



Daily Bible Reading Easter 2020

Daily Bible Reading

As Christians we should have Jesus at the front of our minds and hearts each day. Central to this is listening to God in His Word and talking to Him through prayer. God's Word is truth (John 17:17), which renews our mind (Rom 12:1-2) and leads us to have a blessed life (James 1:25). Talking to God in prayer is wonderful because we know He listens and answers (Matthew 6:5-7).

You should try to set a time each day to read and pray to create a new routine.

How to make the most of these daily bible readings:

- Pray that God would help you understand what you read.
- Read the passage slowly, carefully, and at least twice!
- Write down anything that stands out to you or you don't understand. (There is a blank page at the back for these)
- Answer the questions in the booklet.
- Pray: (come back to this list each day for help)
 - Ask God to help you understand & remember what you have read
 - What should we thank God for?
 - What should you be thinking, saying, or doing because of this passage?
 - Do you need to repent of anything?
- Talk! Share what you've read and prayed about with someone else

The questions asked in these bible readings are based on the NIV translation.

Easter 2020

We live in an amazing country where each year we have time off to remember and celebrate Easter. At the same time, Easter is also a time when different things like chocolate, football, family, and holidays compete for our attention. This is still true even this year with the coronavirus consuming our energy and focus.

Easter is a unique opportunity for us to focus our minds and hearts on Jesus. The world changed on that first Easter. The innocent Jesus was crucified only to raise to life three days later, just as he promised. Forgiveness, right relationship with God, and victory over death are now on offer for all who turn to Jesus and repent. This is still true and good news even though our world is full of fear and panic at the moment.

We hope and pray that these daily bible readings will refresh and refocus you on our King Jesus who has conquered death and rules the world.

These daily bible readings have two sections:

The Story

The first 20 days focus on the **story** of Easter from the Gospel of Mark and the Gospel of Luke.

The Significance

The second 20 days focus on the **significance** of Easter. We will look at different passages from the New Testament that tell us what Jesus' life, death, and resurrection means now.

As you read through the story of Easter, remember that these events really happened in history. As you read through the significance of Easter, stop and ask yourself: "Am I trusting and enjoying what Jesus is promising me?"

Jesus told them, "This is what is written: The Messiah will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, and repentance for the forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations..." (Luke 24:46-47)

Day #1

Passage: 1 Corinthians 15:1-8

Questions:

How does Paul describe 'the Gospel' (the good news about Jesus) (v.3)? Why does he think this? Do you think you value the Gospel like Paul does?

What are the main aspects of the Gospel in verses 3-7?

Do you think you know the Gospel well enough to share it with someone else?

Things to Pray For?

Day #2

Passage: Mark 8:31-33

Questions:

What does Jesus tell his disciples about the Son of Man (he is talking about himself!)?

How does Peter respond to this? Why might he do this?

Does the idea of Jesus having to die make sense to you?

Things to Pray For?

Day #3

Passage: Mark 14:1-11

Questions:

What does a woman do to Jesus? How do some people respond to this?

Why did she do this? (Jesus tells us in verse 8)

Would you show your love and trust for Jesus in big ways like this woman did? Why/Why not?

Things to Pray For?

Day #4

Passage: Mark 14:12-16

Questions:

What instructions does Jesus give the disciples for the Passover?

What happens when they go out to do it? (v.16)

What does this tell us about Jesus? Is this how you think about Jesus?

Things to Pray For?

Day #5

Passage: Mark 14:17-26

Questions:

As they celebrate the Passover, what does Jesus tell them about the bread & cup?
(vv.22-23)

Why do you think it is helpful for us to have this meal at church together?

What does Jesus promise them in verse 25? Why is this important to remember?

Things to Pray For?

Day #6

Passage: Mark 14:27-31

Questions:

What will the disciples do as Jesus (the shepherd) goes to be killed?

How does Peter respond to this? Does Jesus agree with him?

Although they will all fall away, what does Jesus promise them in verse 28? Why is this a really GOOD thing? (for them and us!)

Things to Pray For?

Day #7

Passage: Mark 14:32-42

Questions:

What is Jesus like in this passage? How is this different from what we have seen so far?

What has Jesus so distressed? (v.36) Read Jeremiah 25:15 to explain the cup.

Jesus will die by drinking the cup of God's judgement on our sin. Is this an easy thing for Jesus to do? Why is this important to remember?

Things to Pray For?

Day #8

Passage: Mark 14:43-52

Questions:

How does Jesus respond to the crowd to coming to arrest him? How is this different from everyone else?

What happens in verse 50? Why is this NOT surprising? (look back to verse 27)

What do you think it would be like for Jesus at this point? Do you find it amazing that Jesus knew all this would happen and still went willingly to die for us?

Things to Pray For?

Day #9

Passage: Mark 14:53-65

Questions:

What is their goal as they question and mock Jesus? (v.55) Do they get evidence?

What is their conclusion about Jesus? (v.64) Is this true?

What does Jesus do during the trial? [Compare this with what Isaiah said about Jesus hundreds of years beforehand in Isaiah 53:7-10]

From Isaiah 53:10, What will Jesus' death be?

Things to Pray For?

Day #10

Passage: Mark 14:66-72

Questions:

What does Peter do? Is this surprising? (Remember verses 27-31)

What do you think about Peter? Should we be angry at him? Judge him? Or feel sorry for him? Do you ever think you are like Peter?

Peter remembers Jesus' words & weeps (v.72). What else did Jesus promise Peter though (v.28)? Is there hope for Peter – and us when we fail too?

Things to Pray For?

Day #11

Passage: Mark 15:1-15

Questions:

Fill out the table to show what happens in this passage:

	What kind of person are they?	What happens to them?
Barabbas		
Jesus		

How is this event an example of what is about to happen on the cross? (if you can't answer this question, make sure you ask one of your leaders!)

Things to Pray For?

Day #12

Passage: Mark 15:16-20

Questions:

How do they treat Jesus after he is sent to be crucified?

What is interesting and sad (or ironic) about what they say and do?

Do you think people still treat Jesus in a similar way? Do you think you ever do this?

Things to Pray For?

Day #13

Passage: Mark 15:21-32

Questions:

Mark bluntly tells us in verse 25 that they crucified Jesus. Why do you think he doesn't give us any details? What does he want us focussing on?

What picture do we get of the people around Jesus as he is crucified? How is this a picture of why Jesus needs to die for us?

What are your feelings and reactions to this scene?

Things to Pray For?

Day #14

Passage: Luke 23:38-43

Questions:

How do the two criminals treat Jesus differently?

What does Jesus promise the second criminal?

What did he do to deserve what Jesus promises him? Why is this amazing (for him and us?)

Things to Pray For?

Day #15

Passage: Mark 15:33-41

Questions:

What does Jesus cry out from the cross? What is happening to him? (think back to Mark 14:36 & Isaiah 53:10)

What happens as a result of Jesus' death (v.38)? What does this mean? (ask your leaders if you don't know!)

What is your reaction and feelings to this powerful scene? Is Jesus' costly and real death something that effects or changes you?

Things to Pray For?

Day #16

Passage: Mark 15:42-47

Questions:

Why do you think it was 'bold' for Joseph to ask for Jesus' body?

What are we repeatedly told about Jesus in this passage? Why does this matter?

What would you say to someone who said that Jesus didn't really rise from the dead because he never really died, people just thought he did?

Things to Pray For?

Day #17

Passage: Isaiah 53:10-11

Questions:

What does Isaiah say will happen to Jesus after he has suffered to save God's people? (Remember this is hundreds of years before Jesus was even born!)

What will the result of Jesus' death be for the 'many'? (this means us when we trust in Him!)

Are you confident Jesus has paid for your sin and made you right with God?

Things to Pray For?

Day #18

Passage: Mark 16:1-5

Questions:

What do we find the three ladies doing early on Sunday? What do you think they expect to find at the tomb?

Why do you think they weren't expecting to find Jesus alive?

Do you ever struggle to believe what Jesus says and live as if it is true?

Things to Pray For?

Day #19

Passage: Mark 16:6-8

Questions:

What does the angel tell the women about Jesus?

Look back at Mark 14:28. Why is it significant that they have to tell the disciples and Peter that Jesus is alive and will meet them in Galilee?

How do the women respond to this? Why might this be? Do you find this a very convincing 'resurrection story'? Why/Why Not? *(Ask your leaders about this passage – there are lots of key details to talk about!)*

Things to Pray For?

Day #20

Passage: Luke 24:36-49

Questions:

Although the disciples are freaked out to see Jesus after he died, what does he offer them?

Why do you think they struggled to believe that Jesus was really alive and with them? How is what Jesus does encouraging for them and us?

What is the best way to understand who Jesus is and what he has done? (v.44-46)
Are you working to grow your understanding from the bible?

Things to Pray For?

Day #21

Passage: Luke 24:45-53

Questions:

Now that Jesus has risen from death, what does he say will happen (v.47) and how will this happen? (v.48-49)

What happens to Jesus after he says this? How do the disciples respond?

Are you confident that you have repented and been forgiven by Jesus? Would you tell other people about what Jesus offers? Why/why not?

Things to Pray For?

Day #22

Passage: Romans 5:6-8

Questions:

What does Christ's death on the cross tell us about God?

When did Christ die for us? (v.6 & v.8) Why is this so amazing?

Do you ever doubt God's love for you? What causes this and how can this passage help you be sure that God loves you?

Things to Pray For?

Day #23

Passage: 1Peter 3:17-18

Questions:

What did Christ do and what was the result?

What does that mean for how we live now? (v.17)

Do you think you are willing to suffer for being a Christian?

Things to Pray For?

Day #24

Passage: 2Corinthians 5:20-21

Questions:

How does Paul describe what happened on the cross in verse 21?

When we trust in Jesus, we become his ambassadors (representatives). What are we to implore people to do?

Are you willing to do this? Does anything stop you from calling people to follow Jesus?

Things to Pray For?

Day #25

Passage: John 10:11-15

Questions:

What does Jesus the good shepherd do for His sheep?

What does this tell us about him? (He is the opposite of the 'hired hand'!)

Are you confident Jesus is your good shepherd? Do you trust and follow him as your shepherd each day?

Things to Pray For?

Day #26

Passage: Colossians 1:21-23

Questions:

What did we used to be (if we are believers)?

What is the result of Christ's death on the cross?

If we already believe in Jesus, what should we be doing now (v.23)? Are you doing this?

Things to Pray For?

Day #27

Passage: 1Peter 2:23-25

Questions:

Why did Jesus bear our sins on the cross? (What outcome did he want?)

Do you think Jesus' death to save you is changing how you live? Would others say you are different because of Jesus?

What did Jesus do when he was being attacked? What do you do when you're being mocked or attacked?

Things to Pray For?

Day #28

Passage: Hebrews 2:14-15

Questions:

What are the two things Jesus achieved as he died on the cross?

v.14

v.15

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Are you confident of what will happen when you die? Why/why Not?

Are you certain that Jesus defeated death and offers that victory to you?

Things to Pray For?

Day #29

Passage: Galatians 2:20

Questions:

What did Paul (and every believer) do with Jesus on the cross?

Because we died with Christ (to sin and our old life), what do we do now?

I no longer live...

The life I live in the body...

Do you think Jesus (being a Christian) is part of everything you do? Do you ever try to exclude Jesus from parts of your life? Do you think this is ok?

Things to Pray For?

Day #30

Passage: Acts 17:31

Questions:

What has God set? Do you think this is a good thing?

What proof has God given that this day will come? What event is he talking about?

Do you think you are ready for this day to come? What is your reaction to it?

Things to Pray For?

Day #31

Passage: 1 Corinthians 15:17-20

Questions:

What would it mean if Jesus didn't rise from the dead?

Is Paul (who wrote this) certain that Christ rose from the dead? Are you?

Jesus' resurrection is the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep (meaning he is the first of many more!). How would you explain to someone how to make sure we are part of those who will be raised from the dead like Jesus?

Things to Pray For?

Day #32

Passage: Philippians 1:21-25

Questions:

Paul's gives us his motto for life in verse 21. What does he mean by this?

To Live is Christ	To Die is Gain
v.22, 24	v.23

Why do you think Paul is so confident about death?

Do you share Paul's view of both living (live like Christ) and dying (it is gain)? Is this seen in how you live?

Things to Pray For?

Day #33

Passage: 1John 3:2-3

Questions:

How are Christians described in verse 2? Is this how you think about yourself?

What will happen in the future for God's children? What do you think this means?

If we know this will happen, what do we do now? (v.3) What do you think this would look like? Do you think you are doing this (or trying to)?

Things to Pray For?

Day #34

Passage: Ephesians 1:17-21

Questions:

What does Paul keep asking God to do for these Christians?

Do you have a desire to grow your understanding of Jesus and Christianity? Are you working hard at this?

Can you give an example (or examples) of how you have grown?

Things to Pray For?

Day #35

Passage: 1John 3:16-18

Questions:

How do we know what love is according to this passage? Why is this such a good demonstration of what love is?

How should we respond to this love as Christians? What example does he give?

Do you think you are loving others around you *in action*? Do you think it is easy to do this? Are you putting much effort into it?

Things to Pray For?

Day #36

Passage: 1Thessalonians 4:13-18

Questions:

How has death changed because of Jesus' resurrection?

What will happen in the future when Jesus returns?

Do you think about Jesus' return much? Does it effect or change anything you are doing now? And if yes, in what way?

Things to Pray For?

Day #37

Passage: Romans 8:1

Questions:

Do you ever feel like God is angry or against you?

What promise does this verse make about our position before God?

How can you make sure you remember this each day and enjoy it?

Things to Pray For?

Day #38

Passage: 1Corinthians 15:55-58

Questions:

Why has death lost its victory and sting?

If we are confident of this, what should we be doing? (v.58)

Are you confident that what you do for Jesus is never wasted? Are you confident he works in and through you when you live for him?

Things to Pray For?

Day #39

Passage: Romans 8:33-39

Questions:

What is Jesus doing at the moment?

What does this mean can never happen now?

Do you find it easy to grasp that God will never stop loving you? Could you explain how what happened at Easter guarantees this?

Things to Pray For?

Day #40

Passage: 1Timothy 1:15

Questions:

What is the "trustworthy saying" that we should remember and accept?

What is so amazing about this simple 'saying'? (Write down as many things as you can!)

How can you make sure this saying and all that it means stays at the front of your mind and life each day?

Things to Pray For?

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