

A GUIDE
FOR WORSHIPPING THROUGH

Holy Week



WITH GRACE HILL CHURCH

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HOLY WEEK OVERVIEW OF EVENTS

Sunday, April 10

Palm Sunday Worship Service
10am at Herndon Middle School

Monday, April 11

Conversations about Jesus: Jesus is our Lord
Video Premiering Online at 7:30pm

Tuesday, April 12

Conversations about Jesus: Jesus is our King
Video Premiering Online at 7:30pm

Wednesday, April 13

Community Group Feast + Communion

Thursday, April 14

Serving Dinner for Young Lives

Friday, April 15

Good Friday Worship Service
7pm at Herndon Middle School

Saturday, April 16

Sabbath Rest

Sunday, April 17

Easter Sunday Worship Service
10:30am on the Herndon Town Green



WHO IS JESUS TO YOU?

Read and meditate on Luke 19:28-48.

If you surveyed a random sampling of 100 people asking them the question: “Who is Jesus to you?”, you are sure to get several different answers. The truth is, we don’t get to define who Jesus is and we don’t get to dictate the role that Jesus has or will play in our lives. Today is Palm Sunday which marks the arrival of Jesus into Jerusalem for His final week of ministry before He goes to the cross. As Jesus rides into Jerusalem upon a colt and as the city comes into His view, Jesus begins to weep (v.41). Why does Jesus weep? Jesus weeps because the city of Jerusalem, the holy city of God’s chosen people, doesn’t see Him for who He is. Jesus is the Messiah they’ve been waiting for, but they will soon reject Him and call for His execution. As we take time to slow down and meditate on the final week of Jesus’ life here in the flesh, let’s examine ourselves to see what role we allow Jesus to play in our lives.

MEDITATE

Below, you'll find a list of words. All of these might be potential roles Jesus plays in your life. Some of these roles are faithful to Scripture while some are not. However, this is an exercise in examining ourselves to see what role we think Jesus plays in our life. Take some time to silently reflect and circle any words that might be true of you. You might circle contradictory words as you reflect on different seasons and circumstances in your life. In the journaling section, I encourage you to write out a sentence explaining why you circled certain words.

MORAL GUIDE

SURVEILLANCE CAMERA

SAVIOR

FAIRY TALE

LAST RESORT

PRINCIPAL

GOD

RELIGIOUS INSTRUCTOR

GENIE

OVERBEARING FATHER

FRIEND

SERVANT

TEACHER

SOVERIEGN KING

COUNSELOR

PROPHET

JOURNAL

CONCLUDING THOUGHTS

During this Holy Week, let us commit to spending quiet, slow time with Jesus and His Word while reflect on who Jesus is and what He has done for each of us.



For the Family

Find a time with your whole family to sit down and do the same exercise that is on the previous page. Maybe go around the table and have each person share who Jesus is to them and why. Explain to your family that you will be taking this week to learn from the Bible who Jesus is and the role He plays in each of our lives.

Today's Event

Gather with the church today for a Palm Sunday Worship Service. 10am at Herndon Middle School.



JESUS IS LORD

Read and meditate on Luke 20:1-47.

In chapter 19, we find Jesus (now in Jerusalem) forcing people to answer one main question, “Who am I?”. As we continue to follow Luke’s account in chapter 20, he now highlights five places of confrontation between Jesus and leadership in regards to this very question. We find the authority of Jesus is being challenged in every way possible - theological, personal, and political. The leadership is determined to find a way to discredit Jesus’ claim as the Messiah or kill him.

In our Scripture reading today, we are confronted with the reality that Jesus is Lord. Colossians 1:15-19 says, “*15 He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. 16 For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him. 17 And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together. 18 And he is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent. 19 For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell.*”

MEDITATE

Where do you seek to find loopholes to Jesus' authority?

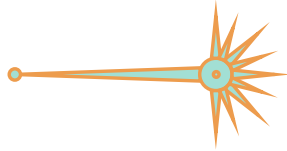
In what situations are you tempted to refuse or struggle to submit to Jesus?

What comfort does Jesus' authority as Lord bring to you? What situation(s) do you need to pray for this to encourage you?

JOURNAL

CONCLUDING THOUGHTS

Jesus is in the position of ultimate authority over all things (institutions and individuals). The source of Jesus' authority is from God Himself, not the religious leaders. Jesus is Lord.



For the Family

Remind your child(ren) that Jesus was asked many hard questions. Sometimes He answered them and other times He asked His own question! Sometimes, the people were asking questions but they were really trying to find ways not to listen to him (because Jesus is in charge!).

Jesus wants us to ask Him questions but more importantly he wants us to trust that He loves us and he can be trusted. Even when there are times we don't like the answers to the questions we might have! The leaders in Jesus' time didn't like the answers He was giving them because they wanted to be in control and they thought they knew what was best.

Share examples with your child(ren) of times you have had to encourage them to trust you in doing something because you know what is best for them as their authority. Teaching our children to trust Jesus as Lord is a lot like trusting you as a parent. Here's some age-appropriate examples to help you talk with them:

-Explaining why it isn't good to have ice cream for dinner all the time.

-Explaining to your child(ren) why God's design for sexual intimacy is for marriage only. The temptation will be to allow culture, feelings, and peer pressure to convince the opposite is true. As their parent and authority, you know that God's ways are always meant for our good and you know He longs for our joy to be increased not withheld. Trusting your authority as their parent may be challenging but remind them God always wants what is best (and so do you!). Remind them they will never regret following God's commands.

Today's Event

Tune in to "Conversations about Jesus - Jesus is Lord" premiering tonight on YouTube and Facebook at 7:30pm.



Tuesday

DAY THREE

JESUS IS KING

Read and meditate on Luke 21:1-38.

In Luke 21, we see Jesus foretelling of a future time when Jerusalem would be destroyed and God's people would experience persecution because of their allegiance to Christ. These words were written within a specific context to the Jewish people, but they likewise apply to us as Jesus is also speaking to future believers who would experience hardship and persecution. Jesus reminds us that, despite these hardships, these moments will actually be opportunities to bear witness to Him, and that He will give us wisdom and the ability to faithfully endure.

What enables believers to be faithful during these difficult times can be found in verses 27-28 where Jesus says that the "Son of Man" (a Messianic reference to Himself) will return in power and glory as our Sovereign King, and that as we see these things taking place, we are to lift our heads high in hope knowing that our redemption as Christians is coming. Finally, because of this great, sustaining hope that we have, Jesus encourages us to stay soberminded and to be prayerful for the strength to remain faithful as we await the return of our coming King.

MEDITATE

In light of Jesus encouragement in Luke 21, take a few moments to reflect on the things that you have a tendency to “hope in” on a day-to-day basis? i.e. job promotion, retirement, having children, the weekend, the next vacation, purchasing the latest gadget, etc...

How might Jesus Kingship and His future return impact what you’re hoping in on a day-to-day basis? How might this inform the steadfastness and faithfulness of your Christian walk? What is one way you can encourage someone else in this truth?

JOURNAL

CONCLUDING THOUGHTS

The Lord encourages us to set our hope fully on Him as our coming King (1 Pet. 1:13, Col 3:1-4). As we hope in and abide in Him, we will experience His sustaining power and be able to encourage others in this truth as well. Rest in the fact this week that Jesus is our King, and that He will supply all of the strength and wisdom that we need to faithfully persevere to the end.



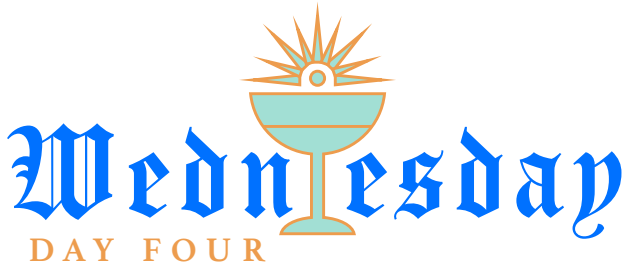
For the Family

In Luke 21 we see Jesus telling His followers that we can be faithful and have hope during hardships because Jesus is our King and in control of all things. After reading through Luke 21, discuss some hard things that you or your child might have experienced. You can anchor the discussion around some of the key verses in Luke 21 as follows...

- v. 13 - How can we “bear witness” or share Jesus with others when things are hard?
- v. 15 - How does Jesus give us wisdom when things are hard?
- v. 19 - How can we have joy and find life while we patiently endure?
- v. 27-28 - Jesus is coming again one day to our forever King. How does this make you feel?

Today’s Event

Tune in to “Conversations about Jesus - Jesus is King” premiering tonight on YouTube and Facebook at 7:30pm.



JESUS IS THE PASSOVER LAMB

Read and meditate on Luke 22:1-23 & Exodus 12:1-28.

Jesus is betrayed by someone close to him. The leaders are finally able to silence Jesus and put an end to the threat Jesus has posed to them. In the midst of the betrayal that will imminently lead to the arrest and death of Jesus, we find Jesus prepare a meal with his disciples. Amidst all that is happening, we find Jesus in complete control. This meal is a significant because as they prepare the Passover meal by killing and preparing a lamb, so too would Jesus soon give up his own life for the sins of the world. Jesus is faithful, not a criminal, as he will soon be unjustly accused. This last meal will be one that will be taken by millions of other followers of Jesus until His final return. This meal is to remind us of all that Jesus has done and accomplished on our behalf. His broken body is the bread and the cup is the blood that he spilled as He died for our sins.

Jesus, even though death is near, continues to teach his followers that great suffering and trials will continue and that they will need to rely on God for all things. Jesus will show that greatness in leadership will be shown not by might or swords but by sacrifice and service. Jesus will lead one final time to the greatest example of this greatness by going to the cross himself. What a friend we have in Jesus (Luke 7, John 15).

MEDITATE

Why did Jesus die?

Why is Jesus' death different than anyone else in history?

Why is communion (the Lord's Supper) such an important part of our faith?

How does the fact that Jesus laid down his life for you impact you?
Why?

JOURNAL

CONCLUDING THOUGHTS

Jesus was committed to giving up his life for the sins of the world. He did what we couldn't do - what a friend we have in Jesus. He laid his life down for us.



For the Family

Read Exodus 12:1-28 together and talk about how Jesus is our Pass-over Lamb.

Take a piece of bread and explain what Jesus meant by the bread being His broken body. Take some juice and explain the same for His blood as a sacrifice.

Spend time letting your children ask questions about why Jesus would want to die and want us to remember him that way.

Today's Event

Gather with your Community Group tonight for a feast and communion.



JESUS IS A FAITHFUL SERVANT

Read and meditate on Luke 22:24 -23:16 & Isaiah 53:7-12

Long before Jesus arrived in the flesh, God had revealed to His people how the Messiah would come and what the Messiah would do to bring salvation to His people. Isaiah 53:7-12 is part of that prophecy. In our text from the Gospel of Luke, we read about the faithfulness of Jesus to fulfill this prophecy and walk in the will of God, despite the anxiety he felt over it (Luke 22:42), despite betrayal from friends, and despite the external pressure from His enemies. Jesus is our faithful servant *“who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.”* (Philippians 2:6-8)

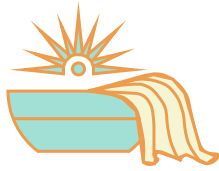
MEDITATE

In Luke 22:24-27, a discussion arises between Jesus and His disciples about the true meaning of greatness. Read over our entire passage slowly. Based on Jesus words and actions, write a definition of greatness below:

JOURNAL

CONCLUDING THOUGHTS

Jesus is our faithful servant. He humbled Himself so that we could be included in the family of God. He was obedient to the will of God so we could be rescued from our sin. Jesus “*came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.*” (Mark 10:45)

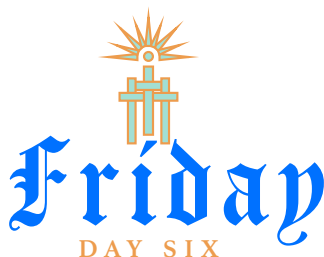


For the Family

Ask your family what their definition of greatness is. Read Jesus words from Luke 22:24-27 and discuss how our definition of greatness can sometimes be different than Jesus' definition. Discuss how Jesus is our example in how He faithfully serves us.

Today's Event

Help provide a meal for Young Lives tonight, a local ministry that ministers to teen moms.



JESUS IS OUR SAVIOR

Read and meditate on Luke 23:18-49.

Here in Luke 23, we see the account of Jesus crucifixion and death. As Jesus is being led to calvary, He exhorts the people not to weep for Him but to mourn for the difficult days that are ahead. This is a way of Jesus personally lamenting over the people's rejection of Him as their Lord and Messiah. Jesus further feels the weight of the people's rejection of Him as the soldiers mock Him while He hangs on the cross. One of the two thieves, who were crucified next to Jesus, begins to likewise mock Jesus, but upon hearing it, the other thief condemns him for this and then confesses Jesus' innocence while asking the Lord to remember Him when He comes into His Kingdom. Jesus responds to His faith by telling Him that he would be with Him in paradise that day. This marks a subtle, but hopeful shift in the text where, as Jesus begins to die, the fruit of His death on the cross becomes evident. First, the veil of the temple is torn, which signifies that the way to God has now been opened to mankind (Hebrews 10 elaborates more on this concept). Secondly, as Jesus commits Himself to the Lord in His passing, many of the soldiers and people present see now with eyes of faith that Jesus was innocent and that He was in fact the Son of God. Verse 47 even tells us that praise came from the soldier who was, just prior to this moment, mocking Jesus. So, following Christ's death on the cross, we see its immediate efficacy as fruit and even praise comes after His sacrifice.

MEDITATE

In light of what Luke 23 says, take a few moments to reflect on what happened to Jesus at calvary. Take a few minutes to thank Him for His sacrifice that He made so that we might have hope.

In verses 42-49 we see the immediate effect of Jesus' work on the cross as the thief, the soldier, and others present express faith in Him. What has been the effect of faith in Christ in your life? How can you encourage someone this week in the work that you've seen the Lord do in their life?

JOURNAL

CONCLUDING THOUGHTS

The work that Jesus did on the cross, as hard as it is to read about, was God's plan to bring salvation to mankind. The sacrifice of Jesus was the catalyst by which God's eternal life and blessings now come to all who place their faith in Him. Be encouraged today that His sacrifice is effective for salvation and try encouraging someone else in this truth today!



For the Family

In Luke 23, we see Jesus dying on the cross for our sins. He sacrificed Himself for our sins so that we didn't have to be apart from God, but so that we can have a relationship with God and live with Him forever!

Take some time to ask your child(ren) about why Jesus made this sacrifice and how that makes them feel. You can also spend time discussing the faith of the thief on the cross as well as how the heart of the soldier was changed from mocking Jesus to praising Him when he realized the sacrifice that Jesus made for him.

Today's Event

Gather with the church tonight for a Good Friday Worship Service. 7pm at Herndon Middle School.



Saturday

DAY SEVEN

JESUS IS OUR REST

Read and meditate on Luke 23:50-56 & Exodus 16.

Jesus is in the grave. Those who had been following Jesus were shell shocked. Their hope, their Messiah, had been killed. Was hope lost? Our text shows us that Jesus was killed as a criminal but buried in honor. Those who had followed him sought to prepare his body and even donated a tomb for Jesus' body. Women came to honor Jesus as well and saw the tomb where Jesus laid. But they also rested on that Sabbath day as we see in v.56.

In Exodus 16, we read about some Sabbath Day regulations. God provided food for His people six days a week and commanded them not to gather food on the seventh day. Rather, God would provide a double portion on the sixth day to cover their need for the seventh day. As we see in Exodus 16, some had a hard time trusting God on the seventh day. God seemed silent yet He was faithful to provide.

God was silent on Saturday. It was a day of rest. A day to trust that God would come through.

MEDITATE

Have you had to wait on the Lord?

What must it have been like for those following Jesus seeking to be faithful to the commandment to rest - while knowing Jesus was in the tomb?

How does the resurrection of Jesus enable us to rest on the Lord even when He's silent?

JOURNAL

CONCLUDING THOUGHTS

We can rest in Jesus even when He is silent. God has not forgotten us.



For the Family

Practice waiting in silence for 2-3 minutes.

Have your child ask you a question and then let there be silence for 2-3 minutes. Encourage your family that even when it seems like God isn't listening, He's always there and working to help us trust Him even more. The death of Jesus proves that nothing can keep God from us - our sins have been forgiven and so God is always coming for us - even when it's silent.

Jesus is there in the silence! That can help us to rest!

Today's Event

Rest.



Easter Sunday

DAY EIGHT

JESUS, RISEN KING OR IDLE TALE?

Read and meditate on Luke 24:1-12.

Jesus has risen! He is who He said He was! He is the Son of God. Lord. King. Our Passover Lamb. Faithful Servant. Savior. Our true rest. As we read our passage this morning, notice the response of the disciples when the women came rushing in to tell them that Jesus was alive, and the tomb was empty. Verse eleven says that some just thought this to be an idle tale. What about us? Do we see this as the true story of the resurrection of our Savior and King or do we see this as just an idle tale?

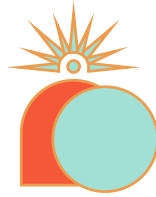
MEDITATE

Spend some time this morning reflecting on Holy Week. Each day, we spent time thinking about the different roles that Jesus plays in our life. Which role/day struck you as the one that is most challenging? Which day/role is the one that you need to surrender to?

JOURNAL

CONCLUDING THOUGHTS

Your brothers and sisters in Christ are the people best equipped to help you deepen your relationship with Jesus in this way. What would it look like for you to share your reflections from today with your community and seek their help?



For the Family

Ask your family which role that Jesus plays in our life from this week most resonated with them. Ask them which one was most challenging.

Today's Event

Gather with the church today to celebrate the Resurrection of Christ! 10:30am on the Herndon Town Green.

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