

BCS HIGH SCHOOL DEVOTIONAL GUIDE

April 6 - April 12, 2020

"The Passion Week"

Considering just how special this week is to our faith, this week's devotional guide will follow Christ and His disciples through Jerusalem during the Passion Week. Though we couldn't include everything in these few brief devotions, feel free to dive deeper and read more from the Gospels. Also, be sure to check out this week's "Additional Resources" which include a link to watch *The Passion of the Christ* for free!

MONDAY: The Triumphal Entry

Key Passage: John 12:12-19

"Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord, even the King of Israel" (John. 12:13b).

Questions to Consider:

1. It took some time for the disciples to understand what happened on Palm Sunday (v. 16). For what are you still seeking understanding from the Lord? Even though you might not understand what is happening, can you trust Him? Why or why not?
2. The crowd on Palm Sunday had gathered because people were testifying to what Jesus had done in raising Lazarus from the dead (v. 17). Do you actively engage in testifying to Jesus' work in your life—namely that he has brought you from death to life (Eph. 2:1-10)? If not, what is keeping you from engaging in this?
3. On this day, the crowd was ready and willing to crown Jesus as King over Israel. Have you made Jesus the King of your life? If not, what is holding you back?
4. What is one way that your family can actively engage in testifying to Jesus' work in your lives?

Takeaway: When we crown Jesus as King over our lives and He raises us from death to life, the natural response for us to proclaim His works. When we do this "the world [will go] after him" (v.19)!

Prayer Focus: Pray for boldness and courage to testify of the love and power of God. The world is looking for hope. Let's give them Jesus!

Song of the Day: ["Hosanna \(Praise is Rising\)" - Shane & Shane](#)

TUESDAY: "Sir, we wish to see Jesus."

Key Passage: John 12:20-26

"Sir, we wish to see Jesus" (John 12:21b).

Questions to Consider:

1. These Gentiles had come all the way to Jerusalem to celebrate the Passover, but above all else, they wanted to see Jesus. What things do you long for, or, what is your greatest desire? Is it Jesus?
2. Jesus knows what His purpose is and is unrelenting in His pursuit of it—it is the central organizing factor of His life (v. 23-24). Do you know what God has called you to, or do you think you know what it might be? Are you committed to that purpose?
3. What do you think the meaning of v. 25 is? [Jesus seems to be saying that whoever delights in his life in this world more than in God will lose it, but whoever thinks so little of his life, and so much of God, that he is willing to sacrifice it all for God will find it (Adapted from the ESV Study Bible).]
4. What do you believe following Jesus entails? (self-sacrifice)
5. Is it encouraging to know that whoever serves Jesus will be honored by the Father (v. 26)? How so?

Takeaway: A life committed to Christ is one that is marked by cherishing Christ above all else and a commitment to self-sacrifice in service to Jesus. Those who do so will be honored by God.

Prayer Focus: Let's take some time to confess our competing desires to Christ and ask that the Spirit would reveal Christ to us in a way that is beautiful and leads us to love Him more!

Song of the Day: ["Messiah / You're Beautiful" - Phil Wickham](#)

WEDNESDAY: Jesus Washes the Disciples' Feet

Key Passage: John 13:1-20

"Do you understand what I have done to you? You call me Teacher and Lord, and you are right, for so I am. If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet." (John 13:12b-14).

Activity: Foot Washing!

Dads (or, moms), I would encourage you to engage in this special activity tonight. It may seem strange, or be slightly uncomfortable, but it provides a beautiful picture of what Christ did for His disciples. Grab a basin filled with warm water and two smaller towels. Wash your children's feet (and those of your spouse) and tell this story from Scripture. It will require you to read this passage a couple of times earlier in the day, but it isn't that difficult to remember, and it doesn't have to be perfect. I would be sure to focus on the exchange between Peter and Jesus and the emphasis Jesus places on being washed by Him (not just the outside, but the cleansing power of the blood of Christ to wash away our sins and make our hearts clean).

Questions to Consider:

1. Why do we need to be washed by Jesus? (Because our hearts are unclean because of sin.)
2. Jesus makes obvious references to our need for Him to cleanse us of our sins, but he also has another purpose in washing his disciples' feet. What do you think that is? (Jesus shows us that we should seek to serve one another. If Jesus can wash his disciples' feet, then there is no service that is too "lowly" for us.)
3. What are some practical ways that we can serve one another this week?

Takeaway: Because of sin, we need Jesus to cleanse our hearts. Those who have been made clean should seek to emulate the life of Christ who didn't seek to be served, but rather to give His life in service to others.

Prayer Focus: Pray that your family "would do nothing from rivalry or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others" (Philippians 2:3-4).

Song of the Day: ["Jesus Paid It All" - Worship Circle](#)

THURSDAY: The Helper is Coming

Key Passage: John 16:4b-15

"Nevertheless, I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away The Helper will not come to you, but if I go, I will send him to you" (John 16:7).

Questions to Consider:

1. Do you ever wish that Jesus were still here? What would you ask Him, or want to do with Him?
2. As Jesus eats His final meal with his friends and tells them that He is leaving, he states that it is to their "advantage" that he leaves them (v.7). Why do you think Jesus says this? (So that in His going, He might send the Holy Spirit.)
3. In what ways is it advantageous for us to now have the Holy Spirit? (By the power of the Holy Spirit, God now resides in our very being.)
4. Based off of this passage, what is the role / function of the Holy Spirit? (To convict the world concerning sin, righteousness, and judgment (v. 8); to guide us into all the truth (v. 12); and, to glorify Jesus (v.14).
5. Do you sense the Spirit of God actively working in your life? In what ways? How might we be more cognizant of his role in our lives?

Takeaway: Jesus didn't abandon His disciples, or us. Rather, motivated by love for us and the Father, He went to the cross to bear the penalty of our sin. Upon His ascension into heaven, He sent us a great gift, the Spirit of the living God, who works in us now to convict us, to guide us into all truth, and to glorify the person of Jesus Christ in and through us.

Prayer Focus: Thank Jesus for sending the Holy Spirit into our lives. Ask that the work of the Spirit would be magnified in your life and that the Spirit would convict you and guide you into truth..

Song of the Day: ["Spirit of the Living God" - Vertical Worship](#)

FRIDAY: The Crucifixion of Christ

Key Passage: John 19:16b-30

“When Jesus had received the sour wine, he said, ‘It is finished,’
and he bowed his head and gave up his spirit” (John 19:30).

Questions to Consider:

1. This is a straight forward, yet somber passage of Scripture. As you reflect on the crucifixion, what do you think Christ experienced on the cross? (Possible answers: pain, abandonment, humiliation, suffering, etc.)
2. Whereas the masses were ready to crown Jesus as King on Palm Sunday, come Friday, John only lists five of Jesus’ followers as being present at the cross. Is your pursuit of Jesus ever dictated by outside circumstances (who you are with, your present situation, etc.)? Why or why not?
3. How does it make you feel to know that God’s love for you is so great that He—the great King of heaven and earth—became man and suffered death on a cross in order to save you from sin and make you righteous so that you may spend eternity in His presence?

Takeaway: It was the will of the LORD to crush Jesus in order to make an offering for our guilt so that out of the anguish of one soul, many would be made righteous (Isaiah 53:10-11).

Prayer Focus: Praise God for His great grace as displayed through the cross of Christ.

Song of the Day: [“Scandal of Grace” - Hillsong United](#)

SATURDAY: Meditation and Memorization

- As Jesus’ body lay in the tomb on Saturday, I am sure that the disciples laid low in the Upper Room—anxious and afraid—thinking and questioning everything that had taken place over the past three years with Jesus. Take some time today to meditate and reflect on your walk with Jesus. If you would like, also meditate on the following verse and commit it to memory.
- **Verse:** “The glory that you have given me I have given to them, that they may be one even as we are one, I in them and you in me, that they may become perfectly one, so that the world may know that you sent me and loved them even as you loved me.” (John 17:22-23)

Song of the Day: [“Death Was Arrested” - North Point Worship](#)

SUNDAY: Engage with your Local Church Online

- On this Easter Sunday we would encourage you to engage with your local church online. If your local church doesn’t have the resources to offer online services, we would love to have you join our online services at Briarwood Presbyterian Church at <https://briarwood.org/>.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES:

- **PASSION WEEK / EASTER PLAYLIST:** If you subscribe to Spotify or Apple Music, we have created a special playlist just for this week for you. Click [here](#) for Spotify, or [here](#) for Apple Music.
- **THE PASSION OF THE CHRIST:** If your children are old enough to be able to handle the mature content, this is [a great film](#) that depicts the final 12 hours of Jesus’ life. Obviously some artistic license is taken in the film, but it does a good job of presenting both the humanity and deity of Jesus, as well as the horrors of the cross.
- **LOVE TO THE UTTERMOST:** Briarwood Presbyterian Church has made this work from John Piper available on many platforms via its website. You can check out this devotional book [here](#).
- **FAMILY WORSHIP GUIDE:** Check out [this guide](#) from David Platt at McLean Bible Church:
- **UNREACHED OF THE DAY:** Remember that this pandemic is affecting our entire globe. [This app](#) from the Joshua Project will help you to be mindful of this as you pray for unreached peoples each day.