

Join us for a summary walk through the life of Jesus. Journey toward Resurrection Day with a renewed vision and appreciation for the life of Jesus Christ. Each day you will find a link to the Bible passage for that day and helpful resources for your study.

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<b>Day 37</b>	April 1	Kenosis - Read Philippians 2
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<b>Day 39</b>	April 3	The Great Commission - Read Matthew 28
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## DAY 1

## Jesus Prophesied

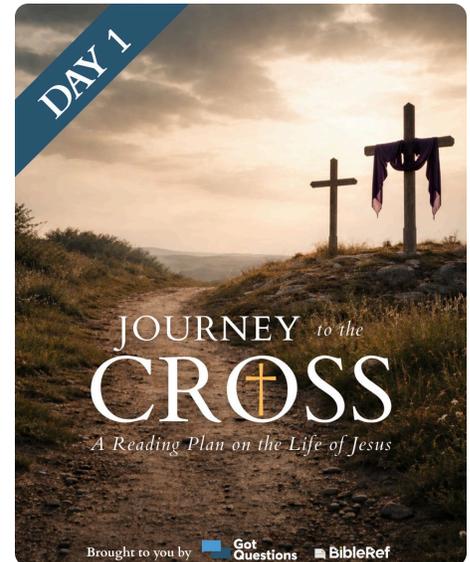
February 18

### Day 1. Read Isaiah 53. Jesus Prophesied.

Perhaps the greatest of all Messianic prophecies in the Tanakh (the Hebrew Scriptures / the Old Testament) concerning the advent of the Jewish Messiah is found in the 53rd chapter of the prophet Isaiah. This section of the Prophets, also known as the “Suffering Servant,” has been long understood by the historical Rabbis of Judaism to speak of the Redeemer who will one day come to Zion.

#### REFLECT

*What does Jesus being the Suffering Servant communicate about His character and purpose? How does understanding the Isaiah 53 prophecy cause you to appreciate what Jesus willingly endured?*



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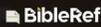
VERSE OF THE DAY

*Day 1 – Jesus Prophesied*

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Who has believed what he has heard from us?  
And to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed?  
Isaiah 53:1, ESV

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**DAY 2**

## Jesus is Born

February 19

**Read Luke 2:1-38. Jesus is Born.**

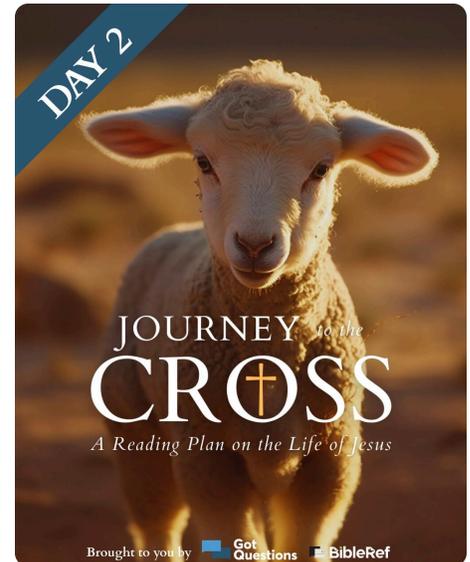
Luke's account connects Jesus' birth to historical and prophetic events. That Mary is in Bethlehem when Jesus is born corresponds to Messianic prophecy (Micah 5:2). Throughout history, God has made it clear that human effort and human prestige are nothing when He is not at the center of events. He routinely uses those the world deems unimportant to accomplish great things (1 Corinthians 1:27-28). In keeping with that theme, the first people to hear about Jesus' birth are not kings and scholars. Rather, they are common herdsmen. These ordinary folks are treated to the sight of an angelic choir praising God.

**REFLECT**

*What stands out to you in the different responses to Jesus' birth? What is your response to who Jesus is and what He's done?*



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VERSE OF THE DAY

*Day 2 – Jesus is Born*

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And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.  
Luke 2:20, ESV

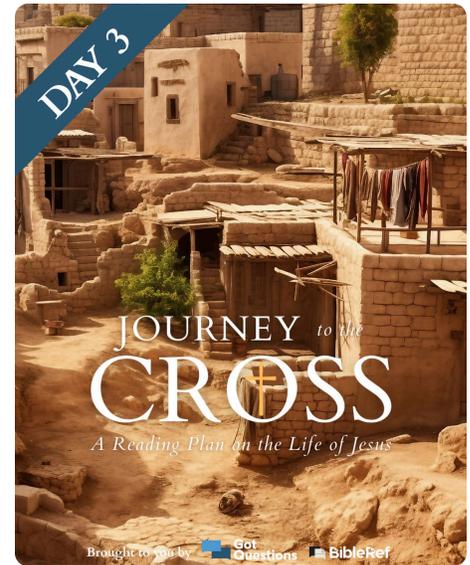
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**DAY 3****Jesus' Childhood**

February 20

**Read Luke 2:39-52. Jesus' Childhood.**

Mary and Joseph raised Jesus in obedience to the traditional laws of the Old Testament. Luke often reminds readers that Jesus' experience was fully human. That includes being raised by His family, in Mary's hometown. Nazareth was not held in high esteem by Jews of that era. That Jesus will grow up in Nazareth corresponds to Old Testament predictions about Messiah being despised and looked down on by His peers (Psalm 22:6; Isaiah 49:7; 53:3). Further, Isaiah 11:1 uses the Hebrew term for "branch," *nē'ser*, which implies something lowly or common. That the Messiah was raised in the despised town of Nazareth fulfilled those subtle prophecies in the eyes of other writers, such as Matthew (Matthew 2:23). Jesus grew, physically and mentally, as he aged into adulthood. Other than a lack of sin (Hebrews 4:15, 1 Peter 2:22), He was entirely human (Luke 2:52).

**REFLECT**

*What does Jesus' childhood communicate about His humanity? How might not despising the ordinary impact your walk with the Lord?*



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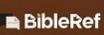
VERSE OF THE DAY

*Day 3 – Jesus' Childhood*

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And the child grew and became strong, filled with  
wisdom. And the favor of God was upon him.  
Luke 2:40, ESV

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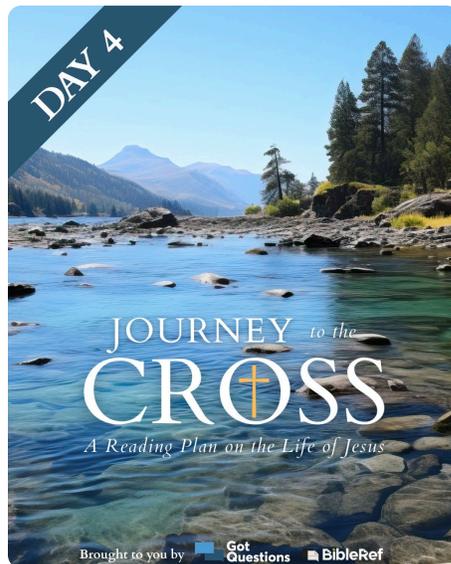
## DAY 4

## John the Baptist Prepares the Way

February 21

Read Matthew 3:1-12. John the Baptist Prepares the Way.

Matthew's telling of Jesus' life jumps forward in time between chapters 2 and 3. The apostle reports nothing of what happened from when Joseph settled in Nazareth to the meeting between Jesus and John the Baptist in Matthew 3. Around 25–30 years have passed. Matthew 3:1–12 introduces John the Baptist, preaching and baptizing in the wilderness of Judea near the Jordan River. John, dressed in camel hair and a leather belt in the style of the prophet Elijah, has a simple message: repent because the kingdom of heaven is coming. Matthew introduces John the Baptist as a fulfillment of Isaiah 40:3. He is the voice crying in the wilderness as he prepares the way for the Lord. John calls the crowds who travel to hear him to repent from their sins. The kingdom of heaven is close!



### REFLECT

*Where in your life is God calling you to greater humility? In what ways does humility bring opportunity to see God's kingdom furthered?*



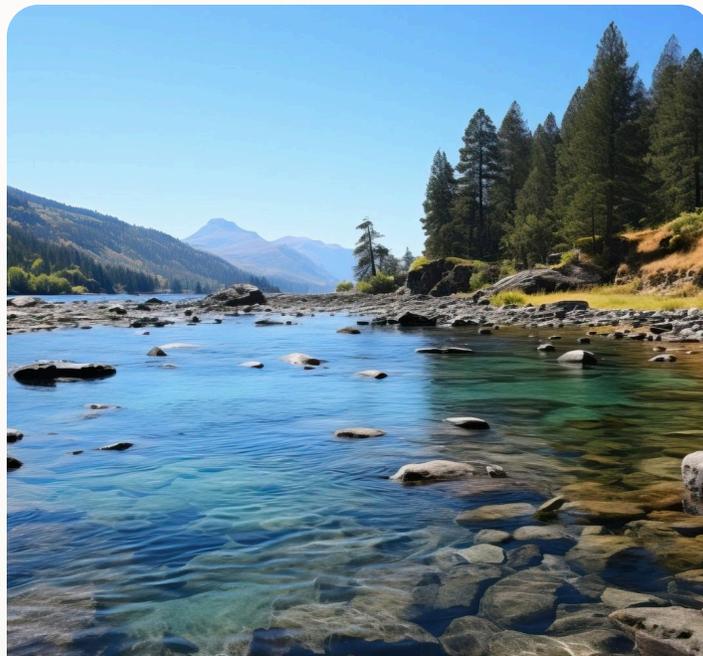
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## VERSE OF THE DAY

*Day 4 — John the Baptist Prepares the Way*

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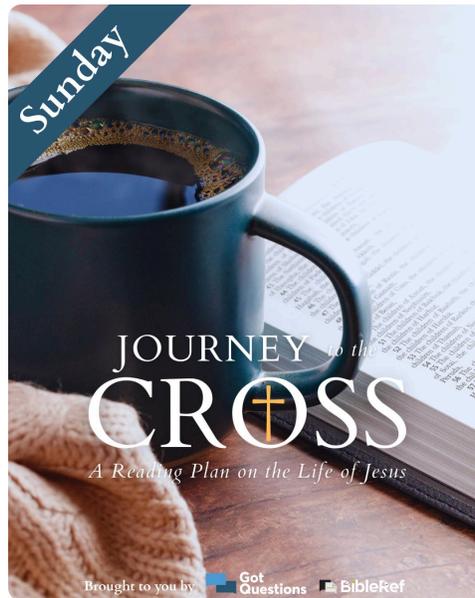
“I baptize you with water for repentance, but he who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.”  
Matthew 3:11, ESV

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SUNDAY 1

## Rest & Reflect

February 22



**Rest and reflect on what you've learned this week.**

*What does Jesus being the Suffering Servant communicate about His character and purpose? How does understanding the Isaiah 53 prophecy cause you to appreciate what Jesus willingly endured?*

*What stands out to you in the different responses to Jesus' birth? What is your response to who Jesus is and what He's done?*

*What does Jesus' childhood communicate about His humanity? How might not despising the ordinary impact your walk with the Lord?*

*Where in your life is God calling you to greater humility? In what ways does humility bring opportunity to see God's kingdom furthered?*

**DAY 5**

## Jesus is Baptized

February 23

**Read Matthew 3:13-17. Jesus is Baptized.**

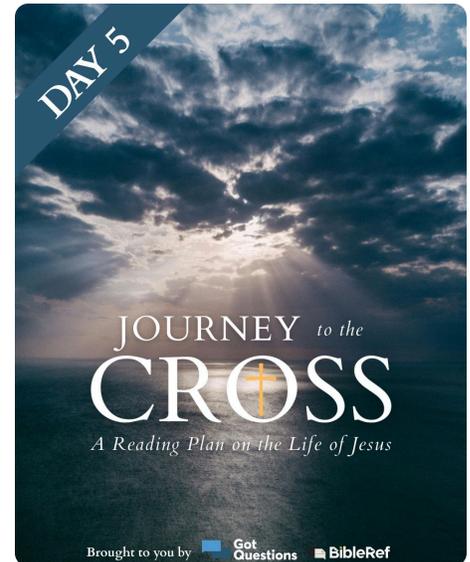
Matthew 3:13–17 describes Jesus' baptism by John the Baptist. Jesus arrives at the site of John's baptismal ministry somewhere along the Jordan River. John resists, but Jesus insists that His baptism is meant to fulfill all righteousness. As Jesus emerges from the water, He sees the heavens open, and the Holy Spirit descends to rest on Him in a dove-like form. The voice of God the Father declares that Jesus is His Son and that He is pleased with Him. Jesus' ministry is both confirmed and revealed on earth.

**REFLECT**

*Why is Jesus' baptism so significant? How does Jesus fulfill all righteousness?*



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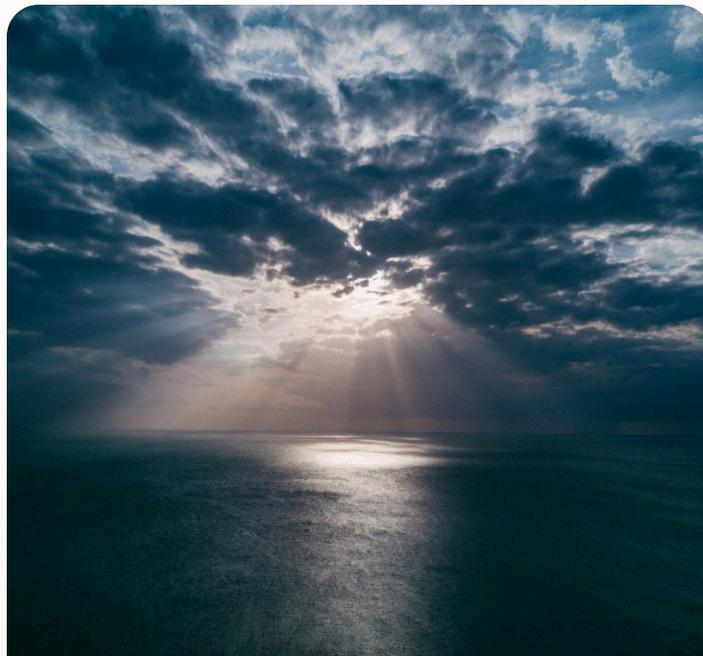


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VERSE OF THE DAY

*Day 5 – Jesus is Baptized*

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And behold, a voice from heaven said,  
“This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.”  
Matthew 3:17, ESV

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**DAY 6**

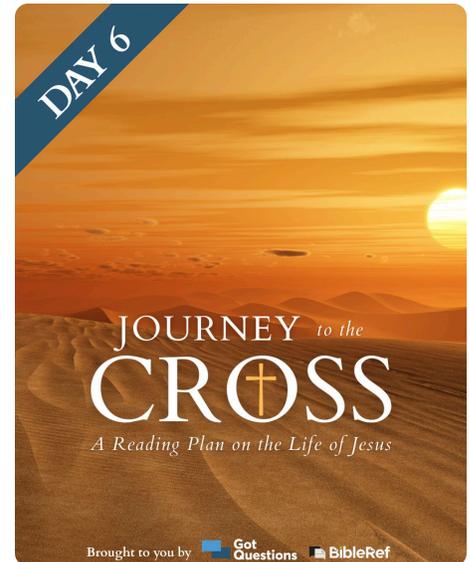
## Jesus is Tempted

February 24

**Read Matthew 4:1-17. Jesus is Tempted.**

At His baptism, the Holy Spirit came to rest on Jesus and the voice of God the Father declared that Jesus is His Son. That moment of confirmation and acknowledgement by God is immediately followed by a time of testing in Jesus' life. This testing was not a sign that the Holy Spirit had left Jesus. On the contrary: it is the Spirit, acting after Jesus' baptism by John the Baptist, leading Jesus into the wilderness where He will be tempted. In other words, it was God's intention that Jesus should endure this time of testing.

It's important to remember that God never tempts anyone to sin (James 1:13). God hates sin and does not wish for anyone to engage in it, including His own Son. However, God will lead believers through times of testing, sometimes in order to strengthen their faith (James 1:2). In this case, God's Spirit leads Jesus into the place and time of testing, but the devil is the one who does the tempting. Jesus' faith does not need to be strengthened. But this time of testing will provide evidence that He remains sinless despite being tempted to sin just as all human beings are (Hebrews 4:15).

**REFLECT**

*How does Jesus' response to the temptations inspire or challenge you? Where is God calling you to trust His Word over the temptations you face?*



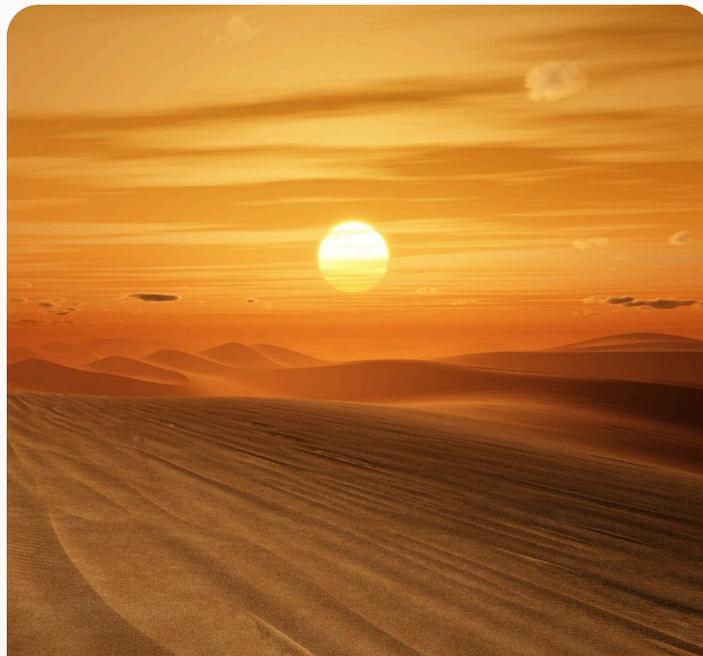
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VERSE OF THE DAY

*Day 6 – Jesus is Tempted*

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Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness  
to be tempted by the devil.  
Matthew 4:1, ESV

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**DAY 7**

## Jesus' First Miracle - John 2

February 25

**Read John 2. Jesus' First Miracle.**

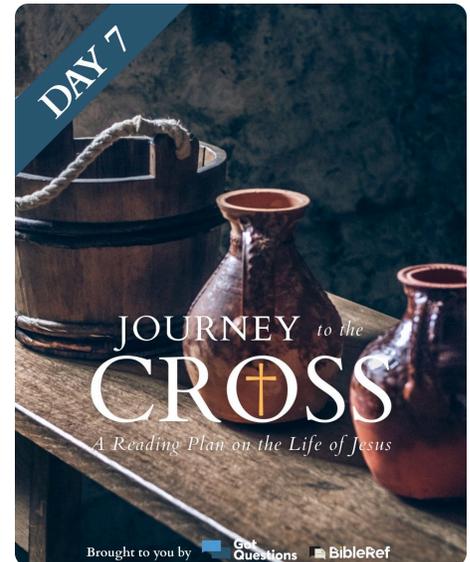
Jesus attends a wedding where He performs His first miracle: turning water into wine. This miracle was very quiet, known only to a few people. Changing water, meant for purification, into wine, symbolic of blood, is a reference to Jesus' role as Messiah. Instead of rituals, we are purified by the miraculous blood of Christ. John specifically uses the Greek word semeion, or "sign," for these miracles, since they are meant to prove that Jesus is God. This is the first of seven such signs in the gospel of John

**REFLECT**

*What do the details about Jesus' first miracle reveal about Him? How are you challenged to turn your expectations over to Jesus' timing and ways?*



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## VERSE OF THE DAY

*Day 7 — Jesus' First Miracle - John 2*

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Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness  
This, the first of his signs, Jesus did at Cana in Galilee, and  
manifested his glory. And his disciples believed in him.  
John 2:11, ESV

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## DAY 8

## Jesus is Rejected

February 26

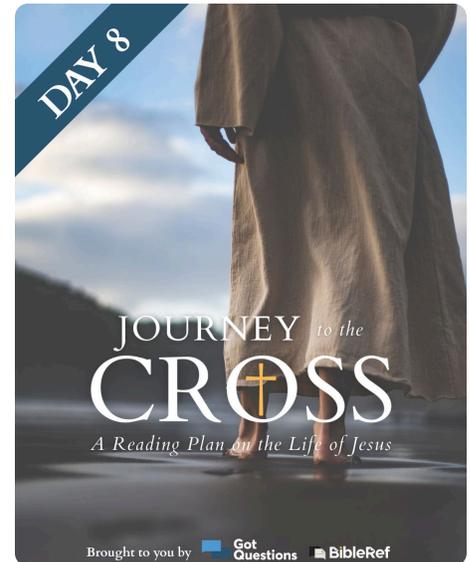
Read Luke 4:14-42. Jesus is Rejected.

Before starting His public preaching and healing ministry, Jesus goes alone into the wastelands near Judea. After enduring temptation and starvation, Jesus comes back to Galilee. There He teaches in synagogues, to great acclaim. At least one town does not approve His message: Nazareth, Jesus' childhood hometown. While visiting there, Jesus reads aloud from Isaiah. The prophecy indicates that Messiah will bring rescue, healing, and good news. When Jesus claims to be the fulfillment of this prophecy, His former neighbors react with skepticism. In their eyes, Jesus is nothing more than another Nazarene—He can't possibly be anything special (Luke 4:14–22).

Jesus knows where the Nazarenes' skepticism will lead. Critics who knew about Jesus' miracles often responded to His teaching by demanding a supernatural sign. Such ultimatums are insincere; those who won't accept the proof they've already been given aren't likely to respond to even more (John 2:18; 6:30; Mark 8:11; Luke 11:16).

### REFLECT

*What can we glean from Jesus' response to rejection? In what ways are you tempted to care more about others' opinions of you than God's?*



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## VERSE OF THE DAY

*Day 8 – Jesus is Rejected*

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“The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor.”

Luke 4:18-19, ESV

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**DAY 9**

## We Meet the Disciples

*February 27*

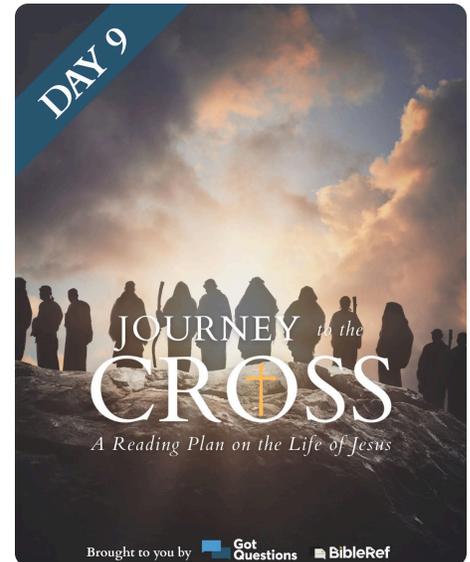
**Read Matthew 4:18-22 and Matthew 9:9-13. We Meet the Disciples.**

Matthew describes Jesus calling four men to follow Him as His disciples. These two sets of brothers were fishermen working on the Sea of Galilee at Capernaum. Walking there, Jesus first calls Peter and Andrew, who leave their nets and immediately begin to follow Him. Jesus promises to make them fishers of men. Next, Jesus calls brothers James and John, mending nets in a boat with their father Zebedee. They, too, immediately leave behind their careers, family business, and family itself to follow the Christ (Matthew 4:18–22).

Jesus calls another of the twelve disciples when He sees Matthew sitting in a booth working as a tax collector. Men like Matthew worked for the occupying Roman government, taking money from their fellow Israelites. Many were corrupt, and all were hated. Tax collectors were seen as immoral traitors by the common people of Israel. Christ tells Matthew to follow Him. Matthew leaves behind his booth and becomes a disciple of Jesus.

**REFLECT**

*What do you observe about Jesus' call to His disciples and their responses? How do the disciples' responses challenge or encourage you?*



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## VERSE OF THE DAY

*Day 9 – We Meet the Disciples*

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And he said to them,  
“Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.”  
Immediately they left their nets and followed him.  
Matthew 4:19-20, ESV

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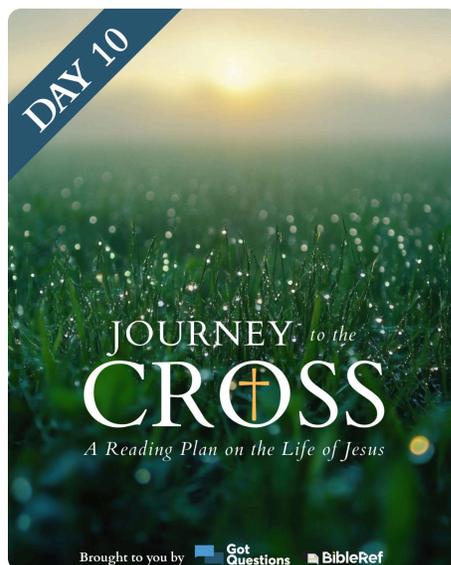
DAY 10

## Blessed Are

February 28

Read Matthew 5. Blessed Are...

Matthew 5 begins what is known as Jesus' Sermon on the Mount. Matthew's reporting of the sermon begins with a list of sentences called the Beatitudes. That name comes from the Latin word *beatus*, which means "blessed" or "happy." Each sentence begins with the words "blessed are." Blessed, as Jesus uses it here, means something like "having a good result or outcome." It does not refer to feelings of happiness—in fact, some of these statements involve pain and suffering. Jesus' entire sermon, though, is designed to show those who listen that our "normal" perspectives are upside down. What matters most is humility and the kingdom of God. These attitudes are reflections of those who understand God's will and His perspective (Matthew 5:3–12).



### REFLECT

*Which of the Beatitudes are easiest for you to live out? Most challenging? How are Jesus' teachings in Matthew 5 countercultural?*



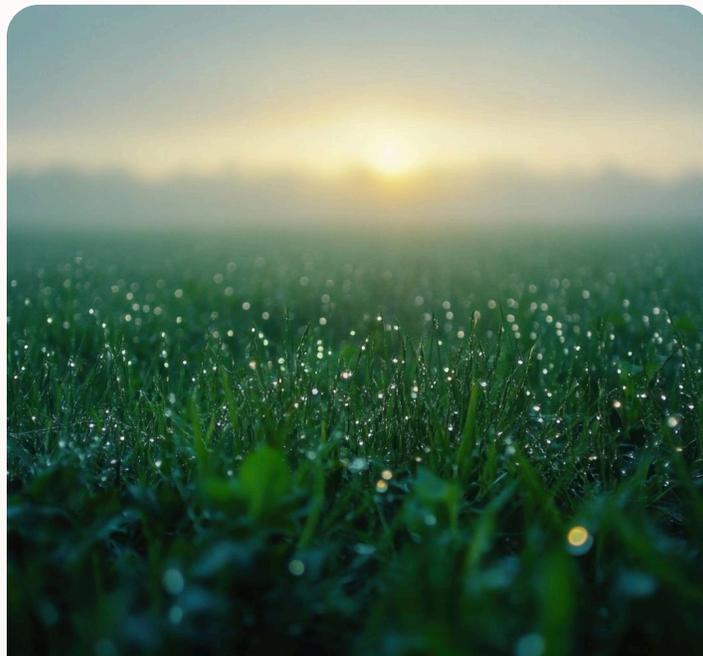
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VERSE OF THE DAY

*Day 10 – Blessed Are*

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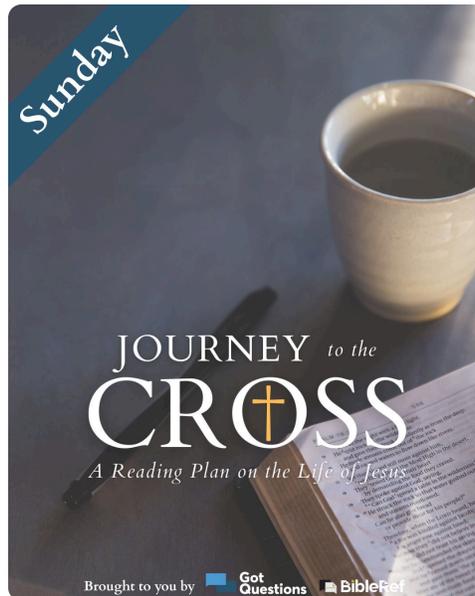
Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness,  
for they shall be satisfied.  
Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy.  
Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.  
Matthew 5:6-8, ESV

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SUNDAY 2

## Rest & Reflect

March 1



**Rest and reflect on what you've learned this week.**

*Why is Jesus' baptism so significant? How does Jesus fulfill all righteousness?*

*How does Jesus' response to the temptations inspire or challenge you? Where is God calling you to trust His Word over the temptations you face?*

*What do the details about Jesus' first miracle reveal about Him? How are you challenged to turn your expectations over to Jesus' timing and ways?*

*What can we glean from Jesus' response to rejection? In what ways are you tempted to care more about others' opinions of you than God's?*

*What do you observe about Jesus' call to His disciples and their responses? How do the disciples' responses challenge or encourage you?*

*Which of the Beatitudes are easiest for you to live out? Most challenging? How are Jesus' teachings in Matthew 5 countercultural?*

## DAY 11

## A Sample of Jesus' Miracles

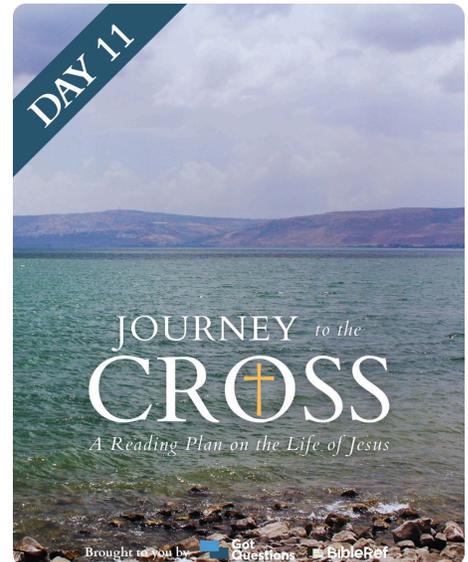
March 2

Read Matthew 8. A Sample of Jesus' Miracles.

After completing his report on Jesus' teaching in the Sermon on the Mount, Matthew turns to telling a series of dramatic stories to show Jesus' power and authority over every kind of disease, over demons, and even over the weather. Jesus also gives brief teachings about the hard road of following Him on earth. He calms a violent storm with a single command and casts demons from two violently possessed men. Matthew will focus mostly on miracles until shifting focus to Jesus' teachings and parables in chapter 11.

### REFLECT

*What do each of the miracles in this chapter reveal about God's supremacy and power? How does God's supremacy and power over disease, demons, and disasters impact your response in difficult situations?*



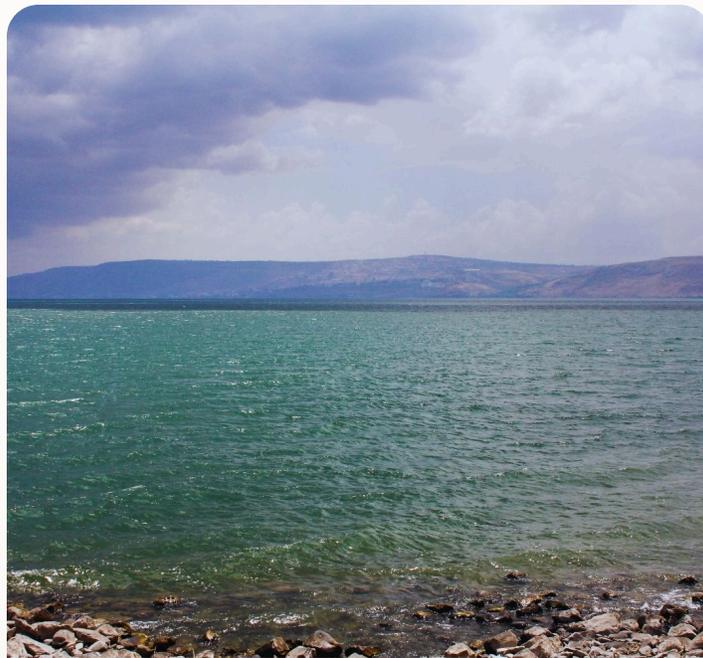
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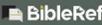
*Day 11 – A Sample of Jesus' Miracles*

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And they went and woke him, saying, "Save us, Lord; we are perishing." And he said to them, "Why are you afraid, O you of little faith?" Then he rose and rebuked the winds and the sea, and there was a great calm.

Matthew 8:25-26, ESV

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DAY 12

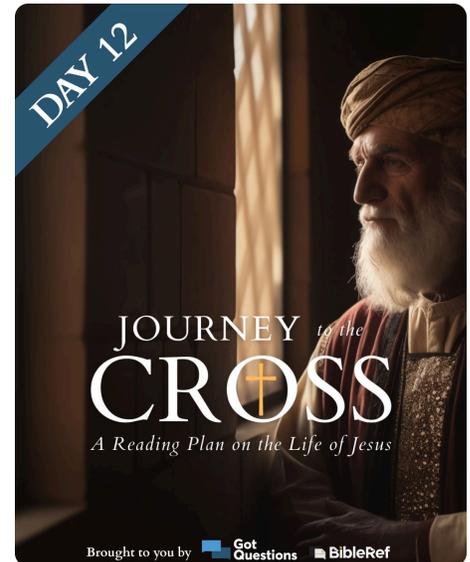
## The Pharisees Respond

March 3

Read Matthew 12. The Pharisees Respond.

Jesus once again comes into conflict with local religious leaders. These mostly involve the ultra-legalistic, tradition-minded Pharisees. By this point in Jesus' ministry, they had begun to amplify their attacks, accusations, and attempts to trap Jesus into saying or doing something they could use against Him.

"Harsh" is a mild way to describe the condemnation Jesus applies to these Pharisees. They produce bad spiritual "fruit" for the same reason corrupt trees make inedible crops. He calls them a brood of vipers, pointing out that the words they say reveal the true nature of their hearts. This principle applies, in general, to all people as well: what we think and feel is the origin of what we say and do. Jesus warns everyone listening that they will be held accountable on the day of judgment for every careless word they have spoken (Matthew 12:33–37).



### REFLECT

*What do Jesus' interactions with the Pharisees reveal about what God desires? Where is God calling you to be more mindful of your words and, more importantly, your heart behind those words?*



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## VERSE OF THE DAY

*Day 12 – The Pharisees Respond*

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“Either make the tree good and its fruit good,  
or make the tree bad and its fruit bad,  
for the tree is known by its fruit.”  
Matthew 12:33, ESV

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DAY 13

## Jesus Preaches in Parables

March 4

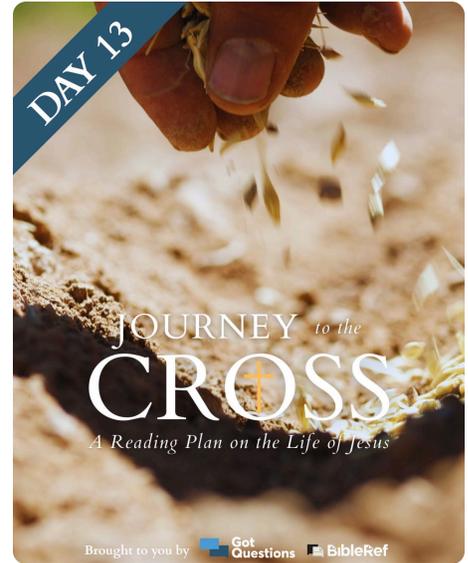
Read Matthew 13. Jesus Preaches in Parables.

Parables are usually short stories designed to emphasize a greater truth. The main purpose of a parable is to make large or abstract ideas easier to grasp. By relating something to more common experiences, parables make those deeper concepts more accessible. At the same time, because they rely on symbolism and metaphor, parables can be somewhat obscure. They certainly blur minute details, but those are not their primary purpose. The disciples ask Jesus to explain at least one to them, which He does during this chapter.

Jesus intentionally avoids explaining the meaning of the parables to the larger crowd, however. He tells the disciples that it has been given to them to know the secrets of the kingdom of heaven. Israel at large, however, especially her religious leaders, was rejecting Jesus' role as the Messiah and the truth His miracles were powered by God. Because of that, Jesus says the people would fulfill Isaiah's prophecies about those with dull hearts who will not see or hear or understand. The idea is that the people were resistant first, and in response, God amplified their misunderstanding as a form of judgment. Christ's disciples, though, are blessed to be able to see and hear what so many prophets and righteous people longed to see and hear down through Israel's history (Matthew 13:10–17).

### REFLECT

*Why might Jesus have changed his teaching style at this point? Why does Jesus speak in parables?*



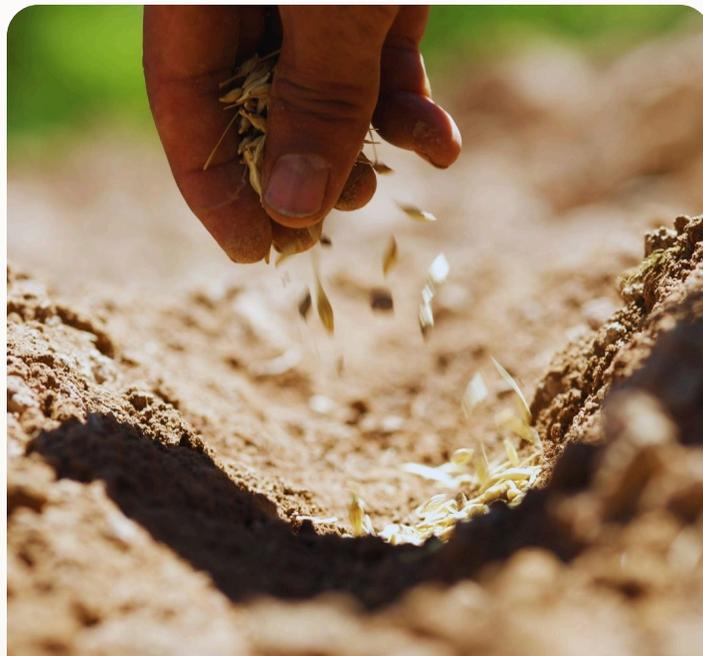
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## VERSE OF THE DAY

*Day 13 – Jesus Preaches in Parables*

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He put another parable before them, saying,  
“The kingdom of heaven is like a grain of mustard seed  
that a man took and sowed in his field.”  
Matthew 13:31, ESV

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DAY 14

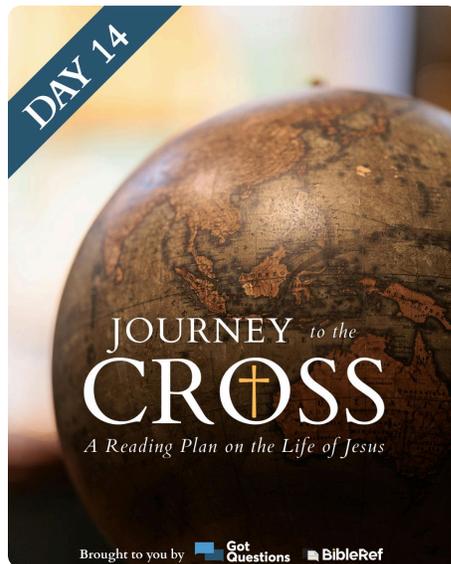
## Jesus Meets Nicodemus

March 5

**Read John 3. Jesus Meets Nicodemus.**

Nicodemus was not just a devout Pharisee, but also one of only 70 members of the Sanhedrin religious court. He would have been highly influential in religion, politics, and wealth. Their conversation partly involves Jesus taking some wind out of Nicodemus' sails. Nicodemus recognizes that Jesus' miracles are proofs of His divine mission. And yet, he struggles with Jesus' description of spiritual rebirth. Christ explains that one must be "born again" —a person must express saving faith, in order to be saved.

Verses 16–21 summarize the entire gospel. God loved man enough to send His Son to save them, but those who reject Jesus are condemned. Ultimately, those who are lost love their sin more than they desire God.



### REFLECT

*What does it mean to be born again? What does Jesus sharing the gospel reveal about His mission and purpose?*



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**VERSE OF THE DAY**

*Day 14 – Jesus Meets Nicodemus*

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“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.”  
John 3:16, ESV

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**DAY 15**

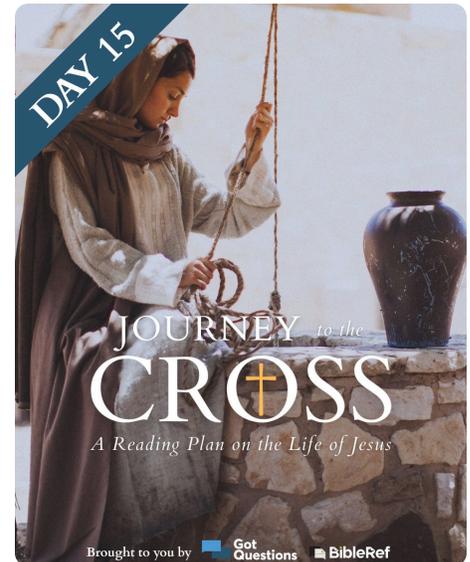
## Jesus and the Woman of Samaria

March 6

**Read John 4. Jesus and the Woman of Samaria.**

This chapter presents a very practical foreshadowing of a command given by Jesus elsewhere in the Scriptures. At this point, Jesus has traveled from Jerusalem (chapters 2 and 3), through Judea and into Samaria (in chapter 4). The Samaritans respond to Jesus by proclaiming Him "the Savior of the world." At His ascension, Jesus will declare His disciples to be His witnesses "in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth" (Acts 1:8). Just as He had done, He called His followers to do.

With the Samaritan woman, Jesus knows exactly what she needs to understand: that the Savior knows what she has done, and who she is, and seeks her anyway (John 4:23–24). This is the great message of His conversation at the well and the primary application we can take from it.

**REFLECT**

*What does Jesus' interaction with the woman at the well reveal about His character? How do the woman's responses to Jesus challenge or motivate you?*



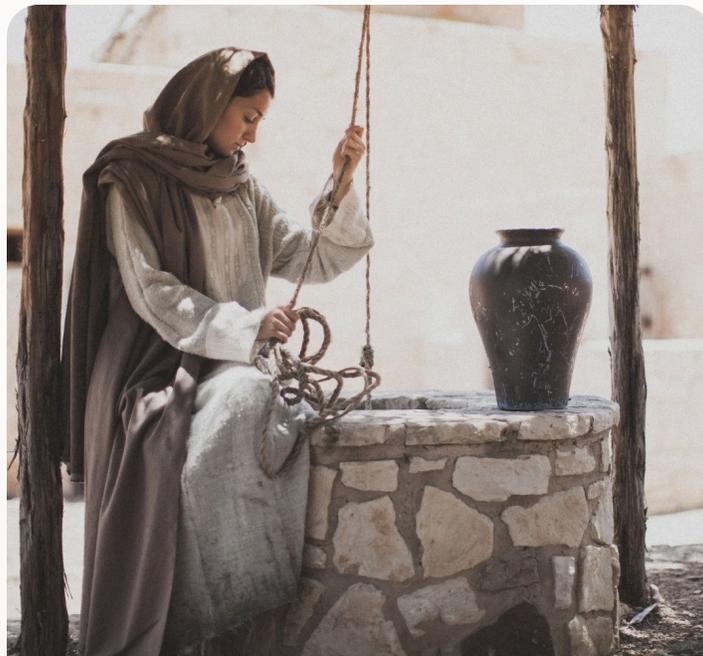
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**VERSE OF THE DAY**

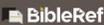
*Day 15 – Jesus and the Woman of Samaria*

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So the woman left her water jar and went away into town and said to the people, "Come, see a man who told me all that I ever did. Can this be the Christ?"

John 4:28-29, ESV

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**DAY 16**

## Jesus Calms the Storm

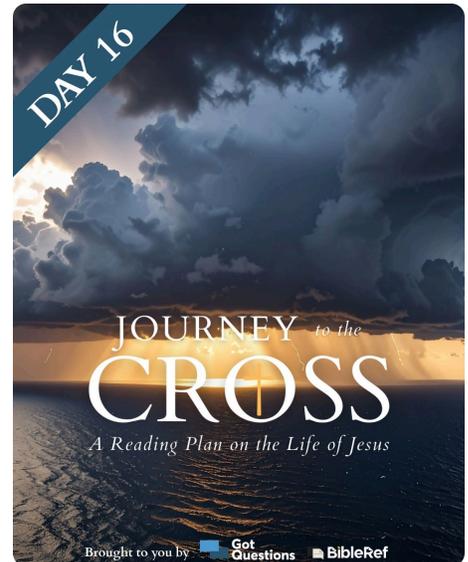
March 7

**Read Mark 4:35-41. Jesus Calms the Storm.**

Mark 4:35–41 is part of a passage expounding on Jesus' authority. He has demonstrated power over sickness (Mark 3:7–10), demons (Mark 1:21–26), and the Sabbath (Mark 2:23–28). Now He controls the wind and the sea. Next, He will conquer a legion of demons (Mark 5:1–13), social conventions (Mark 5:25–34), and death (Mark 5:21–24, 35–43). In this miracle, Jesus displays His authority over nature, specifically conditions that His disciples know and rightfully fear. The story of the storm is also recorded in Matthew 8:23–27 and Luke 8:22–25.

**REFLECT**

*What does this passage reveal about Jesus' humanity and divinity?  
What attributes of Jesus give you proper perspective in life's storms?*



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## VERSE OF THE DAY

*Day 16 — Jesus Calms the Storm*

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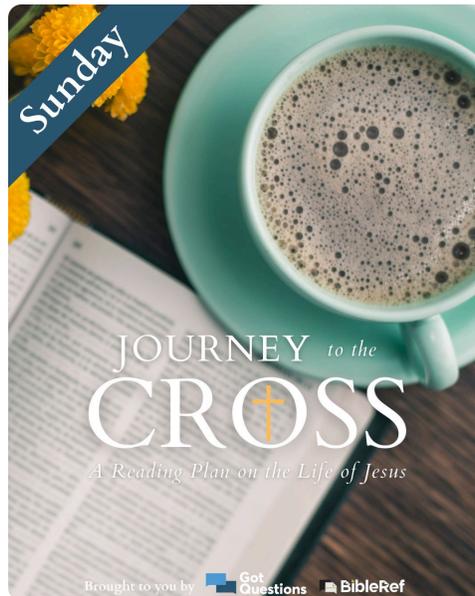
And he awoke and rebuked the wind and said to the sea,  
"Peace! Be still!" And the wind ceased,  
and there was a great calm.  
Mark 4:39, ESV

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SUNDAY 3

## Rest & Reflect

March 8



**Rest and reflect on what you've learned this week.**

*What do each of the miracles in this chapter reveal about God's supremacy and power? How does God's supremacy and power over disease, demons, and disasters impact your response in difficult situations?*

*What do Jesus' interactions with the Pharisees reveal about what God desires? Where is God calling you to be more mindful of your words and, more importantly, your heart behind those words?*

*Why might Jesus have changed his teaching style at this point? Why does Jesus speak in parables?*

*What does it mean to be born again? What does Jesus sharing the gospel reveal about His mission and purpose?*

*What does Jesus' interaction with the woman at the well reveal about His character? How do the woman's responses to Jesus challenge or motivate you?*

*What does this passage reveal about Jesus' humanity and divinity? What attributes of Jesus give you proper perspective in life's storms?*

DAY 17

## Jesus Feeds 5,000

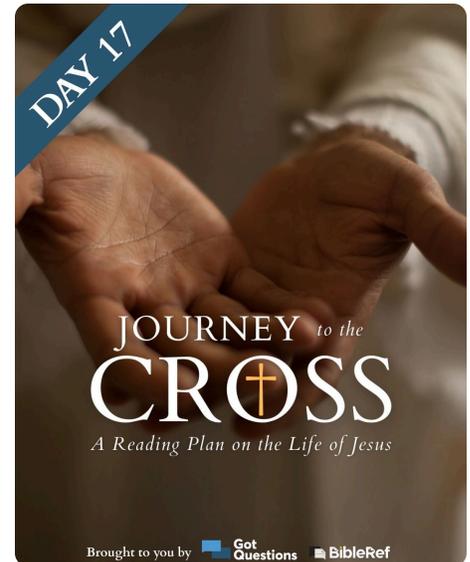
March 9

**Read Mark 5. Jesus Heals.**

Mark 4:35—5:43 sees an increase in the scope of Jesus' miracles. He has just calmed a violent storm on the Sea of Galilee. Now, He expels a legion of demons, heals a woman without overtly acting, and brings a girl back to life. All three situations—related to tombs, blood, and death—show Jesus bringing healing to unclean circumstances.

**REFLECT**

*What truths can we learn about God through His healing of unclean circumstances? How is your faith challenged by Jesus' supremacy over what is considered unclean?*



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VERSE OF THE DAY

*Day 17 – Jesus Feeds 5,000*

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But the woman, knowing what had happened to her, came in fear and trembling and fell down before him and told him the whole truth.

Mark 5:33, ESV

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DAY 18

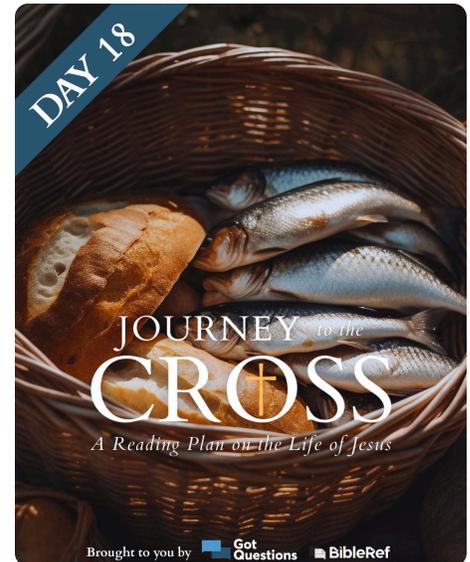
## Jesus Feeds 5,000

March 10

**Read John 6:1-15. Jesus Feeds 5,000.**

The primary event of this chapter is Jesus' feeding thousands of people with the contents of a boy's small lunch (John 6:9–13). This was the most public of all the miracles Jesus performed, and the one which garnered Him the most immediate worldly acclaim. Each gospel records several miracles performed by Jesus, but this is the only miracle included in all four accounts.

The day after feeding thousands and hearing their praises, Jesus tells people that He, Himself, is the Bread from Heaven (John 6:51). By explaining that His ministry is essentially spiritual, not material, Jesus alienates most of those who had been eager to follow Him. This, of course, only goes to prove Jesus' accusation: that the people were not there to learn or to receive truth, but rather to once again be given free food (John 6:26).



### REFLECT

*What does Jesus' response to the needs of the crowd reveal about Him? How did Jesus stretch His disciples' faith?*



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VERSE OF THE DAY

*Day 18 – Jesus Feeds 5,000*

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Jesus said, "Have the people sit down."  
Now there was much grass in the place.  
So the men sat down, about five thousand in number.  
John 6:10, ESV

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DAY 19

## Who Jesus Is

March 11

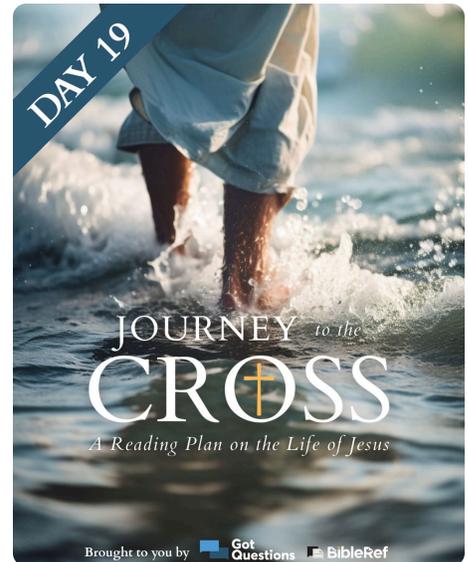
Read Matthew 16. Who Jesus Is.

Matthew 16 begins with another confrontation between Jesus and some of Israel's religious leaders. A group of Pharisees and Sadducees approach Jesus together. This is unusual, since the two sects don't agree on more than the most basic points of theology. Their demand to Jesus is for another sign from heaven (Matthew 12:13–14, 22). Jesus points out they can read basic signs in the skies to predict weather. However, they refuse to recognize obvious signs such as the many miracles He has already accomplished. He declares He will not give them any sign but that of Jonah (Jonah 1:17), who was swallowed by the great fish and restored on the third day (Matthew 16:1–4).

Jesus asks his disciples who the people say He is. By this, He means the general opinion of the public. The disciples report that some people think He is the return of a great prophet, others that He is somehow John the Baptist. Making an important contrast between "popular opinion" and "personal belief," Jesus asks who the disciples say He is. Peter answers for the group: "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God" (Matthew 16:13–16).

### REFLECT

*Compare and contrast the Pharisees' and Sadducees' response to who Jesus is to the disciples'. Why is Jesus' second question to Peter the most important question in life?*



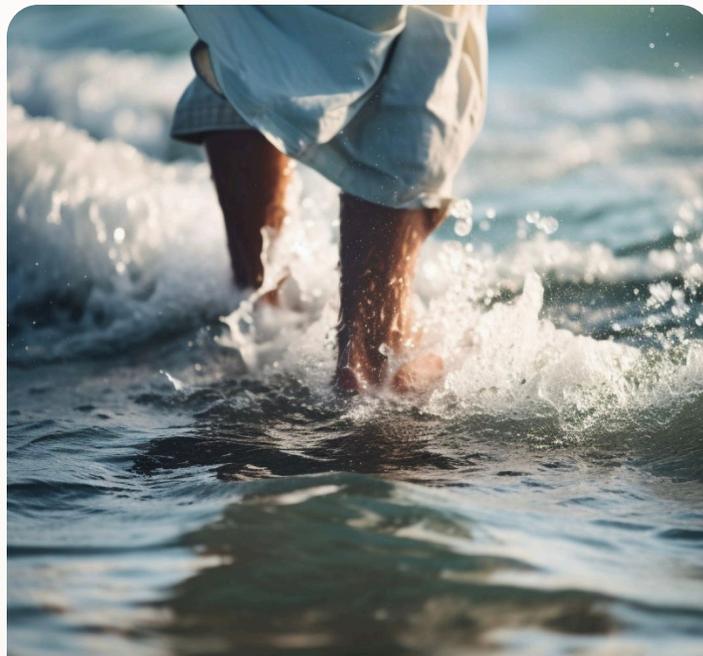
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VERSE OF THE DAY

*Day 19 – Who Jesus Is*

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He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?"  
Simon Peter replied,  
"You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."  
Matthew 16:15-16, ESV

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DAY 20

## The Transfiguration

March 12

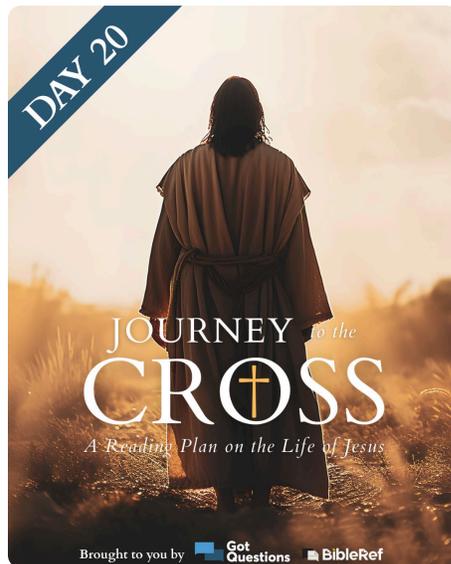
Read Matthew 17:1-13. The Transfiguration.

The previous chapter concluded with a prediction: some of those with Jesus would not die before seeing Him coming in His kingdom. That is what happens six days later when Jesus selects Peter, James, and John to climb a high mountain with Him. Once there, they see Jesus transfigured into His glorious reality, His face shining like the sun and His clothes gleaming white as light. Not only that, but the three disciples also see Moses and Elijah, representing the law and the prophets, long gone from the earth, standing and talking with Jesus (Matthew 17:1–3).

Peter, ever eager to act, feels the need to say something in response to wonder. In awestruck haste, he blunders by offering to build three tents, one for each of these figures. That suggestion is literally interrupted by a voice from heaven. God the Father arrives in a bright cloud and describes Himself as being well-pleased with Jesus, His beloved Son. He commands the disciples to listen to Jesus.

### REFLECT

*How do Peter, James, and John respond to the Transfiguration? What do you learn about God's character in God the Father and Jesus' response to the disciples?*



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## VERSE OF THE DAY

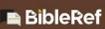
*Day 20 – The Transfiguration*

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And after six days Jesus took with him Peter and James, and John his brother, and led them up a high mountain by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became white as light.

Matthew 17:1-2, ESV

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DAY 21

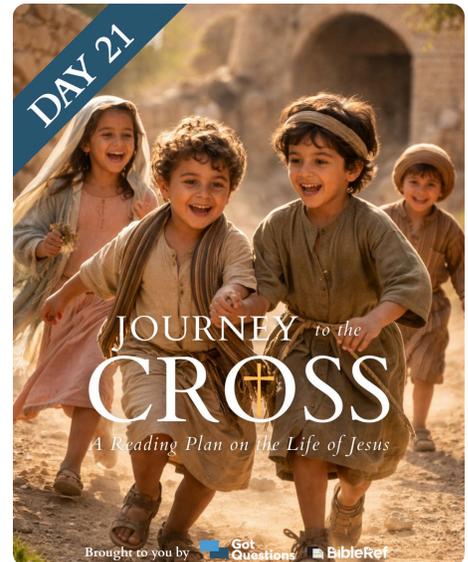
## Jesus Teaches

March 13

Read Matthew 18. Jesus Teaches

Matthew 18 begins with a question from the disciples to Jesus: Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven? Jesus' surprising response becomes the foundation for the rest of the chapter.

Jesus calls a child to Him and puts that child in the middle of the group of disciples as they are talking. He tells them that unless they turn and become like children, they won't even enter the kingdom of heaven. The greatest in the kingdom will be the one who humbles himself like this child. His point is not that Christians ought to be gullible, or naïve. Rather, they need to look to God with trusting faith, and acceptance of their own limitations. Those who support and guide other spiritual "children" are serving God. Those who lead believers astray can expect harsh judgment (Matthew 18:1–6). Jesus also teaches about avoiding sin and offering forgiveness to others.



### REFLECT

*What does Jesus teach about true greatness? In what ways have you underestimated the destruction of sin and what does Jesus teach should be our response?*



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VERSE OF THE DAY

*Day 21 — Jesus Teaches*

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“Truly, I say to you, unless you turn and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. Whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.”  
Matthew 18:3-4, ESV

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DAY 22

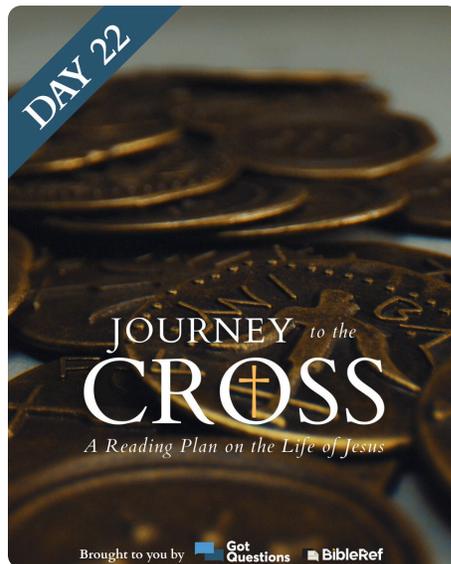
## Little Children and A Rich Young Ruler

March 14

Read Matthew 19. Little Children and A Rich Young Ruler.

Jesus repeats the idea that the kingdom of heaven belongs to those who are like little children. By this, Jesus refers to their sense of trust and dependence. A humble, faithful approach is required to fully embrace our relationship to God. Blind belief or gullibility are not part of childlike faith, but neither is arrogance (Matthew 19:13–15).

Jesus tells His disciples that it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a sewing needle than for a rich person to enter the kingdom of heaven. Wealth—as with many other worldly advantages—tempts people to think they are self-sufficient. Money can numb us to our need for God. This countered conventional wisdom of Jesus' era, which assumed that wealth was a sign of divine approval. Shocked, they ask how anyone could be saved. Jesus tells them salvation is impossible with men—but not with God (Matthew 19:23–26).



### REFLECT

*Where and how does Jesus correct wrong beliefs in this passage? What challenges you in Jesus' firm but gentle invitation for the rich young ruler to follow Him?*



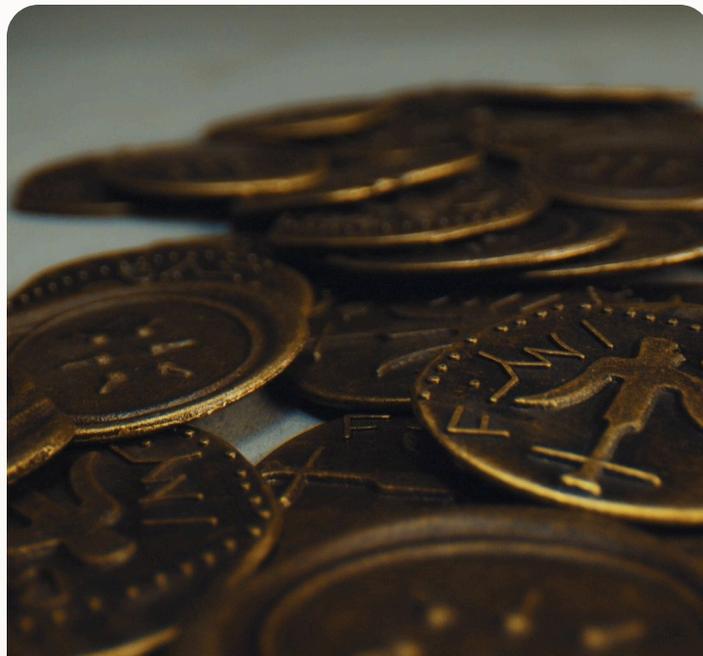
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## VERSE OF THE DAY

*Day 22 — Little Children and A Rich Young Ruler*

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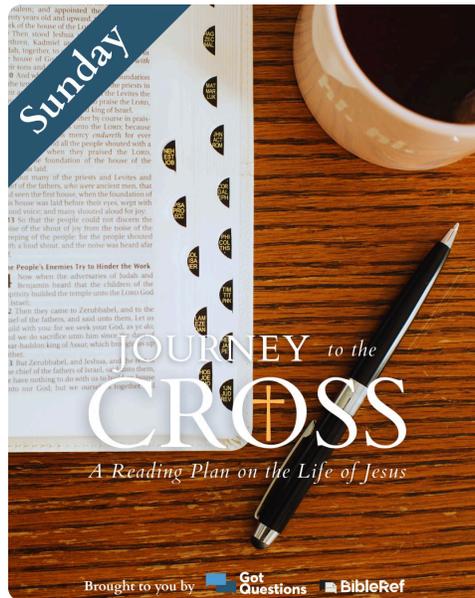
And Jesus said to his disciples,  
"Truly, I say to you, only with difficulty  
will a rich person enter the kingdom of heaven."  
Matthew 19:23, ESV

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SUNDAY 4

## Rest & Reflect

March 15



**Rest and reflect on what you've learned this week.**

*What truths can we learn about God through His healing of unclean circumstances? How is your faith challenged by Jesus' supremacy over what is considered unclean?*

*What does Jesus' response to the needs of the crowd reveal about Him? How did Jesus stretch His disciples' faith?*

*Compare and contrast the Pharisees' and Sadducees' response to who Jesus is to the disciples'. Why is Jesus' second question to Peter the most important question in life?*

*How do Peter, James, and John respond to the Transfiguration? What do learn about God's character in God the Father and Jesus' response to the disciples?*

*What does Jesus teach about true greatness? In what ways have you underestimated the destruction of sin and what does Jesus teach should be our response?*

*Where and how does Jesus correct wrong beliefs in this passage? What challenges you in Jesus' firm but gentle invitation for the rich young ruler to follow Him?*

DAY 23

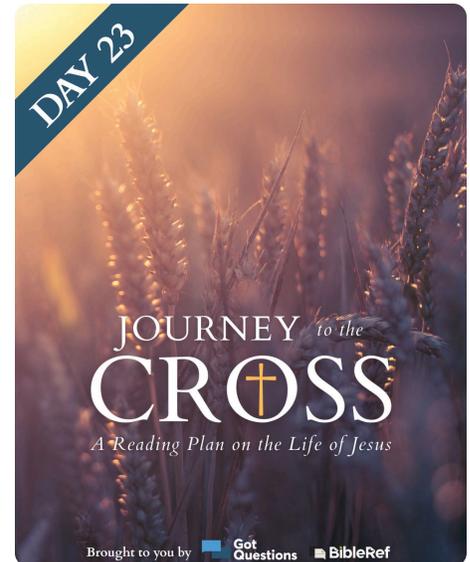
## Disciples Sent Out

March 16

**Read Luke 10:1-24. Disciples Sent Out.**

Luke 10 is the only place where we find the account of Jesus sending a specific 70 (or 72) disciples to prepare the way before Him. Whether there were 70 or 72 disciples sent out by Jesus is irrelevant. What is important are the instructions Jesus gave them and the power that came upon them to perform miracles and cast out demons (Luke 10:17).

What Jesus called attention to was not the power He gave them but the fact that their names were written in heaven (Luke 10:20). Similarly, while we may get excited about visible miracles and demonstrations of supernatural power, the greatest miracle of all is the fact that unworthy sinners can become righteous children of God (Romans 5:8; 2 Corinthians 5:21; John 1:12). When our focus moves to ourselves and how God is using us, we are headed in the wrong direction. It is the name of Jesus Christ alone who deserves all attention and glory (1 Corinthians 1:28–29; Philippians 2:9–11).



### REFLECT

*How does having Jesus as the object and strength of our faith impact our mission and purpose? How is God calling you to move your focus off yourself and onto Him as the object and power of our faith?*



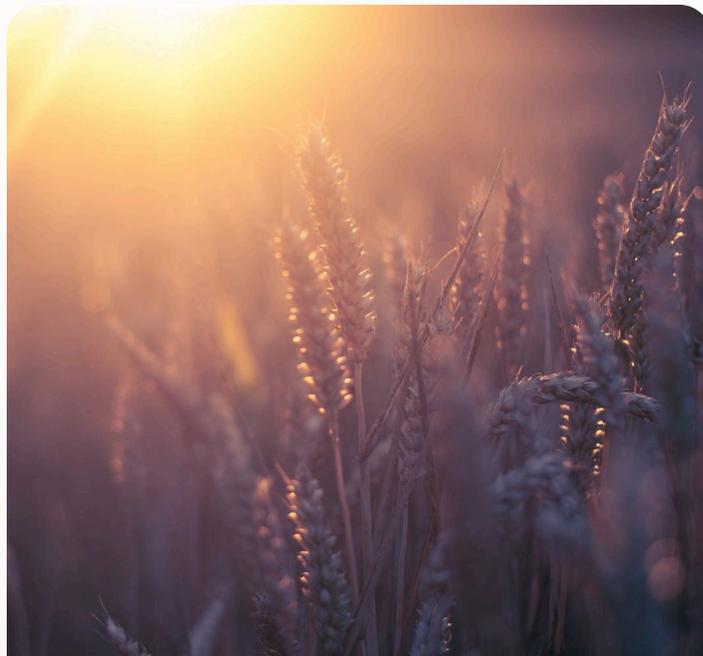
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VERSE OF THE DAY

*Day 23 – Disciples Sent Out*

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And he said to them, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few. Therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest."

Luke 10:2, ESV

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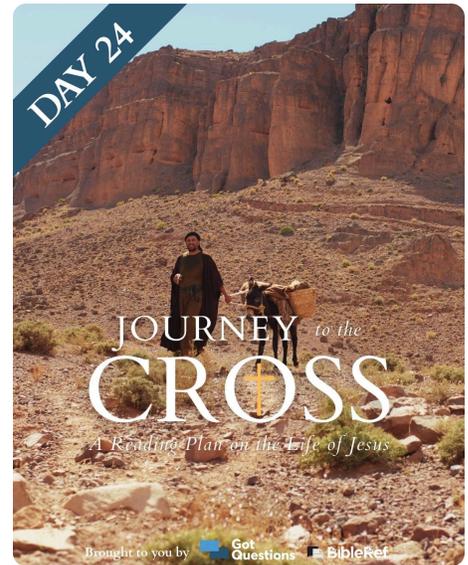
DAY 24

## The Good Samaritan

March 17

Read Luke 10:25-37. The Good Samaritan.

The Parable of the Good Samaritan is in answer to a question posed to Jesus by a lawyer, an expert in the Mosaic Law. The lawyer's question was, "Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?" (Luke 10:25). This question provided Jesus with an opportunity to define what His disciples' relationship should be to their neighbors. The wording of the question does, however, give us some insight into where the scribe's heart was spiritually. He was making the assumption that man must do something to obtain eternal life. Although this could have been an opportunity for Jesus to discuss salvation issues, He chose a different course and focuses on our relationships and what it means to love.



### REFLECT

*What does this parable reveal about inheriting eternal life? How does our faith in Christ impact our relationships with those around us?*



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**VERSE OF THE DAY**

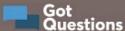
*Day 24 — The Good Samaritan*

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Jesus replied, "A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and he fell among robbers, who stripped him and beat him and departed, leaving him half dead.

Luke 10:30, ESV

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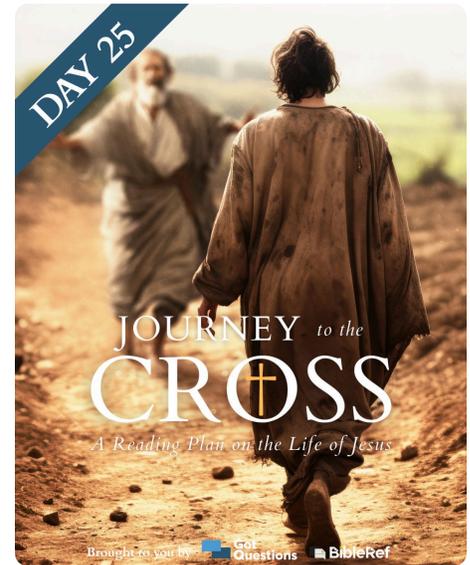
**DAY 25**

## The Lost Sheep, the Lost Coin, and the Prodigal Son

March 18

Read **Luke 15**. The Lost Sheep, the Lost Coin, and the Prodigal Son.

The major theme of the Prodigal Son parable seems not to be so much the conversion of the sinner, as in the previous two parables of Luke 15, but rather the restoration of a believer into fellowship with the Father. In the first two parables, the owner went out to look for what was lost (Luke 15:1-10), whereas in this story the father waits and watches eagerly for his son's return. We see a progression through the three parables from the relationship of one in a hundred (Luke 15:1-7), to one in ten (Luke 15:8-10), to one in one (Luke 15:11-32), demonstrating God's love for each individual and His personal attentiveness towards all humanity. We see in this story the graciousness of the father overshadowing the sinfulness of the son, as it is the memory of the father's goodness that brings the prodigal son to repentance (Romans 2:4).



### REFLECT

*What do these parables reveal about God's character and pursuit of His people? How has your view of God expanded or changed as a result of these parables?*



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## VERSE OF THE DAY

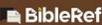
*Day 25 – The Lost Sheep, the Lost Coin, and the Prodigal Son*

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And he arose and came to his father. But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and felt compassion, and ran and embraced him and kissed him.

Luke 15:20, ESV

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DAY 26

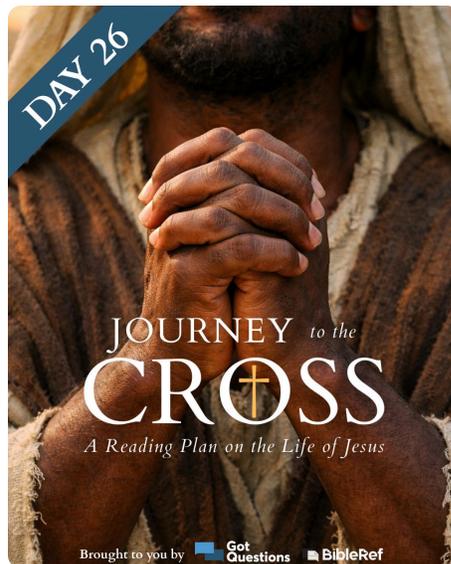
## Jesus Teaches About Prayer

March 19

**Read Matthew 6. Jesus Teaches About Prayer.**

Jesus gives a simple model of prayer for His people to follow. This has come to be known as the Lord's Prayer, though it's not literally something Jesus, Himself, is praying. This is His outline, taught to believers, explaining the right attitudes and components of prayer. That begins by addressing God as Father, declaring His holiness, and asking Him to accomplish His plans on earth. Then Jesus models requests for daily food, forgiveness of sin, and deliverance from temptation and evil. He adds an appeal for forgiveness from God as well as a declaration, to God, that we have forgiven other people (Matthew 6:9–13).

After modeling prayer, Jesus returns to calling out the hypocrites who perform religious acts in order to be approved of by others. When they fast, they don't groom themselves and they walk around looking gloomy all day so everyone will know how spiritual they're being. That's all the reward they'll get. Instead, Jesus says, do your fasting for God and not to be seen by others. Wash your face. Don't tell everyone. God will know, and He will reward you (Matthew 6:16–18).



### REFLECT

*How are we supposed to pray in light of Jesus' teachings on prayer? In what areas of your life is God calling you to pray for His will to be done?*



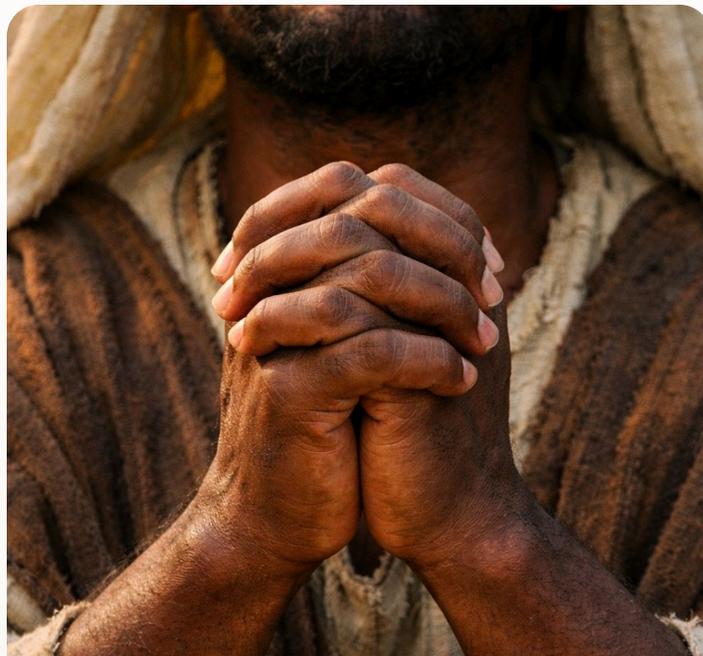
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## VERSE OF THE DAY

*Day 26 – Jesus Teaches About Prayer*

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But when you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

Matthew 6:6, ESV

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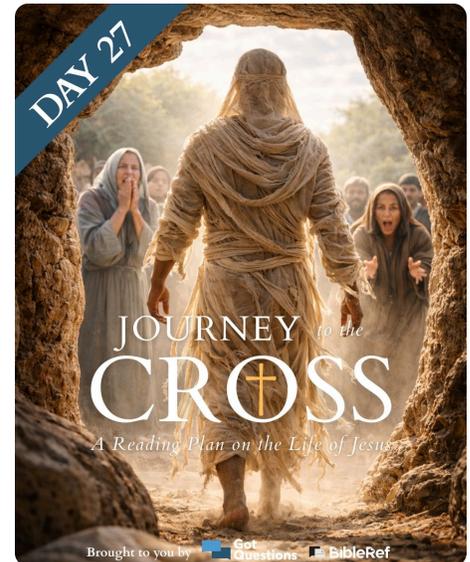
DAY 27

## Jesus Raises Lazarus

March 20

**Read John 11. Jesus Raises Lazarus.**

The raising of Lazarus is much more theatrical than some of Jesus' other miracles. At the wedding in Cana, few people even knew a miracle had occurred (John 2:7–11). When feeding thousands, it took time for people to become aware of what was happening (John 6:9–11). The man born blind gained his sight without Jesus even being there for the key moment (John 9:6–7). In this case, Jesus has purposefully waited until death is undeniable—Martha is understandably worried about her brother's corpse rotting. There is a crowd, and for the sake of that crowd Jesus openly declares that He is acting on the power and authority of God. Then He calls a dead man to life (John 11:38–44).

**REFLECT**

*What does this passage reveal about God's relationship to death? How is the raising of Lazarus a taste of Jesus' future resurrection and subsequently believers' future resurrection?*



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**VERSE OF THE DAY**

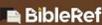
*Day 27 – Jesus Raises Lazarus*

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But when you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray  
The man who had died came out, his hands and feet bound with  
linen strips, and his face wrapped with a cloth. Jesus said to  
them, “Unbind him, and let him go.”

John 11:44, ESV

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DAY 28

## Hosanna! Palm Sunday

March 21

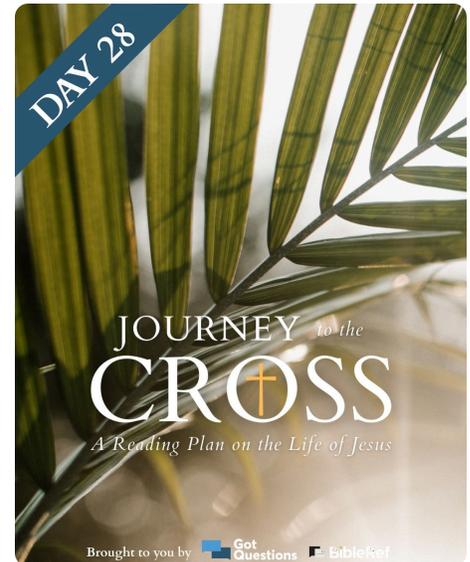
**Read Matthew 21:1-11. Hosanna! Palm Sunday**

Jesus and the disciples have nearly completed their long journey from the region of Galilee in the north to Jerusalem. Before entering Jerusalem, though, Jesus directs two of His disciples to go into a village where they will find a donkey and its colt tied up. Zechariah predicted the King would come humbly and riding a donkey (Zechariah 9:9). The symbolism of this is easy to miss. Donkeys are common work animals and unsuited for battle. Victorious conquerors of that era would parade on horses, much as a modern general might ride into a city on the back of a tank. Riding a donkey, rather than a warhorse, is more like a modern person sitting in a pickup truck. In the future, Christ will come in power and judgment (Revelation 19:11–16). This time, His arrival is consistent with His role as a sacrificial Savior (Matthew 21:1–7).

As Jesus rides toward the gates, the large crowd following Him is joined by even more people coming out of Jerusalem, who have heard He is arriving. They put their outer garments and branches on the road in front of Him as symbols of submission and Jewish victory. They also shout out lines from Psalm 118 that are meant for the Messiah: "Hosanna to the Son of David!" and "Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!"

### REFLECT

*Why were the people worshiping Jesus, and what were they hoping Jesus would do for them? How do you prepare yourself to worship the True King?*



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## VERSE OF THE DAY

*Day 28 – Hosanna! Palm Sunday*

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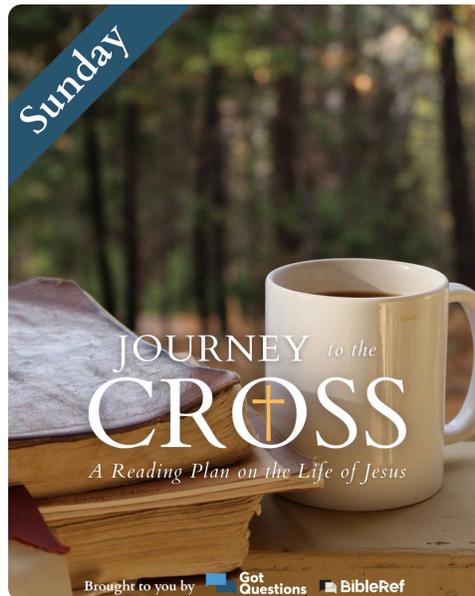
And the crowds that went before him  
and that followed him were shouting,  
“Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is he who comes in the  
name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest!”  
Matthew 21:1-11, ESV

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SUNDAY 5

## Rest & Reflect

March 22



**Rest and reflect on what you've learned this week.**

*How does having Jesus as the object and strength of our faith impact our mission and purpose? How is God calling you to move your focus off yourself and onto Him as the object and power of our faith?*

*What does this parable reveal about inheriting eternal life? How does our faith in Christ impact our relationships with those around us?*

*What do these parables reveal about God's character and pursuit of His people? How has your view of God expanded or changed as a result of these parables?*

*How are we supposed to pray in light of Jesus' teachings on prayer? In what areas of your life is God calling you to pray for His will to be done?*

*What does this passage reveal about God's relationship to death? How is the raising of Lazarus a taste of Jesus' future resurrection and subsequently believers' future resurrection?*

*Why were the people worshiping Jesus, and what were they hoping Jesus would do for them? How do you prepare yourself to worship the True King?*

DAY 29

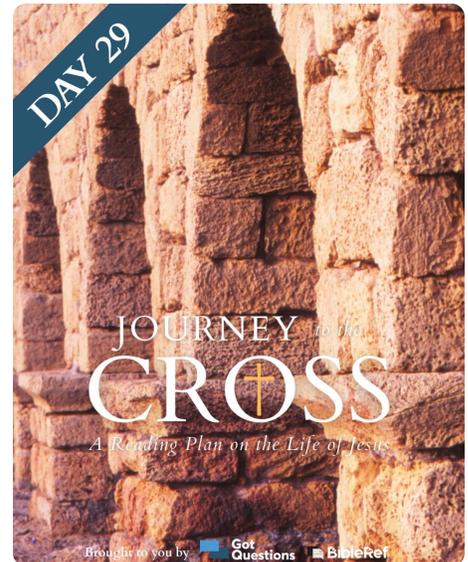
## Jesus Clears the Temple; Jesus Teaches

March 23

Read Matthew 21:12-46. Jesus Clears the Temple; Jesus Teaches.

Jesus later enters the massive temple in Jerusalem. He drives out those selling and buying animals. He overthrows the tables and benches of the moneychangers. This seems to be a second, separate incident from the one recorded in the gospel of John (John 2:13–22). Jesus' anger is not about business or money, itself, but the crass way in which these men are profiting from the spiritual needs of the people (Matthew 21:12–13).

Finally, Jesus applies Psalm 118:22–23 to Himself. He is the stone rejected by the builders that has become the cornerstone. The kingdom of God will be taken from the Israelite leaders and all who reject Jesus will be broken on or crushed by the cornerstone.



### REFLECT

*What fueled Jesus to clear the Temple? Why is God concerned with purity in people's hearts and worship, and is there any cleansing that needs to happen in your life?*

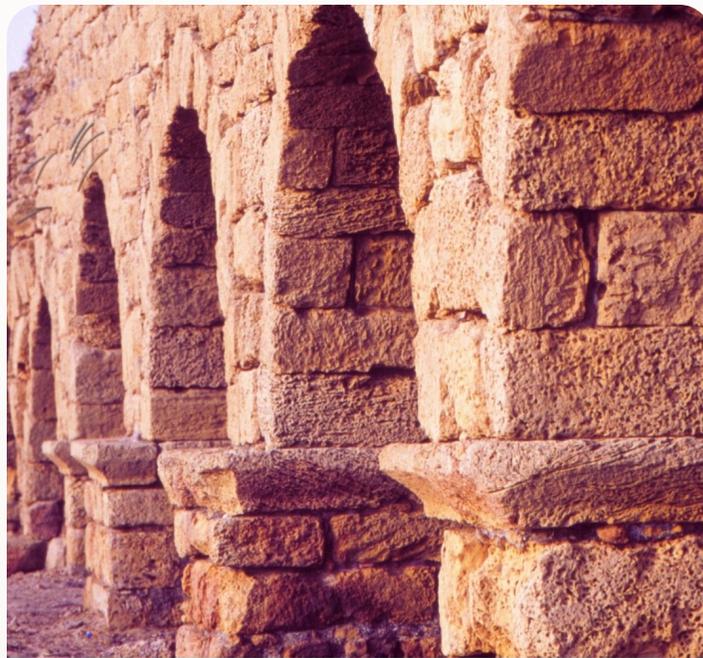


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## VERSE OF THE DAY

*Day 29 – Jesus Clears the Temple; Jesus Teaches*



Jesus said to them, "Have you never read in the Scriptures:  
"The stone that the builders rejected has become the  
cornerstone; this was the Lord's doing,  
and it is marvelous in our eyes?"  
Matthew 21:42, ESV

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DAY 30

## Olivet Discourse

March 24

**Read Mark 13. Olivet Discourse.**

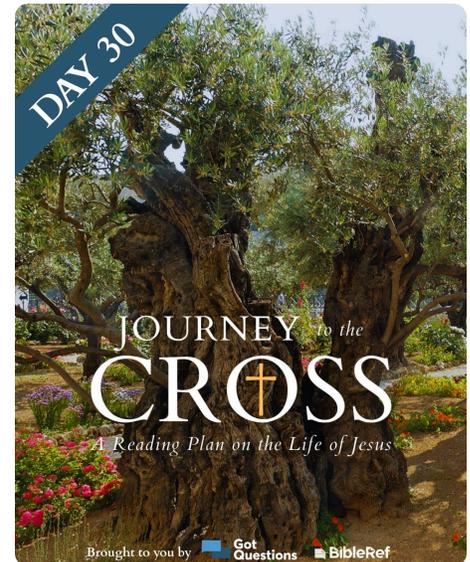
Jesus' teaching recorded in Mark 13 is called "The Olivet Discourse" because He and the disciples are on the Mount of Olives, east of the temple. In the discourse, Jesus prophesies about the fate of the temple, Jerusalem, and the end times. Those details include a prophecy about the impending destruction of the temple. Jerusalem and the temple, which were designed to be the center of God-worship and have become the nationalistic symbol of the Jews, are no longer needed. Judaism will cease being the primary avenue through which God reaches the world. The disciples will spread the gospel to the world.

### REFLECT

*How does Jesus fulfill the Old Testament? What warnings does Jesus give in this passage?*



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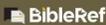
VERSE OF THE DAY

*Day 30 – Olivet Discourse*

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Heaven and earth will pass away,  
but my words will not pass away.  
Mark 13:31, ESV

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DAY 31

## Jesus' Body is Anointed

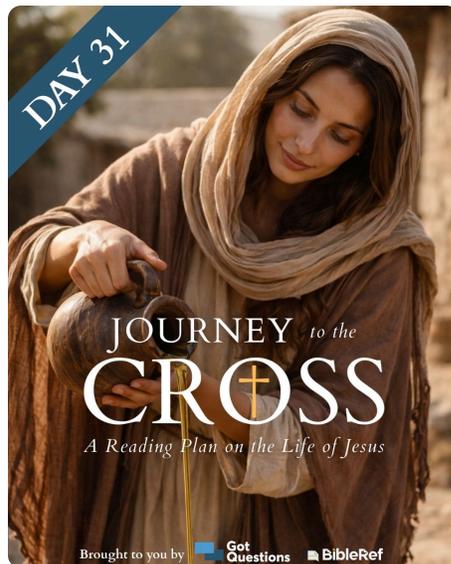
March 25

Read Mark 14:1-12. Jesus' Body is Anointed.

While Jewish leaders and Judas prepare for His betrayal, Jesus concentrates—still—on teaching the disciples the truth about Himself, themselves, and what the Jewish Messiah really is. For at least the second time, possibly the third (Luke 7:36–50; John 12:1–8), a woman anoints Jesus with perfume. At the home of Simon the Leper, an unidentified woman anoints Jesus' head on the day the Passover lambs are being anointed (Mark 14:3–9). Jesus praises her gracious act of worship that prepares Him for His burial the next afternoon.

### REFLECT

*What do we learn about Jesus in comparing his response versus the disciples' response to this woman anointing Him? How are you challenged or encouraged by her love and faith?*



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## VERSE OF THE DAY

*Day 31 — Jesus' Body is Anointed*

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She has done what she could; she has anointed my body beforehand for burial. And truly, I say to you, wherever the gospel is proclaimed in the whole world, what she has done will be told in memory of her."

Mark 14:8-9, ESV

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DAY 32

## Washing the Disciples' Feet

March 26

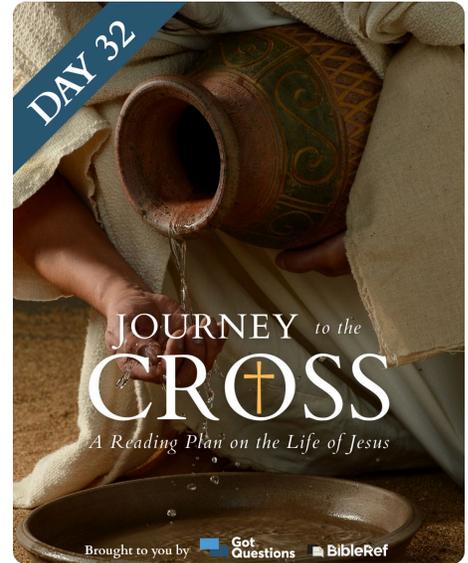
**Read John 13. Washing the Disciples' Feet.**

In the ancient world, people walked on dirt roads covered in mud, animal waste, and assorted trash. Washing of the feet was dirty and usually something a person did themselves. When done for another person, it was always done by someone of a lower status. When Jesus washes the feet of the disciples, Peter is especially scandalized. But, as Jesus explains, there is a purpose for His actions. Before giving that explanation, Jesus points out that there is a difference—corresponding to the spiritual message of His actions—between a one-time "bathing" and daily "washing." That frames the difference between salvation and the need for us to confess our sins to Christ to maintain our fellowship with Him (John 13:4–11).

Jesus explains His act of washing the disciples' feet by taking full ownership of His role as Master. What Jesus did was humble and submissive, but His purpose was not to set aside His Lordship. Instead, Jesus is proving, by example, that all who claim to follow Him are obligated to humility and sacrificial love for others.

**REFLECT**

*How does this cleansing represent a greater reality? How do you follow Christ's example in serving and loving your fellow brothers and sisters?*



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## VERSE OF THE DAY

*Day 32 – Washing the Disciples' Feet*

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Then he poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet and to wipe them with the towel that was wrapped around him.

John 13:5, ESV

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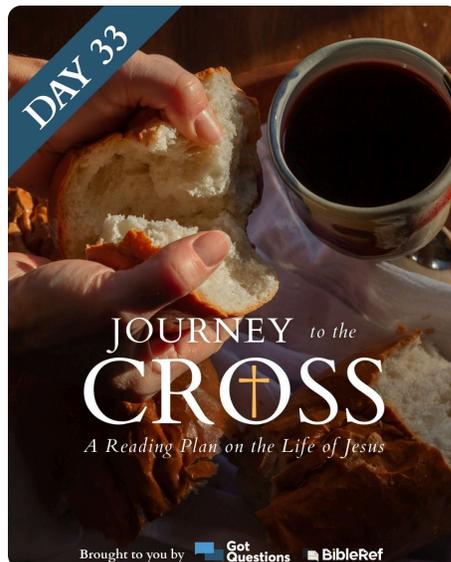
DAY 33

## The Passover Meal; The Last Supper

March 27

Read Luke 22. The Passover Meal. The Last Supper.

The Last Supper is what we call the last meal Jesus ate with His disciples before His betrayal and arrest. The Last Supper was a significant event and proclaimed a turning point in God's plan for the world. In comparing the crucifixion of Jesus to the feast of Passover, we can readily see the redemptive nature of Christ's death. As symbolized by the original Passover sacrifice in the Old Testament, Christ's death atones for the sins of His people; His blood rescues us from death and saves us from slavery. Today, the Lord's Supper is when believers reflect upon Christ's perfect sacrifice and know that, through our faith in receiving Him, we will be with Him forever (Luke 22:18; Revelation 3:20).



### REFLECT

*How did Jesus fulfill the symbolism in the Passover Meal? How do these verses and the symbols the elements of the Last Supper represent deepen your worship of Him?*



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**VERSE OF THE DAY**

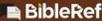
*Day 33 – The Passover Meal; The Last Supper*

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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."

Luke 22:19, ESV

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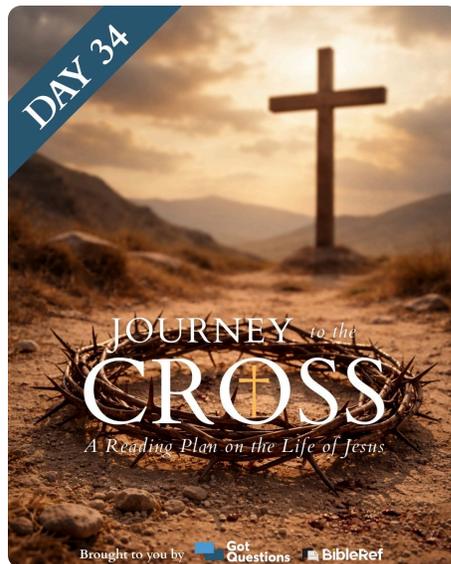
DAY 34

## Jesus is Crucified

March 28

Read Mark 15:1-20. Jesus is Crucified.

After being unfairly judged, Jesus will now be unfairly sentenced and cruelly murdered. It's reasonable to say this chapter provides context for everything else contained in the Bible. From Adam and Eve until the last baby born in the millennial kingdom, every person other than Christ is stained with sin. Conscience, law, Jesus' direct leadership, even the indwelling of the Holy Spirit cannot keep us from sinning. Sinless Jesus had to die on the cross, sacrificing Himself in our place, so our sins could be forgiven and we could be reconciled to God. Beneath the violence, darkness, dishonor, and death is the love of God for all mankind (John 3:16). Jesus' crucifixion is also found in Matthew 27, Luke 23, and John 19.



### REFLECT

*Which elements of Christ's gruesome death do you need to remember as you praise Him for what He's done? How does the unjustness of Christ's crucifixion show us about His character, mission and purpose?*



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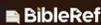
VERSE OF THE DAY

*Day 34 — Jesus is Crucified*

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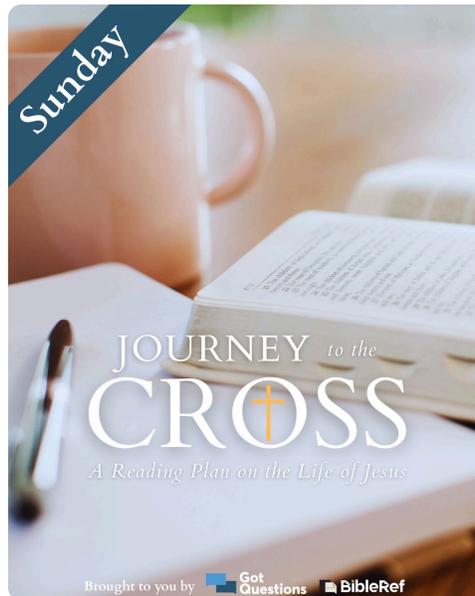
And they clothed him in a purple cloak, and twisting together a crown of thorns, they put it on him. And they began to salute him, "Hail, King of the Jews!"  
Mark 15:17-18, ESV

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SUNDAY 6

## Rest & Reflect

March 29



**Rest and reflect on what you've learned this week.**

*What fueled Jesus to clear the Temple? Why is God concerned with purity in people's hearts and worship, and is there any cleansing that needs to happen in your life?*

*How does Jesus fulfill the Old Testament? What warnings does Jesus give in this passage?*

*What do we learn about Jesus in comparing his response versus the disciples' response to this woman anointing Him? How are you challenged or encouraged by her love and faith?*

*How does this cleansing represent a greater reality? How do you follow Christ's example in serving and loving your fellow brothers and sisters?*

*How did Jesus fulfill the symbolism in the Passover Meal? How do these verses and the symbols the elements of the Last Supper represent deepen your worship of Him?*

*Which elements of Christ's gruesome death do you need to remember as you praise Him for what He's done? How is Jesus' crucifixion unjust, and what do we learn about His character, mission, and purpose?*

DAY 35

## Jesus' Final Words

*March 30*

Read Mark 15:21-32 and Read John 19:16-30. Jesus' Final Words.

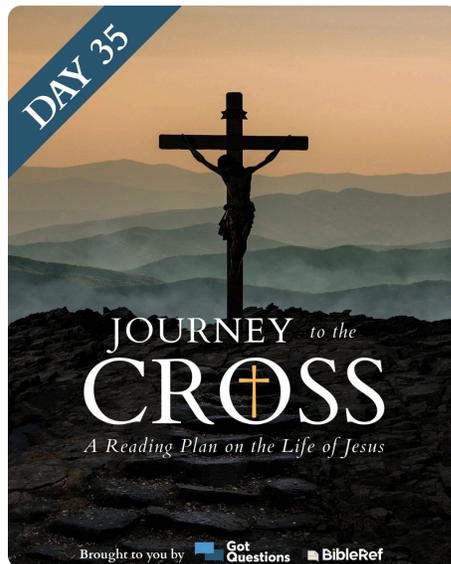
One of Jesus' declarations is the Greek word *tetelestai*. Archaeologists have found this word inscribed on records to indicate debts which have been paid, or obligations which have been met. That which Jesus was sent to accomplish—an atonement for sin on behalf of mankind (2 Corinthians 5:21)—is entirely and fully completed in this moment: "It is finished." No further work needs to be done, nor can it be done (Titus 3:5). There is no room for other actions, rituals, sacraments, sacrifices, or payments to accomplish salvation (1 Peter 3:18; Hebrews 10:12–14).

### REFLECT

*Which of Jesus' last statements encourage or challenge your faith? In what ways?*



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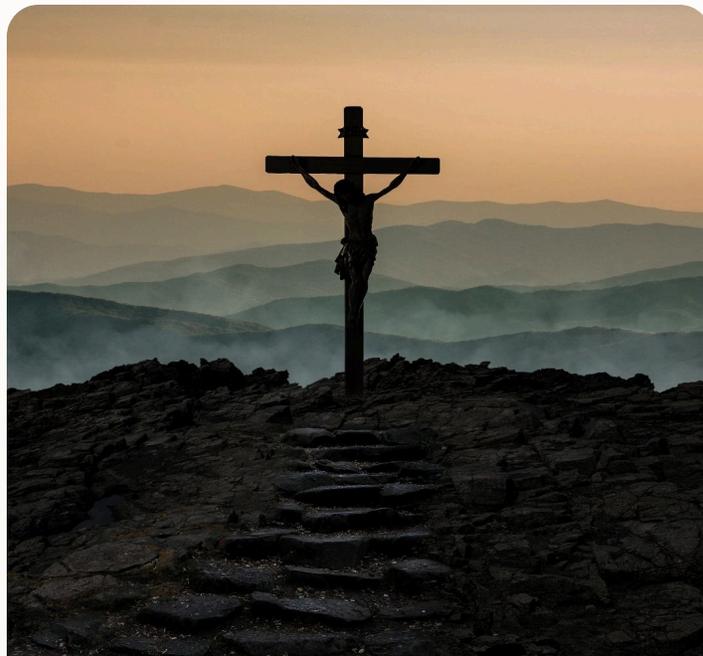


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VERSE OF THE DAY

*Day 35 – Jesus' Final Words*

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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, ESV

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DAY 36

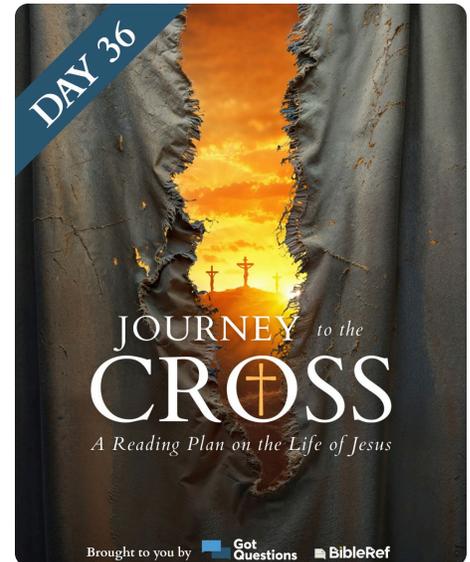
## Jesus Dies and is Buried

March 31

Read Mark 15:33-47. Jesus Dies and is Buried.

Jesus' death is filled with drama and symbolism (Mark 15:33–41). From noon to three in the afternoon, the sky goes dark. He cries out, citing Psalm 22's lament as God abandons Him to the sins of the world. As He dies, the temple veil tears from top to bottom, symbolically declaring that Jesus has destroyed the barrier sin erects between us and God. The women who have supported His ministry and remain faithful look on from a distance and the Roman centurion finally realizes Jesus is no ordinary man.

Jesus' closest disciples are in hiding, but other followers rush to bury His body before the Sabbath begins (Mark 15:42–47). The next day, the chief priests and Pharisees remember that Jesus had claimed He will rise again. They ask Pilate to seal the tomb and send soldiers to guard it lest the disciples steal His body and claim He has resurrected (Matthew 27:62–66).



### REFLECT

*What is the spiritual significance of the events that transpired around the time of Jesus' death? Why is the historical death and burial of Jesus significant?*



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## VERSE OF THE DAY

*Day 36 – Jesus Dies and is Buried*

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And Jesus uttered a loud cry and breathed his last. And the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom.  
Mark 15:37-38, ESV

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**DAY 37**

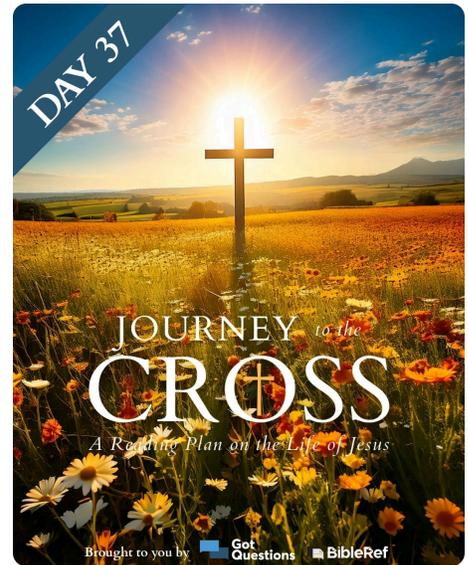
# Kenosis

April 1

**Read Philippians 2. Kenosis.**

The kenosis is the act of Christ taking on a human nature with all of its limitations, except with no sin. As one Bible scholar wrote, “At His incarnation He remained ‘in the form of God’ and as such He is Lord and Ruler over all, but He also accepted the nature of a servant as part of His humanity” (J. J. Müller, *The Epistles of Paul to the Philippians and to Philemon*, p. 82).

**REFLECT**  
*What does it mean that Jesus humbled Himself? What does imitating Christ and taking a humble attitude look like in relation to others?*



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VERSE OF THE DAY

*Day 37 – Kenosis*

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Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Mark 15:37-38, ESV

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**DAY 38**

## He is Risen!

*April 2***Read Mark 16. He is Risen!**

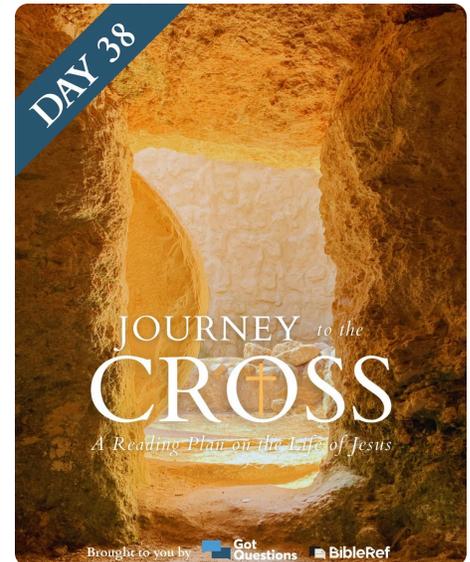
After telling the disciples, several times over three years, that He will die and rise again, Jesus' work is finally done! Jesus is alive! But the disciples are in hiding. Only the women come to the tomb, carrying burial spices instead of hope. Among them are Mary Magdalene, the "other" Mary, and Salome, along with Joanna and some of the other women who have supported Jesus' ministry (Luke 8:3; 24:10). They have come to care for Him one last time, but He is not there. He is risen! This account is also found in Matthew 28:1–8, Luke 24:1–8, and John 20:1.

**REFLECT**

*How does Jesus' resurrection bring hope to the world? Where does the hope of Jesus' resurrection make a difference in your life?*



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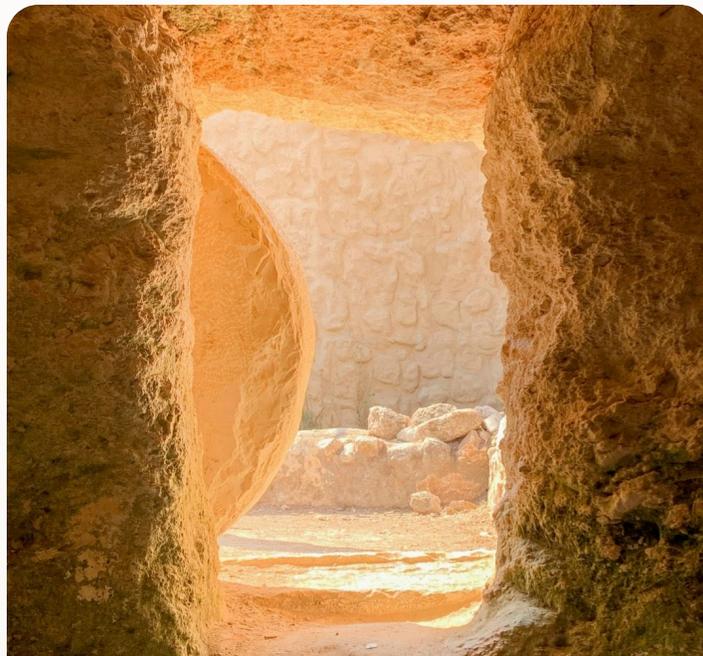


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VERSE OF THE DAY

*Day 38 – He is Risen!*

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And he said to them,  
“Do not be alarmed. You seek Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified.  
He has risen; he is not here. See the place where they laid him.”  
Mark 16:6, ESV

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DAY 39

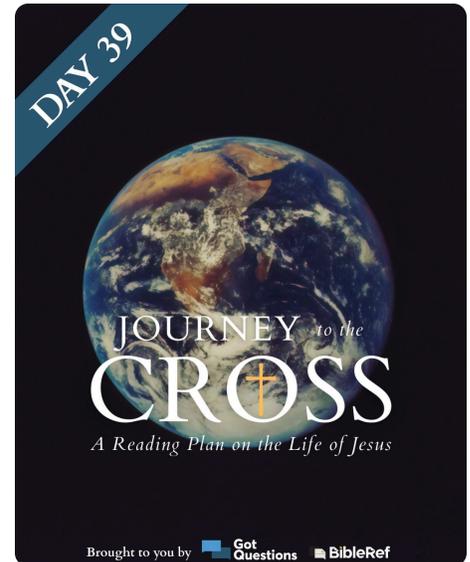
## The Great Commission

April 3

Read Matthew 28. The Great Commission.

In Matthew's story of Jesus, these are His parting words to His eleven remaining disciples. Verses 18–20 are often called the "Great Commission" because Jesus is sending His hand-chosen disciples out into the world to accomplish a specific mission: Make more disciples.

Jesus' command is to make "disciples." A disciple is someone who becomes like his or her master by living in a servant relationship to him. They learn from and submit to that person's example. That's what each of the eleven disciples hearing this for the first time had done in answer to Jesus' call. It is now what they will invite others to participate in from around the world.



### REFLECT

*What does the Great Commission reflect about God's heart for people? In what ways are you taking the Great Commission to heart to impact your neighborhood, city, nation, and world?*



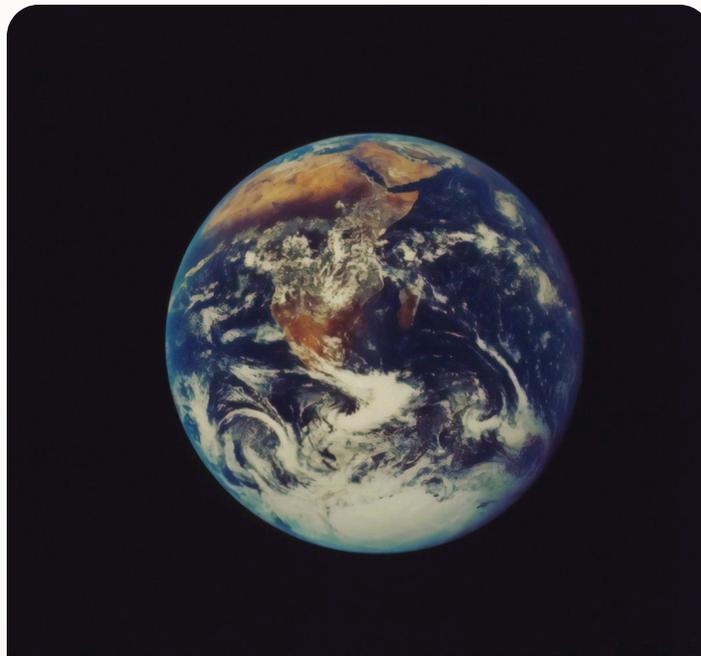
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## VERSE OF THE DAY

*Day 39 – The Great Commission*

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Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in<sup>[1]</sup> the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, <sup>20</sup> teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

Mark 16:6, ESV

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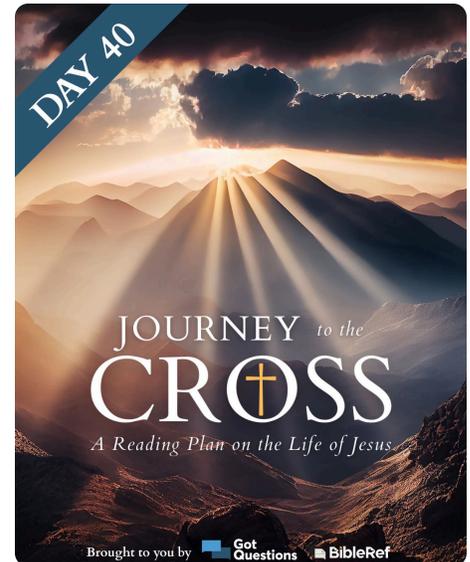
**DAY 40**

## The Ascension of Jesus

*April 4***Read Luke 24. The Ascension of Jesus.**

Forty days after the resurrection, Jesus and His disciples went to Mount Olivet, near Jerusalem. There, Jesus promised His followers that they would soon receive the Holy Spirit, and He instructed them to remain in Jerusalem until the Spirit had come. Then Jesus blessed them, and as He gave the blessing, He began to ascend into heaven. The account of Jesus' ascension is found in Luke 24:50-51 and Acts 1:9-11.

Currently, the Lord Jesus is in heaven. The Scriptures frequently picture Him at the right hand of the Father—a position of honor and authority (Psalm 110:1; Ephesians 1:20; Hebrews 8:1). Christ is the Head of the Church (Colossians 1:18), the giver of spiritual gifts (Ephesians 4:7-8), and the One who fills all in all (Ephesians 4:9-10).

**REFLECT**

*What promises of God were fulfilled after His Ascension? What impact does it have on your life that Jesus is alive and seated at the right hand of the Father?*



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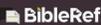
VERSE OF THE DAY

*Day 40 — The Ascension of Jesus*

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While he blessed them, he parted from them and was carried up into heaven. And they worshiped him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy, and were continually in the temple blessing God.  
Luke 24:51-53, ESV

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