

JESUS

through the eyes of the unlikely

APRIL

- Daily **readings** suggested to do at your own pace. Use shorter days to catch up and use your time in scripture to listen to God, not to “checklist” a reading assignment.
- Use **reflection questions** as you read; write down questions to discuss with your community group or mentor later in the week.
- Recite the **prayer(s)** daily or weekly. Ancient prayers provide a foundation of time-tested language to express what so often feels inexpressible. They unite us with the full body of Christ, both around the world and throughout time.
- A monthly verse is suggested to **memorize**. While it may seem daunting, the exercise of scripture memory is a proven way to cement words into our minds, so they shape our hearts and our lives. Practice writing it, reading it aloud, and reviewing it throughout the month.
- Spiritual disciplines (**practices**) help us connect with God and live out the character of Jesus. We encourage you to try out a new practice each month.¹

Read

WEEK OF	DAY 1	DAY 2	DAY 3	DAY 4	DAY 5	DAY 6
APRIL 2	Luke 22:1–38	Luke 22:39–46	Luke 22:47–65	Luke 22:66–23:25	Luke 23:26–56	Psalms 22
APRIL 9	Luke 24:1–12	John 20:1–18	Matthew 28:1–15	Mark 16:1–8	Revelation 1:9–18	Exodus 12:1–27
APRIL 16	Luke 24:13–35	John 20:19–31	Mark 16:9–14	1 Corinthians 15:1–8	1 John 1:1–4	Genesis 22:1–18
APRIL 23	Luke 24:36–53	John 21	Matthew 28:16–20	Mark 16:15–20	Acts 1:1–10	Daniel 7:9–14

Reflect

- What does this passage teach you about God? About Jesus?
- How do Jesus’ actions show us the character of God?
- What does it look like to follow Jesus in this passage?

¹ Some of our practices and definitions come from the book *Spiritual Disciplines Handbook*, Adele Ahlberg Calhoun (IVP, 2015)

Pray

*Lord, make me an instrument of your peace.
Where there is hatred, let me bring love.
Where there is injury, pardon; where there is doubt, faith.
Where there is despair, hope; where there is darkness, light.
Where there is sadness, joy.
Divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled as to console,
To be understood as to understand,
To be loved as to love.
For it is in giving that we receive,
It is in pardoning that we are pardoned,
And it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.²*

Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness, and put on the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which your Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge both the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.³

Memorize: Luke 24:44–48

This is what I told you while I was still with you: “Everything must be fulfilled that is written about me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets, and the Psalms.” Then he opened their minds so they could understand the Scriptures.

He 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, beginning at Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things.”

Practice: Hospitality⁴

Throughout scripture, we see examples of God and God’s people welcoming and loving the stranger, the alien, and the disenfranchised. Because we have been welcomed as “dearly loved children of God,” we can offer others that same hospitality.

Jesus often ate with sinners and included diverse disciples among his followers. When we offer a safe space for people to experience the love of God, we are showing them the welcome of Jesus. Practice hospitality by sharing a meal with a stranger this month or include a single mom or widow in your family’s Easter celebration this month.

² St. Francis of Assisi, 1181–1226 AD

³ Thomas Cranmer, from the *Anglican Book of Common Prayer*

⁴ Consider Christine D. Pohl’s book, *Making Room: Recovering Hospitality as a Christian Tradition*, for more ideas.