Walking with Jesus to the cross

As Holy week begins, determine to minimize distractions and extra obligations as much as you can. Simplify your schedule down to the most essential. TV shows, books, extracurricular activities will all be there next week! Allow time for your heart to be formed and shaped once again by the goodness and mercy of God revealed in his Word. Read slowly and reflect deeply on the passages that tell us about our Savior's journey to the cross.

Sunday – Jesus Enters Jerusalem.
Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29, Matthew 21:1-11, Luke 19:28-44, John 12:12-19, Mark 11:1-11

What kind of King is Jesus?

Monday – Jesus Clears the Temple.
Isaiah 42:1-9; Psalm 36:5-11, Matthew 21:12-17, Luke 19:41-48, Mark 11:12-19

Why does Jesus clear everything out of the temple?
What was the big deal?

Tuesday – Jesus Questioned.
Isaiah 49:1-7; Psalm 71:1-14; Matthew 21:23-27, Luke 20:1-8, John 12:20-36, Mark 11:20 – 13:37

What do you wonder about that fig tree story?
What did the priests and elders fear?

Wednesday – Jesus gets ready & prepares disciples.
Psalm 70, Matthew 26:1-14, Luke 22:1-6, John 12:20-50, Mark 14:1-11

How did Jesus prepare for the cross?
How did Jesus prepare His followers for the cross?

Thursday – Passover, Betrayal, and Arrest.
Exodus 12:1-14; Psalm 116:1-2,12-19, Matthew 26:17-27:10, Luke 22:7-65, John 13:1-18:27, Mark 14:12-72

What do you notice about Peter in these verses?
With all that is going on, how does Jesus reassure His disciples in John 14-17

Holy Week

Plot Jesus' Journey, what He did, what He said, Where He went:

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Friday – Jesus Dies for us.
Isaiah 52:13-53:12; Psalm 22, Matthew 27:1-61, Luke 22:66-23:56, John 18:28-19:42, Mark 15

> What does Jesus say right before he dies?
> Who helped Joseph bury Jesus and what do we know about him from John 3?

Saturday – Jesus is Silent.
Matthew 27:62-66, John 19:38-42

It is tempting to rush quickly from the horror of the cross into the Joy of the empty tomb rather than sit in the stillness and silence of this Holy Saturday, a place of tension between the agony of Jesus' death and the hope of His resurrection. But this is where we live our lives. We do have new life in Christ through His victory over death, but we carry the weight of the world and the agony of sin every day. We face many many losses and many many joys while we wait for our own resurrection and Christ's return. While grief is never reserved to just one day, taking time to acknowledge our losses, longings, and groanings before the Lord who knows them intimately and carries them faithfully is balm to our weary souls.

Read: Philippians 2:5-11; Hebrews 9:11-15, 1 Corinthians 1:18-31, Hebrews 10:16-25. Reflect on how the implications of Jesus' death infuse this tension we live in with hope.

Sunday – Jesus is raised to life.
Matthew 28: 1-10, Luke 24:1-11, John 20:1-22, Mark 16:1-8, 1 Corinthians 15:17-19

> Why was it important for Jesus to rise from the dead?

Monday – The rest of the story:
Matthew 28:1-20, Luke 24:13-53, John 20:24-21:25

> What is significant to you in the events from the days immediately following Jesus' resurrection?