

JESUS

through the eyes of the unlikely

MARCH

- 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
MARCH 5	Luke 15:1–10	Luke 15:11–32	Luke 16:1–18	Luke 16:19–31	Matthew 18	Ezekiel 34
MARCH 12	Luke 17:1–19	Luke 17:20–37	Luke 18:1–14	Luke 18:15–30	Luke 18:31–43	2 Kings 5:1–14
MARCH 19	Luke 19:1–27	Luke 19:28–48	Luke 20:1–19	Luke 20:20–26	Luke 20:27–40	Zechariah 9:9–17
MARCH 26	Luke 20:41–21:4	Luke 21:5–28	Luke 21:29–38	Mark 12:28–44	Matthew 24	Psalms 110

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

*Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent, for the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. Amen.*²

*Steer the ship of my life, good Lord, to your quiet harbor, where I can be safe from the storms of sin and conflict. Show me the course I should take. Renew in me the gift of discernment, so that I can always see the right direction in which I should go. And give me the strength and the courage to choose the right course, even when the sea is rough and the waves are high, knowing that through enduring hardship and danger in your name we shall find comfort and peace.*³

Memorize: Luke 18:7–8

Will not God bring about justice for his chosen ones, who cry out to him day and night? Will he keep putting them off?

I tell you; he will see that they get justice, and quickly.

However, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on the earth?

Practice: Confession⁴

While we sometimes use the word confession for how we publicly confess our faith in Jesus, the spiritual practice of confession is our admitting our sins to God and others in order to make space for Jesus' forgiveness and transformation.

If you struggle with confession, Psalm 32 and 51 can both help you find language to pray to God. You may also want to find a trusted friend to whom you can confess a besetting sin and ask them to hold you accountable.

² From the Episcopal *Book of Common Prayer*

³ Basil of Caesarea, 329–379 AD

⁴ For more ideas about this practice, see Iain M. Duguid and Barbara R. Duguid, *Streams of Mercy: Prayers of Confession and Celebration*.