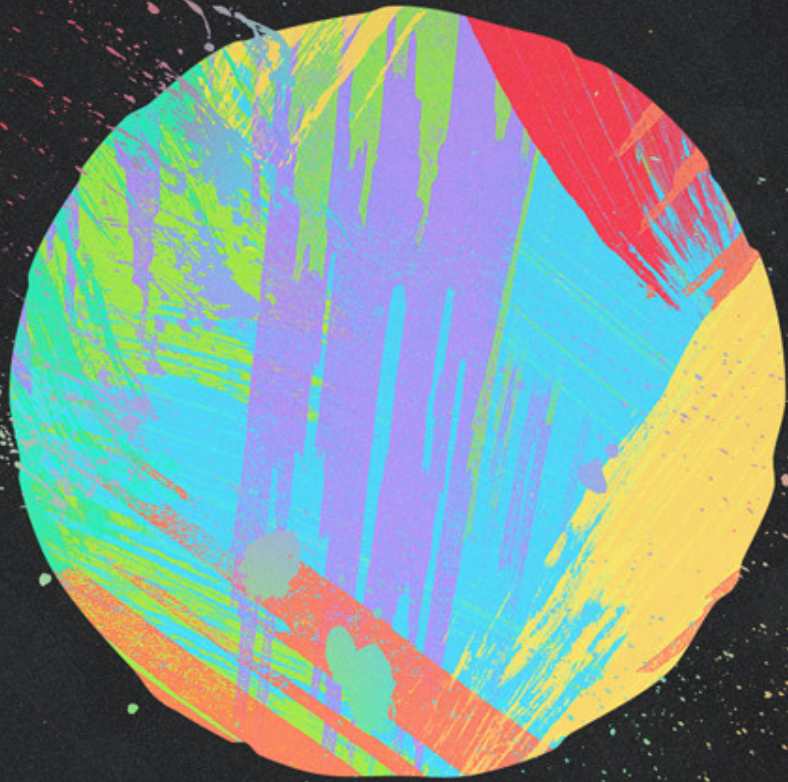
*Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion*

## Prayer & Praise

End your time together by reflecting on the goodness of God and praying for one another.

### Prayer Requests

### Praise Reports



PASSOVER

*Luke 22:1-23*

Apr 3

EASTER

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*the road to resurrection*



# Passover

Luke 22: 1-23

1 Now the Feast of Unleavened Bread drew near, which is called the Passover. 2 And the chief priests and the scribes were seeking how to put him to death, for they feared the people.

3 Then Satan entered into Judas called Iscariot, who was of the number of the twelve. 4 He went away and conferred with the chief priests and officers how he might betray him to them. 5 And they were glad, and agreed to give him money. 6 So he consented and sought an opportunity to betray him to them in the absence of a crowd.

7 Then came the day of Unleavened Bread, on which the Passover lamb had to be sacrificed. 8 So Jesus sent Peter and John, saying, "Go and prepare the Passover for us, that we may eat it." 9 They said to him, "Where will you have us prepare it?" 10 He said to them, "Behold, when you have entered the city, a man carrying a jar of water will meet you. Follow him into the house that he enters 11 and tell the master of the house, 'The Teacher says to you, Where is the guest room, where I may eat the Passover with my disciples?' 12 And he will show you a large upper room furnished; prepare it there." 13 And they went and found it just as he had told them, and they prepared the Passover.

14 And when the hour came, he reclined at table, and the apostles with him. 15 And he said to them, "I have earnestly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer. 16 For I tell you I will not eat it until it is fulfilled in the kingdom of God." 17 And he took a cup, and when he had given thanks he said, "Take this, and divide it among yourselves. 18 For I tell you that from now on I will not drink of the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes." 19 And he took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to them, saying, "This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me." 20 And likewise the cup after they had eaten, saying, "This cup that is poured out for you is the new covenant in my blood. 21 But behold, the hand of him who betrays me is with me on the table. 22 For the Son of Man goes as it has been determined, but woe to that man by whom he is betrayed!" 23 And they began to question one another, which of them it could be who was going to do this.

# Passover

Μεγάλη Πέμπτη (Maundy Thursday)

The Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed...

Can we just pause here for a moment? The Lord Jesus. Lord meaning master and owner of my life. Jesus meaning the Savior of my life. The night that the LORD JESUS (MY Lord Jesus) was betrayed He invited His betrayer to a table. The night that the LORD JESUS was betrayed He took time to wash the betrayer's feet. The night that the LORD JESUS was betrayed He broke bread with His betrayer. The night that the LORD JESUS was betrayed He drank from the same cup of His betrayer.

Of course Judas isn't the only guilty one at the table. Peter would deny Him. Thomas would doubt Him. All the others would desert Him. This meal is a reminder that Jesus came for sinners and therefore sinners are welcomed at the table. As Jesus breaks the bread He speaks to them and to us, "This is my body, which is FOR YOU." The cross is for you. His suffering is for you. It is not your deeds that enable us to draw near; it is His body that brings us near.

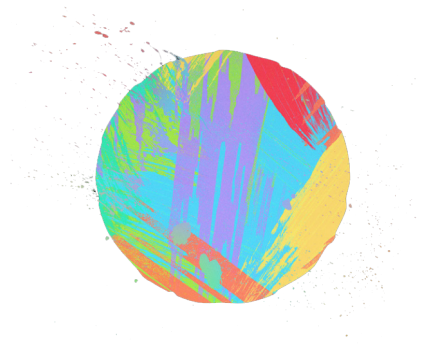
In a similar way Jesus takes the cup and says this is my blood, "poured out FOR YOU." Without the shedding of blood there is no remission of sin. What Jesus does now, at the table, is a foreshadowing of the cross. Blood will freely flow not because evil men reign but because it is impossible for evil men to become righteous men and reign with Christ without the cross. Let us not skip to the cross without first sitting at the table and remember that Jesus came for sinners, among whom I am the chief.

Do this...in remembrance of me.

In Him,

Pastor TJ





*Passover lamb had to be sacrificed*

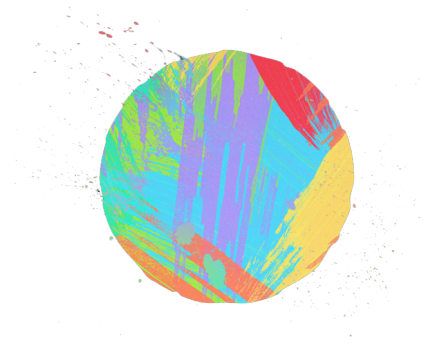
## Discussion Questions

1. What holidays, festivals and events from your country are centered around food and why?
2. Read Exodus 12:1-28. What do you know about the meaning of the Feast of Unleavened Bread (Passover)?
3. How would you say our lives were the same way as that of the Israelites in Egypt?
4. Read Luke 22:7-13. What does each element of the traditional Passover meal symbolize and how does each element point to Jesus?

### STORAGE JARS

*These large jars were found in Ekron and could have been used for storing water, oil, or wine.*

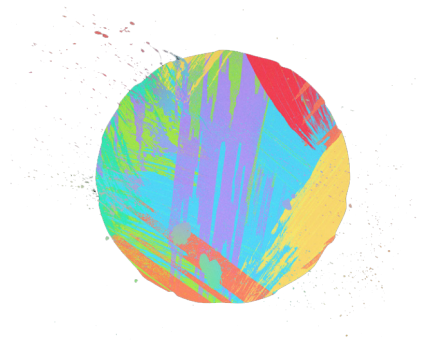




*Passover lamb had to be sacrificed*

## Discussion Questions

5. Just as the disciples prepared for the Passover meal, how are Christians to prepare for the Lord's Supper today?
6. As Jesus longed to be present with His disciples at the Passover, how is Jesus present with us in communion today?
7. Read Luke 22:14-23. In what ways do you see Jesus' great love for sinners and willingness to forgive sinners?
8. In what ways is the Lord's Supper meant to reconcile us not only back with God but to one another and how do we go about doing that?
9. Read Luke 22:16, 18 again. Why does Jesus make this promise and what is its importance today when we partake of the Lord's Supper?
10. Read v. 20. What is this "New" Covenant and how do we as Christians live fully in this covenant?
11. Read Luke 22:21-23. How is Judas' presence at the Passover meal both a warning and a call to witness for the church?
12. How is the death of Jesus and all that it accomplishes applied to a person today?



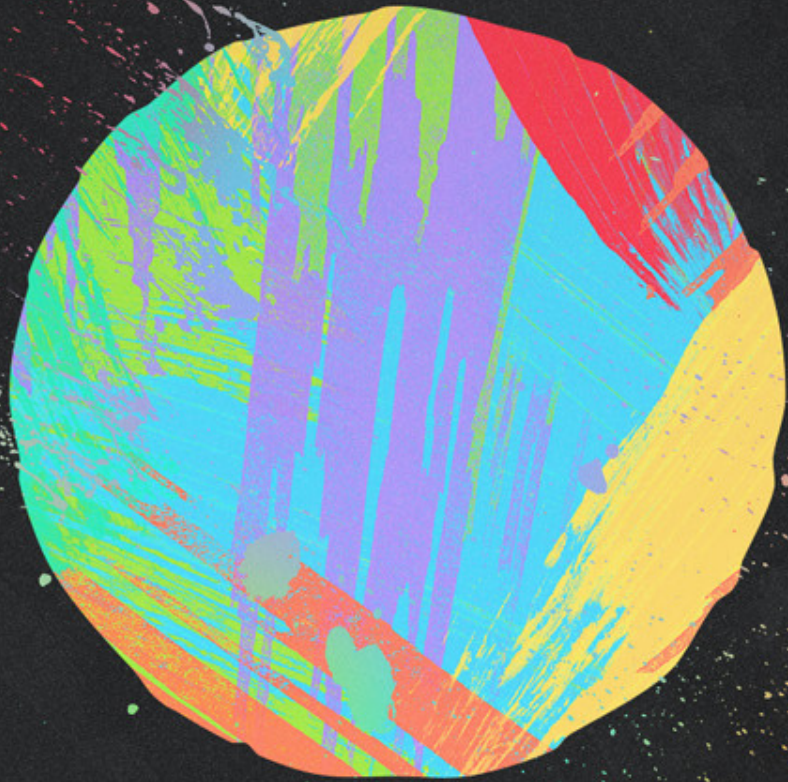
*Passover lamb had to be sacrificed*

## Prayer & Praise

End your time together by reflecting on the goodness of God and praying for one another.

### Prayer Requests

### Praise Reports



CRUCIFIXION

*Luke 23:18-56*

Apr 10

EASTER

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*the road to resurrection*

# Crucifixion

Luke 23: 18-56

18 But they all cried out together, "Away with this man, and release to us Barabbas"— 19 a man who had been thrown into prison for an insurrection started in the city and for murder. 20 Pilate addressed them once more, desiring to release Jesus, 21 but they kept shouting, "Crucify, crucify him!" 22 A third time he said to them, "Why? What evil has he done? I have found in him no guilt deserving death. I will therefore punish and release him." 23 But they were urgent, demanding with loud cries that he should be crucified. And their voices prevailed. 24 So Pilate decided that their demand should be granted. 25 He released the man who had been thrown into prison for insurrection and murder, for whom they asked, but he delivered Jesus over to their will.

26 And as they led him away, they seized one Simon of Cyrene, who was coming in from the country, and laid on him the cross, to carry it behind Jesus. 27 And there followed him a great multitude of the people and of women who were mourning and lamenting for him. 28 But turning to them Jesus said, "Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me, but weep for yourselves and for your children. 29 For behold, the days are coming when they will say, 'Blessed are the barren and the wombs that never bore and the breasts that never nursed!' 30 Then they will begin to say to the mountains, 'Fall on us,' and to the hills, 'Cover us.' 31 For if they do these things when the wood is green, what will happen when it is dry?"

32 Two others, who were criminals, were led away to be put to death with him. 33 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. 34 And Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do." And they cast lots to divide his garments. 35 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!" 36 The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him sour wine 37 and saying, "If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!" 38 There was also an inscription over him, "This is the King of the Jews."



# Crucifixion

39 One of the criminals who were hanged railed at him, saying, "Are you not the Christ? Save yourself and us!" 40 But the other rebuked him, saying, "Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? 41 And we indeed justly, for we are receiving the due reward of our deeds; but this man has done nothing wrong." 42 And he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." 43 And he said to him, "Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in paradise."

44 It was now about the sixth hour, and there was darkness over the whole land until the ninth hour, 45 while the sun's light failed. And the curtain of the temple was torn in two. 46 Then Jesus, calling out with a loud voice, said, "Father, into your hands I commit my spirit!" And having said this he breathed his last. 47 Now when the centurion saw what had taken place, he praised God, saying, "Certainly this man was innocent!" 48 And all the crowds that had assembled for this spectacle, when they saw what had taken place, returned home beating their breasts. 49 And all his acquaintances and the women who had followed him from Galilee stood at a distance watching these things.

50 Now there was a man named Joseph, from the Jewish town of Arimathea. He was a member of the council, a good and righteous man, 51 who had not consented to their decision and action; and he was looking for the kingdom of God. 52 This man went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. 53 Then he took it down and wrapped it in a linen shroud and laid him in a tomb cut in stone, where no one had ever yet been laid. 54 It was the day of Preparation, and the Sabbath was beginning. 55 The women who had come with him from Galilee followed and saw the tomb and how his body was laid. 56 Then they returned and prepared spices and ointments.

On the Sabbath they rested according to the commandment.

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# Crucifixion

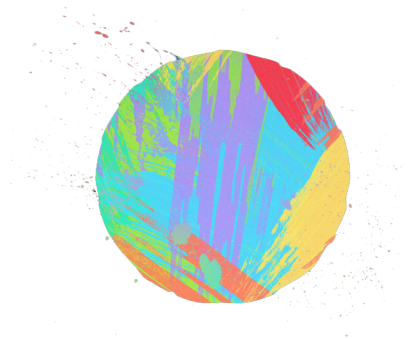
If ever there was a paradox it is found in the cross. The cross is the most horrific and simultaneously most honorific event in all of history. It is both gruesome and lovely. It is the greatest evil ever perpetrated that resulted in the greatest good ever possible. It was man at his lowest (humanity) and yet it was Man at His highest (the God Man Jesus Christ). It was the most shameful experience of Christ and yet ironically it was that very act that brought Him great glory. It is a death, but like a seed that dies, that death produced life. It repels us (we want to turn away) and yet strangely compels us (we long to linger at the cross).

No wonder Paul wrote, "Far be it for me to boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ." As J.C. Ryle writes, "Take away the cross of Christ, and the Bible is a dark book – curious and wonderful but of no real use."

May we never outgrow the cross. May we never lose the wonder of the cross. This Sunday as we remember Jesus, the Savior of the world, crucified for sinners may it move us into a deeper love for Him.

Going to the cross with you,

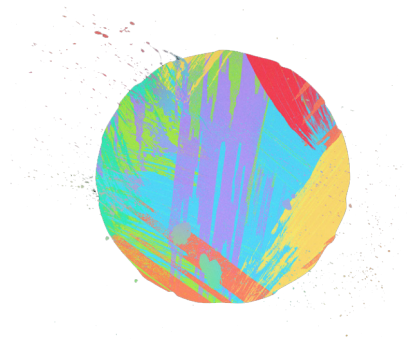
Pastor TJ



*Father, forgive them*

## Discussion Questions

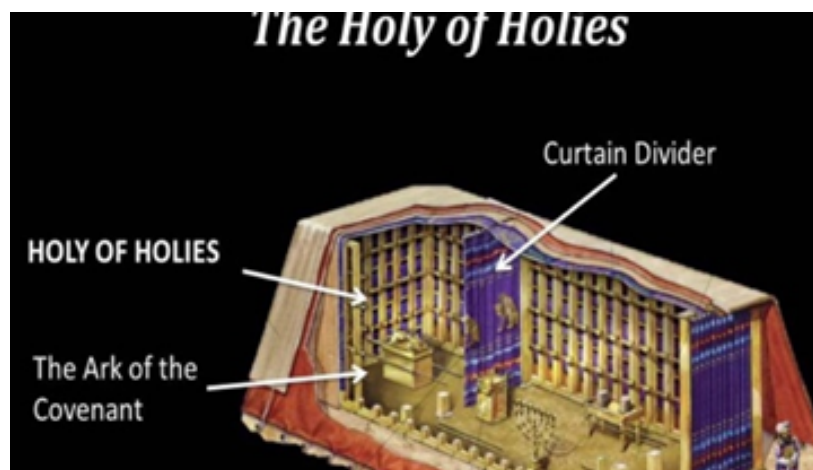
1. Have you ever been accused and punished for something you didn't do?
2. Read Luke 23:18-25. In what ways was Jesus portrayed differently from Barabbas, Pilate, and the crowd?
3. Who do you identify with the most from question #2 and why?
4. Knowing that Jesus went to the cross as a substitution for our sins how does it make you see your sin now?
5. Read Luke 23:26-43. Describe the types of suffering Jesus had to endure.
6. Read Luke 23:26-43 again. Discuss the role of each person we encounter as Jesus was going to the cross and with which do you identify the most?
7. How does Jesus' going through the suffering encourage you to endure the suffering you are going through right now?
8. Read Luke 23:44-49. What does darkness represent in the crucifixion of Jesus?



*Father, forgive them*

## Discussion Questions

9. What does the curtain in the temple being torn apart represent in the crucifixion of Jesus?

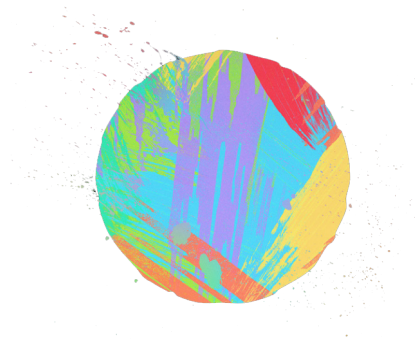


10. How does knowing that Jesus has brought salvation through His death encourage you to come to the cross daily with your struggles?

11. How does knowing that Jesus has brought salvation through His death encourage you to come to the throne room of God daily?

12. Is there any sin you are struggling with within your life right now you would like the group to pray with you about? Share if appropriate.

13. If you have to describe to someone else what Jesus' death was all about, what would you say?



*Father, forgive them*

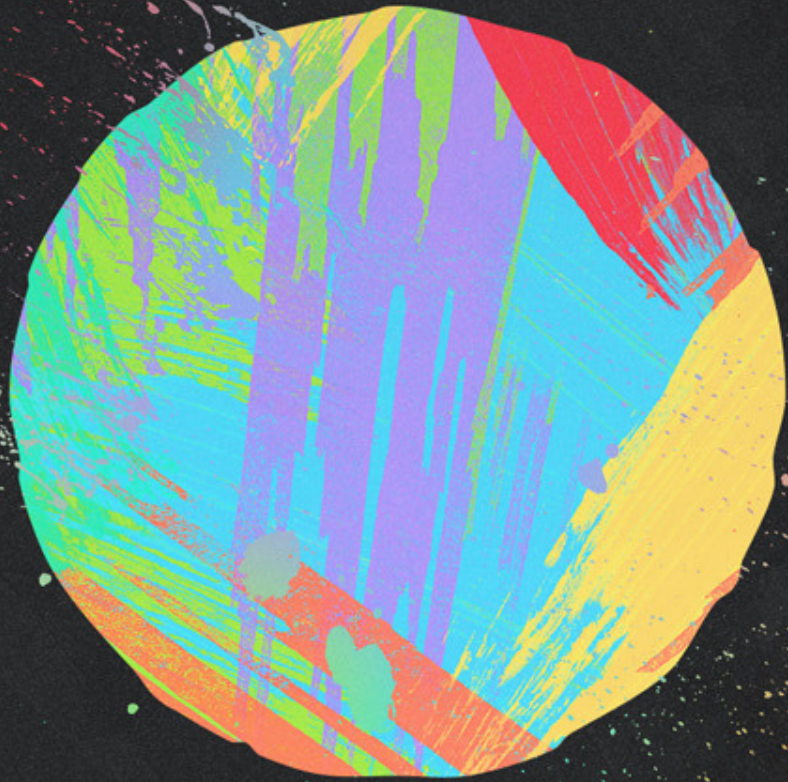
## Prayer & Praise

End your time together by reflecting on the goodness of God and praying for one another.

### Prayer Requests

### Praise Reports





RESURRECTION

*Luke 24:13-35*

Apr 17

EASTER

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*the road to resurrection*

# Resurrection

Luke 24: 13-35

13 That very day two of them were going to a village named Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, 14 and they were talking with each other about all these things that had happened. 15 While they were talking and discussing together, Jesus himself drew near and went with them. 16 But their eyes were kept from recognizing him. 17 And he said to them, "What is this conversation that you are holding with each other as you walk?" And they stood still, looking sad. 18 Then one of them, named Cleopas, answered him, "Are you the only visitor to Jerusalem who does not know the things that have happened there in these days?" 19 And he said to them, "What things?" And they said to him, "Concerning Jesus of Nazareth, a man who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, 20 and how our chief priests and rulers delivered him up to be condemned to death, and crucified him. 21 But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things happened. 22 Moreover, some women of our company amazed us. They were at the tomb early in the morning, 23 and when they did not find his body, they came back saying that they had even seen a vision of angels, who said that he was alive. 24 Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said, but him they did not see." 25 And he said to them, "O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken! 26 Was it not necessary that the Christ should suffer these things and enter into his glory?" 27 And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he interpreted to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning himself.

28 So they drew near to the village to which they were going. He acted as if he were going farther, 29 but they urged him strongly, saying, "Stay with us, for it is toward evening and the day is now far spent." So he went in to stay with them. 30 When he was at table with them, he took the bread and blessed and broke it and gave it to them. 31 And their eyes were opened, and they recognized him. And he vanished from their sight. 32 They said to each other, "Did not our hearts burn within us while he talked to us on the road, while he opened to us the Scriptures?" 33 And they rose that same hour and returned to Jerusalem. And they found the eleven and those who were with them gathered together, 34 saying, "The Lord has risen indeed, and has appeared to Simon!" 35 Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he was known to them in the breaking of the bread.

# Resurrection

I have a plant that sits by the window in our dining room. This past winter it withered and died. Since neither my wife nor I have green thumbs we assumed we either watered it too much or too little. I even attempted to repot it in hopes to revive it, but all to no avail. Due to the busyness of life we had not gotten around to throw this plant out. So it sat there on the table, withered and lifeless. Leaves turned to yellow that turned to brown that fell to the soil and turned to dust and crumbled in our hands.



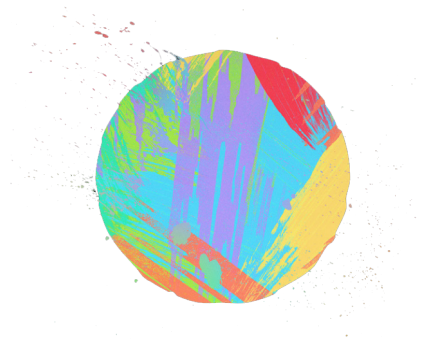
Well, imagine our shock a few weeks ago when new sprouts sprung from that once lifeless stem. Now it sits alive and giving life (through the process of photosynthesis) to all who enter its presence.

What a picture of the resurrection of Jesus! On Resurrection Sunday Jesus' followers came to the tomb to view a dead body, but oh the shock they received when it WAS NOT THERE! The angels asked, "Why do you look for the LIVING among the dead?" The Good News was declared, "He is RISEN." And now, because He lives, Christ sits in heaven alive and giving life to ALL who enter His presence by grace through faith.

He is risen. He is risen indeed!

Rejoicing in the resurrection with you,

Pastor TJ

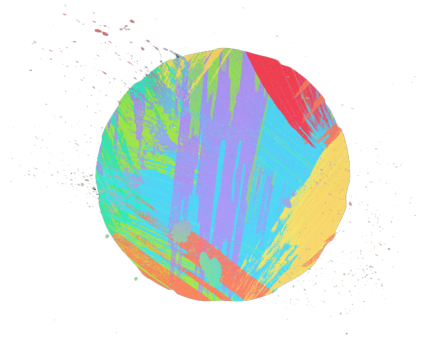


*The Lord has risen indeed*

## Discussion Questions

1. What Easter traditions do you have in your family growing up, or maybe you have them now as a first generation believer?
2. Read Luke 24:13-16. How do you think the disciples felt after Holy Week? What does this encounter teach us about Jesus?
3. What do you do when you don't desire God?
4. What do you do when your family doesn't see the beauty of Christ?
5. Read Luke 24:17-24. What were the hopes of the disciples that got ruined that week?
6. What are the hopes you have that you feel like you have lost in the last year or so?
7. How do we find true joy through Jesus' resurrection?
8. Read Luke 24:17-24 again. Are there any ways you've been selective in what you believe in Jesus just like the disciples?
9. Read Luke 24:25-27. Using other passages from the Bible, explain how Scripture points to the coming of the Messiah?



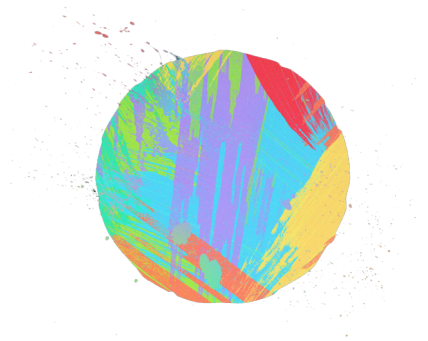


*The Lord has risen indeed*

## Discussion Questions

10. From your experience, what are the main struggles that slow you down to embrace, understand, or apply Scripture to your daily life?
11. How can you be more proactive to solve the issues you mentioned in question #10?
12. Read Luke 24:25 again. Tell the group if you've ever experienced Christ's loving correction in your life and how it looked.
13. Read Luke 24:28-29. In what ways can we improve our fellowship to be Christ-centered?
14. Read Luke 24:30-35. How did Jesus revealing Himself as the risen Christ affect the disciples' faith?
15. What are some of the fears in the world that Jesus' resurrection gives you hope to overcome?
16. How does the resurrection empower us to share the good news even when there might be legitimate fears associated with proclaiming the Gospel?
17. Finish the study praying for each other that the words "Christ is Risen" would have a real meaning in your life.





*The Lord has risen indeed*

## Prayer & Praise

End your time together by reflecting on the goodness of God and praying for one another.

### Prayer Requests

### Praise Reports