

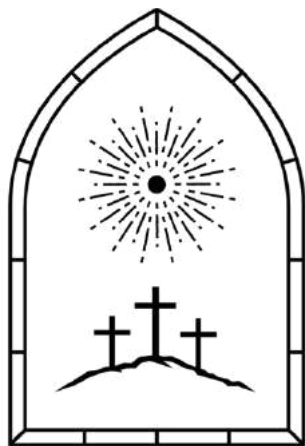


HOLY SEASON

DEVOTIONAL

NAME





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INTRODUCTION

The Holy season is as cultural in the Valley as grilled fajitas at the park on a Sunday. The smell of freshly seasoned meat is more than a pleasing aroma, it's worship. The entire family makes it out to the party, bringing offerings and gifts, and songs of praise are sung at the beat of guitars and a tuba.

The Holy season is embraced by the Valley and whether it's the devoted family who observes this season or the restaurant that goes out of their way to serve fish on Fridays during Lent, one doesn't have to drive far to capture this communal value.

Yet, however cultural this time is for the Valley, it's much more than that. The Holy season is deeply rooted in church history where saints who have gone before us observed this time in by drawing closer to God, repenting of sin, and preparing for the greatest moment in redemptive history: the glory of the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Our aim is to take what is culturally accepted and provide biblical history and discipleship. We create content because we desire for you to grow as a disciple of Jesus through delight in His word and community with one another. Each devotional is meant to help you slow down and contemplate on the word of God as you apply it in the context of your everyday life.

HOW TO USE THIS DEVOTIONAL

This devotional is meant to be used for personal, family, or communal study. Our goal is to invite you to engage in the holy season intentionally and biblically. Through God's Word, written prayers, and questions for reflection our hope is that you draw closer to God in dependence.

I pray that you are blessed by this creative work written by several members at Storehouse McAllen. May the Holy Spirit be your great guide and counselor as you receive the word of God during the 2024 holy season.

In Him,

Pastor Marco De Leon

WHAT IS THE HOLY SEASON?

The Holy season is found in the history of the church calendar. Throughout the year, the church has historically set time aside to focus on a specific season in the life and ministry of Jesus.

We developed this devotional to begin with the season of Lent which focuses on Jesus' time while fasting in the wilderness (*Matthew 4*) and guide you through a few weeks of spiritual disciplines that lead all the way to Resurrection Sunday.

Lent, which begins on Wednesday February 14th, has taken many shapes and approaches within the church, but the intentions remain the same: fasting, self examination, repentance, and preparation for the resurrection celebration.

Throughout this guide, we have incorporated spiritual disciplines to better help you engage the holy season and draw closer to God through fasting, prayer, and generosity. Spiritual disciplines or habits are important because they shape our lives and our worship.

Everyone has habits, good or bad. Our habits are a reflection of what we give ourselves to which is, in part, something meant for us to consider: what have I given myself over to? What has shaped my life apart from God?

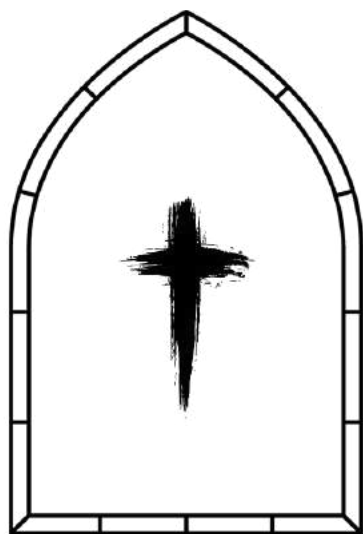
In his book, *The Common Rule*, Justin Earley writes, "A liturgy is a pattern of words or actions repeated regularly as a way of worship...notice how similar the definition of liturgy is to the definition of habit. They're both something repeated over and over, which forms you; the only difference is that a liturgy admits that

it's an act of worship. Calling habits liturgies may seem odd, but we need language to emphasize the non-neutrality of our day-to-day routines. Our habits often obscure what we're really worshiping, but that doesn't mean we're not worshiping something. The question is, what are we worshiping?"

Our lives are literally daily liturgies, formed by something that we've given ourselves to – either gratification or grace. This season, let us consider and confess what we've given ourselves to and draw near to God through His grace for us.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

1. Journey to the Cross: A 40-Day Lenten Devotional
by Paul Tripp
2. Journey to the Cross (devotionals for lent)
by Will Walker
3. A Praying Life: Connecting with God in a Distracting World
by Paul E. Miller
4. The Common Rule: Habits of Purpose for an Age of Distraction
by Justin Earley
5. A Hunger for God: Desiring God through Fasting and Prayer
by John Piper
6. Spiritual Disciplines for the Christian Life
by Donald Whitney
7. The Final Days of Jesus
by Andreas Köstenberger & Justin Taylor



L E N T

SPIRITUAL DISCIPLINE – FASTING

Wednesday, February 14th & Wednesday, February 21st

Throughout the pages of redemptive history, the people of God fast for certain periods of time in their lives. Fasting was not a diet hack, a political posture, or a self-righteous religious activity. Fasting, for God's people, is an intentional season where we examine ourselves, our sin, and our relationship and dependence with God. Fasting from food reveals what we are truly hungry for.

John Piper writes, "fasting tests where the heart is...fasting is a brief, voluntary experience of this [food] deprivation. When we experience this willing forfeiture, the Lord reveals what is in our hearts. What are we controlled by? What do we value and trust?"

For the next two weeks, consider carefully what the Lord is calling you to fast from.

IDEAS FOR FASTING – (As a family or on your own)

- **Screen time** - reduce the amount of screen time that you watch or eliminate watching screens altogether once a week.
- **Social Media** - log off and delete social media apps from your phone for 40 days.
- **Eating Out** - Go for a prayer walk instead of going out.
- **Weekly fasting** - skip a meal once a day (breakfast, lunch or dinner) or fast for 24 hours once a week.

AS YOU FAST

- Examine your heart (*Psalms 51*)
- Consider what is it that you truly hunger for apart from God?
- Confess your sin
- Remember the promise of God, that He is our portion (*Psalms 16*)

PRAYER

Lord, thank you for your grace and for your presence in our lives. As we walk into a season of fasting, help us examine our hearts. Help us turn away and repent from the things we are controlled by. Reveal to us what you are calling us to fast from. May this season of fasting increase our dependence on you. In Jesus' name, Amen.

QUOTE | Andrew Murray

"Fasting helps express, deepens, confirms the resolution that we are ready to sacrifice anything, even ourselves, to attain what we seek for the kingdom of God."

FAMILY DISCIPLESHIP

- **Activity - The Weight of Sin** - This activity introduces the idea that "carrying unconfessed sin around" is exhausting. Fill a backpack with heavy items for each person to carry that has a reasonable weight in it for each family member's age and stamina (snacks and water work well). Walk for as long as you can before taking a break. And on your break, read through *Psalms 32:1-5* and discuss holding on to sin instead of confessing it saps a person's energy, just as walking around carrying heavy packs does.
- **Discussion** - How do you feel if you have done something wrong and no one knows? How would you describe the way you feel when you are guilty? What happened to David when he sinned against God? Read *Proverbs 28:13*. What does God offer us when we confess our sins? (Sin and guilt can weigh us down, and ultimately keep us from being united to God. But God forgives us through Jesus when we confess our sins. Also see *Psalms 32:11, Proverbs 28:13, 1 John 1:9*)
- **Sing Together** - My Soul Among Lions // How Blessed Is The Man (*Psalms 32*); Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus

CONFESSION

Fasting exposes our deepest longing; what we truly hunger for more than God. Begin this season with a time of confession on what has captured you more than Jesus. Pray for the strength and courage to lay it on the table; to be remembered not for your sin but His goodness.

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

1. Begin the season of lent by examining yourself. What has controlled or captivated you more than Jesus in this last season?
2. Fasting involves grieving our sin and expressing repentance to God. How can grieving our sin be spiritually healthy? Spiritually unhealthy?
3. Fasting helps mature our dependence on God. What is God calling you to fast from in order to focus your attention and affection on Him this season?

NOTES

SPIRITUAL DISCIPLINE – PRAYER

Wednesday, February 28th & Wednesday, March 6th

Prayer is more than a discipline or a habit. Prayer is a deeply spiritual experience because it is the vehicle in which we approach God confidently. Prayer is more than communication with God, but the gift of accessibility to Him through Jesus. Often, we complicate prayer with templates and rituals and when we fail to use them consistently, we are left discouraged.

Over the next several weeks, consider two things. First, prayer begins with presence not practicum. When Jesus taught, “Pray then like this, Our Father...” (*Matthew 6:9*) He uses familial language to convey presence. Second, do not pray with what you can’t, instead begin with what you can. If you’re not accustomed to praying for one hour a day, then don’t start there. Start with five minutes and grow in faithfulness. Faithful presence with God produces the fruitfulness of God.

WHEN PRAYING – CONSIDER

- **Commit to praying consistency** - set up a specific time to pray, mark it on your calendar, set a reminder on your phone. What is best for you in this season?
- **Pray as needed** - when the Lord prompts you to pray suddenly, in the moment for thirty seconds or thirty minutes, pray.
- **Pray for the saints** - One of the ways that we push darkness back in our culture of individualism is by giving God thanks for His grace in the life of others; write the names of a small list of people and pray for them.
- **Write your prayers** - after this season, you can look back to not only if God answered those prayers, but how your heart was personally changed in this time.
- **Prayer walk** - walk around your neighborhood, pray for the families in your neighborhood as you pass by their houses.

AS YOU PRAY

If this is a “muscle” that is a little weak, that’s okay. It’s why we’re here. There will be some awkward moments and that’s normal, but there will be life-giving moments and heart wrenching challenges, lean into them.

Paul Miller writes, “We have an allergic reaction to dependency, but this is the state of the heart most necessary for a praying life. A needy heart is a praying heart. Dependency is the heartbeat of prayer.”

PRAYER WALK (Activity)

Choose a day this week to take a walk and pray. If the weather is an obstacle, consider praying from home. Whether you set aside 10 or 30 minutes, be intentional with the time you spend time in prayer.

QUOTE | Elisabeth Elliot

“Prayer lays hold of God’s plan and becomes the link between his will and its accomplishment on earth. Amazing things happen, and we are given the privilege of being the channels of the Holy Spirit’s prayer.”

FAMILY DISCIPLESHIP

- **Discussion** - Go around the table and talk about a time where you felt that getting through a specific situation was hard and all you could do is pray to God. What was your prayer like? How did your heart and spirit feel at that time? How was God’s faithfulness revealed?
- **Pray together** - Dear God, Thank you for loving us and for sending Jesus. Teach us to be obedient, just as he was, so we can do your will. In Jesus’ name, Amen. Thank God that Jesus had the strength to endure our punishment.

CONFESSION

Prayer can sometimes be the last thing we consider or that when we pray, everything has to be just right and then, maybe, God will listen. Begin this time with confessing to God that prayer has taken a back seat and that, at times, lies have gotten the best of you. If prayer begins with presence, then let this be the reminder: presence with God is a gift that you've been given because Jesus has reconciled you to Him. Approach Him confidently and like a child.

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

1. After reading Elisabeth Elliot's quote on prayer, how is prayer significant in the Christians life?
2. Read *Exodus 5:22-23*. Moses was honest with God regarding how he felt. How honest are you with God when you pray? What keeps you from being honest in prayer?
3. Do you have difficulty praying on a regular basis? If so, what are some specific ways you can overcome those challenges?

NOTES

SPIRITUAL DISCIPLINE – GENEROSITY

Wednesday, March 13th & Wednesday, March 20th

Generosity is often and quickly associated with our money and that makes us, Christians especially, weary of someone when it is discussed. Martin Luther, the German reformer said, “There are three conversions necessary: the heart, the mind, and their wallets.”

However, the Bible doesn’t view generosity as something that begins with our wallets. In fact, the Bible teaches that generosity begins with how we view grace (*2 Corinthians 8:7*).

God’s grace is His unmerited favor to sinners like you and me. It is by His grace that He left heaven and entered into human history. It is by grace that He lived a sinless life, one that we cannot. It is by grace that He died a death that we deserve and are forgiven of our sins and called redeemed. It is by grace that He resurrected from the dead, ascended back into heaven, and then sends the Holy Spirit to dwell in us, making us a new creation. It is by grace that we cultivate and are shaped by generosity because our ultimate example is in the One who gave it all so that we might become rich in Him (*2 Corinthians 8:9*).

AS YOU GROW IN GENEROSITY

- Take someone or a family out for a meal, break bread, laugh a ton, and pick up the tab.
- Buy groceries for a family in need or a single mom
- Purchase gift cards for coffee, treats, or food and gift them to our teachers, they’re our largest group of local missionaries in our church
- Consider increasing your generosity in our church so that we’re not only healthy financially, but committed to the work God has called us to which includes your participation.

PRAYER

Throughout the pages of Scripture we can find and read about God's people giving praise and thanks to Him for His generosity. This week, set time aside to write a prayer that simply expresses gratitude to God for His generosity.

Consider using the following guide for your time in prayer:

Praise Him for who He is, a generous God.

Reflect on past prayers that He has so generously answered.

Thank Him for the generous people He has placed in your life.

QUOTE | John MacArthur

"God made all of His creation to give. He made the sun, the moon, the stars, the clouds, the earth, the plants to give. He also designed His supreme creation, man, to give. But fallen man is the most reluctant giver in all of God's creation."

FAMILY DISCIPLESHIP | ACTIVITY

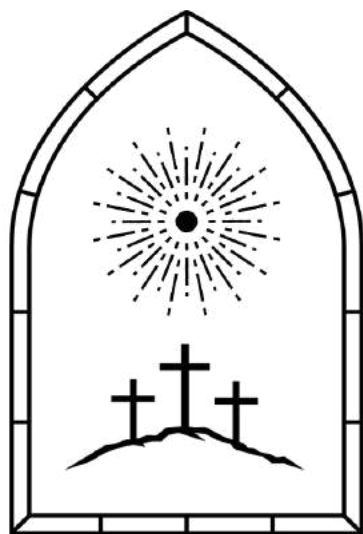
- **Sing together** - "This is Amazing Grace" by Northview Kids.

CONFESSION

At some point, we have all been unwilling to give due to our own selfishness. Take a moment and confess to the Lord the specific times that selfishness led to your unwillingness to give.

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

1. Read *Romans 5:1-11*. How do these verses reveal God's generous character?
2. How does God's generosity toward you lead you to be generous?
3. What specific areas of your life do you struggle to be generous?



HOLY WEEK

HOLY WEEK – PALM SUNDAY

Sunday, March 24th

¹⁵Now at the feast the governor was accustomed to release for the crowd any one prisoner whom they wanted. ¹⁶And they had then a notorious prisoner called Barabbas. ¹⁷So when they had gathered, Pilate said to them, "Whom do you want me to release for you: Barabbas, or Jesus who is called Christ?" ¹⁸For he knew that it was out of envy that they had delivered him up. ¹⁹Besides, while he was sitting on the judgment seat, his wife sent word to him, "Have nothing to do with that righteous man, for I have suffered much because of him today in a dream." ²⁰Now the chief priests and the elders persuaded the crowd to ask for Barabbas and destroy Jesus. ²¹The governor again said to them, "Which of the two do you want me to release for you?" And they said, "Barabbas." ²²Pilate said to them, "Then what shall I do with Jesus who is called Christ?" They all said, "Let him be crucified!" ²³And he said, "Why? What evil has he done?" But they shouted all the more, "Let him be crucified!"
- Matthew 27: 15-23

In the popular dystopian novel series, The Hunger Games, a group of selected individuals are forced to brutally fight each other to death in the annual Hunger Games, a form of entertainment in their society. The sole survivor of the games and their community are rewarded with abundant resources, food, and recognition. Although Katniss Everdeen, the protagonist, is not chosen to participate in the games, she volunteers to take the place of her younger sister, Prim. This sacrificial act is one motivated by deep love.

When we look in the pages of Scripture, we see the greatest act of love displayed by God. Jesus took our place, in fact, He volunteered to take our place, on the cross. He died the death we deserved and paid the ultimate price of sin with His own blood.

This Palm Sunday, take a moment to meditate on Christ's sacrificial love. As He triumphantly entered into Jerusalem, He also knew beforehand that He would walk toward the cross a few days later. Though mocked and ridiculed, that didn't stop him. He didn't throw in the white flag. Instead, He carried His cross. He knew the cost, yet He willingly took the punishment for us.

HYMN EXCERPT

"All Glory, Laud, and Honor" by John Mason Neale, Melchior Teschner, and Theodulf of Orléans

*All glory, laud, and honour
To Thee, Redeemer, King!
To Whom the lips of children
Made sweet Hosannas ring,*

*Thou art the King of Israel
Thou David's Royal Son,
Who in the LORD'S name comest,
The King and Blessèd One.*

SCRIPTURE MEMORIZATION | 2 Corinthians 5:21 (ESV)

First, read the verses aloud three times. Next, use the fill in the blank exercise. Then, try to write out the verses from memory.

²¹*For _____ sake he made him to be _____ who knew no sin,
so that in _____ we might become the _____ of God.*

FAMILY DISCIPLESHIP

- **Discussion** - What does it mean to reject Jesus? Many of the people who just a few days before shouted "Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord" had now turned against Him, demanding He be crucified. How have we rejected Him in our day to day lives?
- **Discussion** - *Matthew 27:18* - What behavior do you show when our heart and spirit are weak with envy? How is Jesus still faithful even in our weakest days? How does He convict and comfort you?
- **Read** - *John 10:18* - Thank God for the greater work being done in this week's passage, that while the Jews chose the wrong man to be crucified, but the Lord put forward the right One. That grace would be best demonstrated through Jesus.

NOTES

HOLY WEEK – GOOD FRIDAY

Friday, March 29th

¹⁶From now on, therefore, we regard no one according to the flesh. Even though we once regarded Christ according to the flesh, we regard him thus no longer. ¹⁷Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. ¹⁸All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; ¹⁹that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. ²⁰Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. ²¹For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. - 2 Corinthians 5:16-21

In the movie, *The Replacements*, Coach Jimmy McGinty, played by Gene Hackman, recruits former football players from all walks of life to play for the Washington Sentinels and gives them an opportunity to relive the glory days. The original team had gone on strike and refused to play. The film concludes with the replacement players celebrating a winning season and McGinty reflects by saying, "every athlete dreams of a second chance, these men lived it."

A second chance is seen as an opportunity at redemption – to clear a debt, settle the score, or demonstrate who you can really be. We see it in movies, competitions, and other areas of pop culture. However, the Bible teaches that redemption isn't a second chance, it's something greater.

Often, we think and are told to be better, but "better" isn't what we're supposed to be. If the goal is simply to be better, what do we do with our guilt? Biblically, to experience redemption is to be released or freed from something. We are sinners who are enslaved

to our sin, captive to our rebellion, and chained to unrighteousness. A second chance would do us no good.

Good Friday is a tremendous moment in redemptive history because on the cross, the Lord Jesus did not die to be an example of “better-ness,” but died in order that you and I might experience redemption. In order to be redeemed from anything, an exchange has to take place. There’s a price to pay. On the cross, the Lord Jesus’ blood was the currency used in order to purchase us out of our slavery and bondage to sin.

You and I do not need a second chance, we need the gracious hand of redemption where, through Jesus, we are not better people, but a new people. In His death, we are forgiven of our sin, liberated of our bondage, and not improved humans but truly human.

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

1. In what ways are you trusting in something other than Jesus’ blood to save you?
2. Why is redemption not a second chance, but new life?
3. Read *Isaiah 53:1-6*. What do you learn about Good Friday from this passage?

HYMN EXCERPT

“I Stand Amazed” by Charles Hutchinson Gabriel

*He took my sins and my sorrows,
He made them His very own;
He bore the burden to Calv’ry,
And suffered, and died alone.*

TEACHER NOTES | ON RECONCILIATION | ROMANS 5:10

The word “reconciliation” is used to describe what happens when two disputing parties are brought back together after being separated from each other. Prior to our salvation, we were enemies of God, alienated from Him because of our sin. Sin violates God’s law requiring a payment to satisfy His justice. Devastatingly, the payment that must be given for sin is death (*Romans 6:23*). However, when we put our faith in the person and work of Jesus Christ, His death on the cross serves as our payment making the barrier that separated us from God no longer existent.

FAMILY DISCIPLESHIP

- **Discussion** - What are some ways in which people of the New Testament church were regarding people according to the flesh (v. 16-17)? Does the church today continue to struggle with regarding people according to the flesh? Instead of regarding people according to the flesh, how should we react and respond to others?
- **Discussion** - God created us to be in relationship with Him, but that was broken by sin. How did God achieve reconciliation with us? What had to happen in order that we would no longer be seen as enemies of God?
- **Discussion** - What does it mean to be an ambassador for Christ? What is one thing that you can do to represent Jesus to others well?

NOTES

HOLY WEEK – SILENT SATURDAY

Saturday, March 30th

²³Search me, O God, and know my heart! Try me and know my thoughts! ²⁴And see if there be any grievous way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting! - Psalm 139:23-24

According to a study conducted at the University of Groningen in the Netherlands, it only takes four seconds of silence in conversation for Americans to feel more rattled, rejected, and insecure. Four. Seconds.

If that's true, then we could use practice in silence – there's a reason it's a spiritual discipline. Donald Whitney writes, "the discipline of silence is the voluntary and temporary abstention from speaking so that certain spiritual goals might be sought."

I wonder how the disciples felt the day after Jesus was crucified and then buried. The Bible teaches that they sat in silence and feared for their lives thinking they could end up just like their teacher and friend. While traumatic, in that moment the promises and words of Jesus were forgotten.

Silence is a good practice that we should lean into, not only because we're surrounded by the noise of life and culture, but because silence reveals something about what or who we worship, what we give ourselves to. Silence makes us uncomfortable because it unmask our thoughts and emotions. Silence is a dark place that is often treated with the warm embrace of distraction. But what if silence is the place where God meets us? What if we lean into silence as an act of trust? If we do that, silence is less about worry and more about worship.

The discipline of silence is not about our intensity of quietness or how long we should be quiet, but about asking God to search our heart and thoughts; just because it's quiet doesn't mean we're alone. The proof is in the tomb. Tomorrow, it's empty.

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

1. Have you ever considered silence to be a place of spiritual warfare? Consider the words of Jim Elliot, "I think the devil has made it his business to monopolize on three elements: noise, hurry, crowds...Satan is quite aware of the power of silence."
2. What does God reveal to you in brief moments of silence?
3. Meditate on *Psalm 131:1-2*.

HYMN EXCERPT

"It Is Well" by Horatio Gates Spafford

*Though Satan should buffet, though trials should come,
Let this blest assurance control,
That Christ hath regarded my helpless estate,
And hath shed His own blood for my soul.*

*My sin—oh, the bliss of this glorious thought—
My sin, not in part, but the whole,
Is nailed to His Cross, and I bear it no more;
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul!*

*For me, be it Christ, be it Christ hence to live;
If dark hours about me shall roll,
No pang shall be mine, for in death as in life
Thou wilt whisper Thy peace to my soul.*

SCRIPTURE MEMORIZATION | Psalm 139:12 (ESV)

First, read the verse aloud three times. Next, use the fill in the blank exercise. Then, try to write out the verse from memory.

¹²*even the darkness is not _____ to you;
the night is bright as the _____
for _____ is as _____ with you.*

FAMILY DISCIPLESHIP | MEMORIZE

- **Discussion** - What do you think or feel knowing that nothing can hide from God? If God is all-seeing, all-knowing, all-present, what keeps us trusting Him? Thank God that He is not limited by the darkness of night and ask Him to bring His light to any darkness you are walking in (ex. unrepentant sin, grief, hurt).
- **Read** - *1 John 1:5* - This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all.

NOTES

HOLY WEEK – RESURRECTION SUNDAY

Sunday, March 31st

The valley is a place where people are usually suspicious about their surroundings. This is especially true when it comes to news that sounds too good to be true. There's a reason why one of the popular phrases in the valley is "ponte trucha", which means always be on alert or vigilant. Though many would call it wisdom or caution, it is really skepticism that the valley holds near and dear.

When we look at the account of Jesus' resurrection in the book of Luke, Peter exemplifies this skepticism after Mary Magdalene, Joanna, and Mary came back from Jesus' tomb with unbelievable news (*Luke 24:10*). They told the disciples that Jesus' body was not there and that He had resurrected. Out of disbelief, Peter ran to the tomb to see for himself (*Luke 24:12*). To his surprise, the ladies were right, Jesus had risen.

For many, the resurrection is merely an event that acts as a side note to the gospel. However, it is an essential component of our faith. Paul emphasized its importance by telling the Corinthians that if Jesus would not have resurrected, "[our] faith is [useless]" (*1 Cor. 15:17*). Without the resurrection, we are left in our sins, only awaiting death.

In light of this backdrop, there is nothing sweeter than reading the angel's words, "He is not here, but has risen" (*Luke 24:6*). In His resurrection, Jesus overcame the unavoidable realities that plague humanity—sin and death. Just as Jesus emerged triumphantly, we, too, can claim victory over sin, suffering, and despair (*1 Cor. 15:57*). Moreover, His conquest of death assures believers that it is not the ultimate end; for those who place their faith in Him, a glorious eternity awaits (*John 11:25-26*).

Christian, perhaps the resurrection of Jesus sounds too good to be true. It could be easy for skepticism to kick in and believe that because of your daily struggles with sin, the benefits of Jesus' resurrection are not for you. However, Jesus' resurrection is a

testament to the profound love He has for you. Despite any feelings of unworthiness or doubt, the undeniable truth revealed in the resurrection is that not even death could prevent Jesus from redeeming His people. Church, let this truth anchor your faith and fill your heart with the assurance of God's redeeming love.

HYMN EXCERPT

"In Christ Alone" by Keith Getty and Stuart Townend

*There in the ground His body lay,
Light of the world by darkness slain:
Then bursting forth in glorious day
Up from the grave He rose again!*

*And as He stands in victory
Sin's curse has lost its grip on me,
For I am His and He is mine -
Bought with the precious blood of Christ.*

TEACHER NOTES | ON THE RESURRECTION | JOHN 11:25-26

The resurrection refers to the act of Jesus rising from the dead. On the third day of His death, Jesus resurrected with a glorified body. This means that He had a perfect physical body that had no weaknesses or limitations (such as hunger, fatigue, pain, death, etc. and since Jesus triumphed over death, those who believe in Him are guaranteed eternal life.

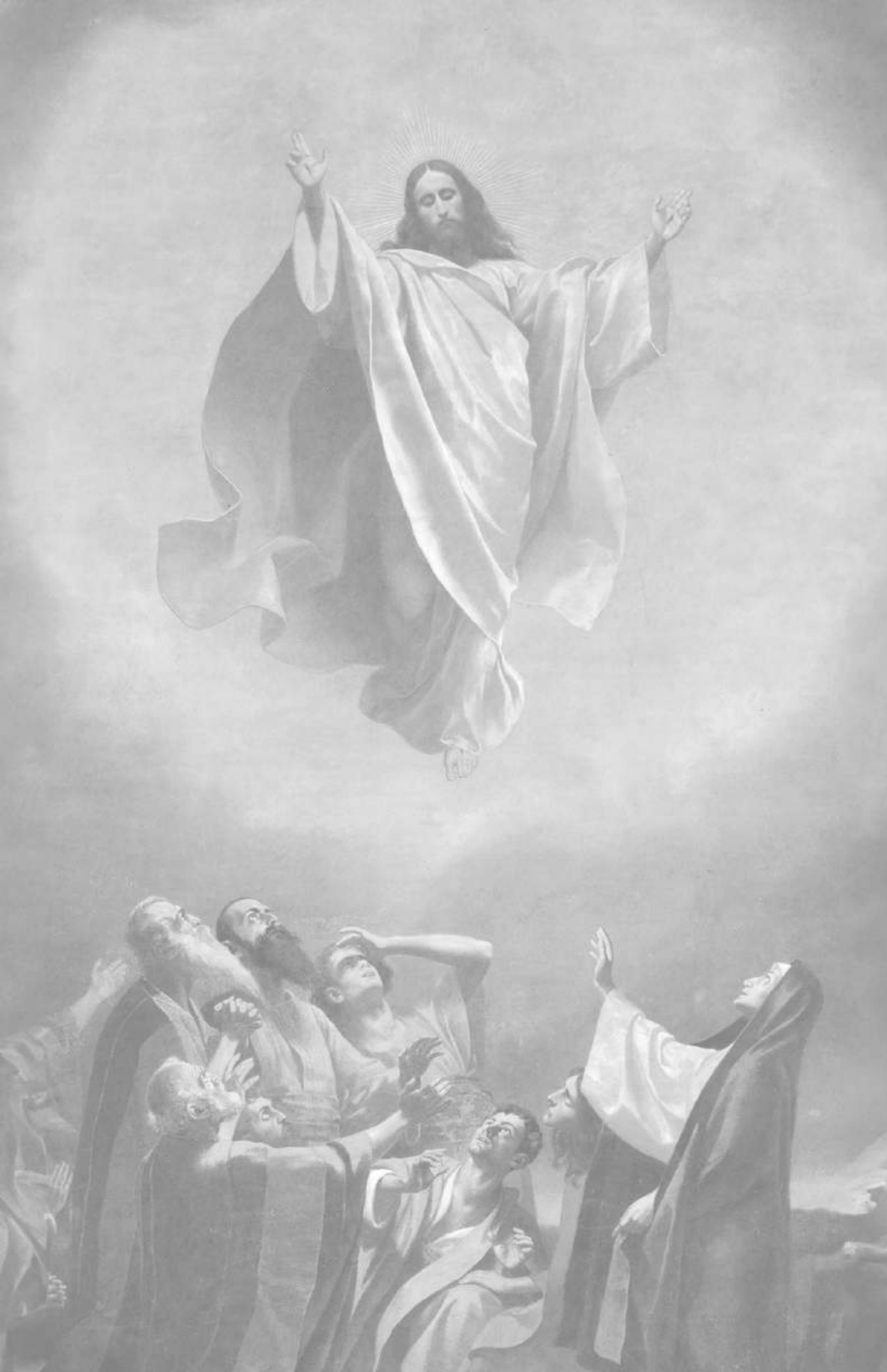
FAMILY DISCIPLESHIP

- **Read - *Luke 24:1-12*** - Point out every time someone in the account is surprised. Why were they so surprised? Why didn't some believe what happened? What are things about God and His word that are hard to believe?
- **Discussion** - Some people may follow Christian teachings, but don't actually believe Jesus rose from the dead. Read *1 Corinthians 15:14 and 17*. What point is Paul making to such people? Why is it so important that the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ not only actually happened in history, but happened "according to the Scriptures"? What do you think Jesus wants us to remember about who He is and what He's done?
- **Activity (Younger children)** - Make one stone-shaped cutout for each word of your memory verse, *Luke 24:6a*, "He is not here, but has risen," using construction or cardstock paper. Write one word on each. Mix them up, then arrange them in order. Older children - Write a letter to Jesus. Tell Him that you believe that He is alive, that you are thankful that He rose from the tomb just like He said He would, and ask for His help to know and live like Him each day. Sign your name and read your letter to Jesus in prayer.

NOTES

ADDITIONAL NOTES

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