

# EASTER

## **DAY 1: READ JOHN 19**

In this passage, we read about the crucifixion of Jesus. There seem to be three categories of people surrounding Jesus: those who followed Jesus and believed, those who heard the Truth and rejected Him, and Pilate, who saw, heard and still never really understood. All three of these kinds of people exist today. The grace and mercy we're offered through Jesus' blood is available to every one of these people. Take time to reflect on Jesus' crucifixion and the hope we all can have because of Him.

## **DAY 2: READ PSALM 22:1-21**

What connections do you see between this psalm of David and everything surrounding Jesus and His crucifixion? In this lament, David reflects on his condition, the character of his God and the ways his enemies mock both. In our times of trial, persecution and great anguish, let's choose to reflect on the unfailing, unchanging character of the God who gave us Jesus. Let's cry out to God knowing He hears us and, through Jesus' intercession, will rescue us.

## **DAY 3: READ JOHN 20:1-23**

Imagine you're one of the disciples or followers of Jesus and you've just witnessed His crucifixion. How would you feel? Sometimes, even while we still trust in the faithfulness of God and the freedom of His blood, we can find ourselves totally perplexed, unsure of God's purpose or the ways He is working things for His glory and our good. Even when we find ourselves with the wind knocked out of us and disheartened, God is faithful. Just as Jesus reappeared to those who loved Him (and whom He saved!), our savior is risen and doesn't leave us alone or without hope. Remember His faithfulness.

## **DAY 4: READ JOHN 20:24-30**

Jesus chose to appear to those who loved Him. Thomas wasn't with them when Jesus reappeared. Whether Thomas was cynical, heartbroken or simply trying to stay faithful to the love of Jesus by guarding against the many lies and deceptions of this world, he was adamant about needing to see Jesus' wounds to believe what they were telling him. Jesus, loving Thomas (just like He loves us!), chose to reappear to him as well so he would believe. Why is Jesus' question to Thomas in verse 29 a beautiful blessing to the many, many generations of people since the bodily ascension of Jesus who haven't seen Him, yet choose to believe?

## **DAY 5: READ JOHN 21:1-19**

Jesus even chose to reappear to one of his followers who blatantly denied following Him three times. What was Jesus' challenge to him each time Simon Peter answered Jesus' question? Even though we still fail Jesus regularly - in spite of our hearts' desire to serve Him - Jesus still calls us to serve His purposes - even to death.

## **DAY 6: READ JOHN 21:20-25**

If we are willing, obedient and if God wills, He will equip us and use us for His glory however He sees fit. God is supreme and His power to inspire worship, glory and life is absolute and unrivaled. Whatever you feel God calling you to, choose to trust in your heart that the spirit of the living God will equip you and grant you favor where He chooses, however and whenever. Carry that authority and confidence in God with you.

## **DAY 7: READ PSALM 22:22-31**

God is so good! Do not delay praising Him and sharing the hope of Jesus with someone. We aren't promised a moment longer on this earth, so choose to stop waiting or scheduling your worship and willingness to share the Gospel. Take time right now to express your personal praise, worship and adoration to our great, risen Savior. Find someone to share the truth of the resurrected Jesus with right now.