



WORDS MATTER

THE TEACHINGS OF JESUS

AN EASTER SERIES STUDY GUIDE FOR LIFE GROUPS

OVERVIEW

The weeks leading up to Easter, traditionally called Lent, are an important time of reflection and remembrance. Jesus willingly took upon himself an incredible burden—our sin—so that we might live in fellowship with God. Jesus bore our deepest, darkest sin and offers salvation to us. Our prayer is that this study reminds us of the beauty and centrality of the Gospel in our lives. May this season lead us to a greater understanding of Jesus' sacrifice and thus deeper worship, adoration, and obedience to Him!

HOW TO GET STARTED:

It's easy! Circle up with your friends, watch the video, and talk about the passage. We've set up the study with the same weekly routine.



As an icebreaker, start with someone **sharing the 2-minute version of their Jesus story**. It'll surprise you how much that will knit your group together and be a time of great encouragement and praise.



Watch Pastor Jonathan's video.



A key practice of growing believers is reading, studying, and applying Scripture together. We'll **read** the passage aloud, **pray** to ask the Holy Spirit to guide discussion, then follow these **3 steps**:



1. Discover: What is the passage saying?

In other words, summarize the passage.



2. Learn: What is the passage teaching?

In other words, what does this teach about God and His character? About Christ and salvation? About human nature and behavior?



3. Apply: What is our response?

In other words, what is the Holy Spirit convicting us to do or change?

Read the passage aloud one more time, then **pray** that God would seal what was just read and discussed in your hearts. Afterwards, share prayer requests and other needs to conclude your time together.

Each week has a ***Going Deeper*** section. Abide in His Word. Let it soak into your soul and then share it with others.

Don't be intimidated—we'll provide helpful tips along the way. More than what we include, lean upon the power of the Holy Spirit (who lives in all believers!) as your group together discusses His powerful, unchanging truth. May the application gained from this study lead to a more faithful, humble, and Spirit-led outworking of your faith in all areas of your life.

WEEK ONE: THE TRIUMPHAL ENTRY (MATTHEW 21:1-11)

WEEK OF MARCH 24

- Once you're ready to begin discussion, gather your group and open your Bibles to this week's passage.

➤ *Consult the Leader Tips Appendix at the end of this guide to see creative ways to engage your group in discussion.*



ICEBREAKER: As the leader, share the 2-minute version of your Jesus story. Throughout this study, ask group members to share their 2-minute Jesus story each week. You will be reminded of the blessing of salvation in your own life, as well as be greatly encouraged by others' stories.



WATCH this week's video.



READ the passage aloud.



PRAY to ask the Holy Spirit to guide discussion.

THE THREE STEPS:



1. DISCOVER: What is the passage saying?

- *Ask the group to summarize the passage.*
- **The Big Idea:** Jesus triumphantly comes into Jerusalem as King.



2. LEARN: What is the passage teaching?

- *Ask the group to discuss the passage. What do they see? Ask the following questions and use the supplemental answers as needed.*

➤ **What does this passage teach about God and His character?**

God had a big plan of salvation. The Old Testament prophets, through the inspiration of the Spirit, foretold Jesus' coming. The prophetic references fulfill Isaiah 62:11 and Zechariah 9:9. What a beautiful realization that even hundreds of years before the people shouted, "Hosanna!", God knew Jesus would humbly come on a donkey.

➤ **About Christ and salvation?**

Jesus wasn't the king who would overthrow the Romans like the Jewish people thought. He came humbly, on a donkey, to die a gruesome death—all for us.

The story of Jesus triumphantly entering Jerusalem reminds us to eagerly look forward to the time when He returns again. Then, we will rejoice knowing that He is coming to right all things, eradicate sin, and defeat the evil one forever.

➤ **About human nature and behavior?**

The people expected an earthly, militant king who would rescue them from Rome. They were quite mistaken and didn't realize that Jesus was coming to save them from something much greater: sin and death.

- The people in **verse 10** were asking, "Who is this?"
Who do you say Jesus is?



3. APPLY: What is our response?

- *What is the Holy Spirit convicting you to do or change? Challenge your group to find "real life" application.*
- Is Jesus your king?
- How will you worship Him daily this week?



READ the passage to conclude discussion.



PRAY that God would convict your group to apply what was just read and discussed. Afterwards, please share prayer requests and other needs to conclude your time together. Do this either as a large group or break into smaller groups to share.

**Leader reminder: ask a person(s) to share their Jesus story next week*



*Hosanna to the Son of David!
Blessed is He
who comes in the name of
the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest!*

WEEK ONE GOING DEEPER:

1 DAY ONE: Read the passage again during your quiet time this week

- Underline or highlight words or phrases that stand out.
- Write down any convictions or reminders of who God is in the margin of your Bible or in a separate notebook.

2 DAY TWO: Pray the passage

- Going verse by verse, pray in response to the verse or what the verse brings to mind. Recognize who Jesus is. Praise Him because He is the Blessed One who comes in the name of the Lord!

3 DAY THREE: Memorize the passage

- Choose a verse or two that is convicting you. Memorize it!

4 DAY FOUR: Share the passage

- Share with someone what you've learned from meditating on the passage throughout the week. Text someone in your group, share with a friend, or post something on social media!

WEEK TWO: THE AUTHORITY OF JESUS (MARK 1:21-28)

WEEK OF MARCH 31

- Once you're ready to begin discussion, gather your group and open your Bibles to this week's passage.

➤ *Consult the Leader Tips Appendix at the end of this guide to see creative ways to engage your group in discussion.*



ICEBREAKER: A group member shares their prepared 2-minute Jesus story.



WATCH this week's video.



READ the passage aloud.



PRAY to ask the Holy Spirit to guide discussion.

THE THREE STEPS:



1. DISCOVER: What is the passage saying?

- *Ask the group to summarize the passage.*
- **The Big Idea:** Jesus casts out an unclean spirit at the synagogue in Capernaum where He is teaching. The people marvel at Jesus' authority.



2. LEARN: What is the passage teaching?

- *Ask the group to discuss the passage. What do they see? Ask the following questions and use the supplemental answers as needed.*

➤ **What does this passage teach about God and His character?**

God is God over all spiritual beings and creation. We can rest knowing that He has the ultimate power.

➤ **About Christ and salvation?**

As God, Jesus possesses the greatest authority and wisdom. This is evident to the people as He teaches them in the synagogue.

Furthermore, as God, Jesus possesses authority over all things—visible or invisible, spiritual or physical—everything. Even the demons recognize who Jesus is, the Holy One of God.

This story reminds us that Jesus has the ultimate authority. We can look forward to when Jesus will come back to fully and finally defeat Satan and his demons as the one who possesses the greatest and ultimate authority.

➤ **About human nature and behavior?**

The people were astonished and marveled at Jesus' authority. Do we recognize the authority of Jesus in our lives today?



3. APPLY: What is our response?

- *What is the Holy Spirit convicting you to do or change? Challenge your group to find “real life” application.*
- *Are we still amazed by the message of God? Why or why not?*
- *Who is Jesus? How can we live acknowledging His authority? What will change in our thinking and actions this week as we live out this truth?*



READ the passage to conclude discussion.



PRAY that God would convict your group to apply what was just read and discussed. Afterwards, please share prayer requests and other needs to conclude your time together. Do this either as a large group or break into smaller groups to share.

**Leader reminder: ask a person(s) to share their Jesus story next week*



*What is this? What new doctrine is this?
For with authority He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey Him.*

WEEK TWO GOING DEEPER:

1 DAY ONE: Read the passage again during your quiet time this week

- Underline or highlight words or phrases that stand out.
- Write down any convictions or reminders of who God is in the margin of your Bible or in a separate notebook.

2 DAY TWO: Pray the passage

- Going verse by verse, pray in response to the verse or what the verse brings to mind. Praise Him because He is the One who has the greatest authority over everything!

3 DAY THREE: Memorize the passage

- Choose a verse or two that is convicting you. Memorize it!

4 DAY FOUR: Share the passage

- Share with someone what you've learned from meditating on the passage throughout the week. Text someone in your group, share with a friend, or post something on social media!

WEEK THREE: THE ARREST (MATTHEW 26:57-68)

WEEK OF APRIL 7

- Once you're ready to begin discussion, gather your group and open your Bibles to this week's passage.

➤ *Consult the Leader Tips Appendix at the end of this guide to see creative ways to engage your group in discussion.*



ICEBREAKER: A group member shares their prepared 2-minute Jesus story.



WATCH this week's video.



READ the passage aloud.



PRAY to ask the Holy Spirit to guide discussion.

THE THREE STEPS:



1. DISCOVER: What is the passage saying?

- *Ask the group to summarize the passage.*
- **The Big Idea:** The high priest, the elders, and the high council find false witnesses to sentence Jesus to death.



2. LEARN: What is the passage teaching?

- *Ask the group to discuss the passage. What do they see? Ask the following questions and use the supplemental answers as needed.*

➤ **What does this passage teach about God and His character?**

Jesus endures false testimony, mocking, and beating. Why? God sent Him to die—this was the plan for salvation from the beginning. God, in His great love and mercy for us, sent Jesus. What grace. May this lead us to deep humility and awe for God's love for us.

➤ **About Christ and salvation?**

Go verse by verse and reflect upon what Jesus endured to fulfill God's mission of salvation.

Jesus remains silent but answers the high priest to affirm that He is the Son of God. Because of what Jesus willingly did, He is now sitting at the right hand of God and will be coming on the clouds of heaven in the future!

➤ **About human nature and behavior?**

The high priest, council, and elders were filled with hatred toward Jesus and were willing to do anything to kill Jesus. However, we too are sinners. Let the darkness of our sin grieve us, so that the power of God's forgiveness shines evermore.



3. APPLY: What is our response?

- *What is the Holy Spirit convicting you to do or change? Challenge your group to find “real life” application.*
- *Reflect on what Jesus did for us. Our deep, dark sins are paid for by Jesus. How does this change how we worship God, love others, and live our life?*
- *What are practical ways to live out our gratitude and love for Jesus and His sacrifice?*



READ the passage to conclude discussion.



PRAY that God would convict your group to apply what was just read and discussed. Afterwards, please share prayer requests and other needs to conclude your time together. Do this either as a large group or break into smaller groups to share.

**Leader reminder: ask a person(s) to share their Jesus story next week*



*Jesus paid it all,
All to Him I owe.
Sin had left a crimson stain,
He washed it white as snow.*

WEEK THREE GOING DEEPER:

1 DAY ONE: Read the passage again during your quiet time this week

- Underline or highlight words or phrases that stand out.
- Write down any convictions in response to Jesus' sacrifice in the margin of your Bible or in a separate notebook.

2 DAY TWO: Pray the passage

- Going verse by verse, pray in response to the verse or what the verse brings to mind. Jesus endured so much for us. Spend time confessing and repenting of your sins. Then worship God for His forgiveness, mercy, and grace.

3 DAY THREE: Memorize the passage

- Reflect on Matthew 26:64. Jesus is the Son of God who is, right now, sitting on the right hand of God and will be coming back one day. Memorize this verse!

4 DAY FOUR: Share the passage

- Share with someone what you've learned from meditating on the passage throughout the week. Text someone in your group, share with a friend, or post something on social media!

WEEK FOUR: THE CRUCIFIXION (MATTHEW 27:27-31)

WEEK OF APRIL 14 / PALM SUNDAY

➤ Once you're ready to begin discussion, gather your group and open your Bibles to this week's passage.

➤ *Consult the Leader Tips Appendix at the end of this guide to see creative ways to engage your group in discussion.*



ICEBREAKER: A group member shares their prepared 2-minute Jesus story.



WATCH this week's video.



READ the passage aloud.



PRAY to ask the Holy Spirit to guide discussion.

THE THREE STEPS:



1. DISCOVER: What is the passage saying?

➤ *Ask the group to summarize the passage.*

➤ **The Big Idea:** The soldiers mock Jesus, then lead Him away to be crucified.



2. LEARN: What is the passage teaching?

➤ *Ask the group to discuss the passage. What do they see? Ask the following questions and use the supplemental answers as needed.*

➤ **What does this passage teach about God and His character?**

Jesus endured great humiliation. God the Father was willing to endure this too, so that we sinners could be reconciled to Him.

➤ **About Christ and salvation?**

Jesus is fully God and fully man. This is why He is the perfect sacrifice and mediator.

Jesus is mocked as the King of the Jews. One day He will return to rule over all the earth as King of kings and Lord of lords (Rev 19).

➤ **About human nature and behavior?**

We are all sinners who deserve eternal separation from God. But, when we were dead in our sin, God made us alive together with Christ (Ephesians 2:4-5). The wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life through Christ Jesus our Lord (Romans 6:23)!



3. APPLY: What is our response?

- *What is the Holy Spirit convicting you to do or change? Challenge your group to find “real life” application.*
- *Have you received Jesus as your Lord and Savior?*
- *How will your lifestyle, words, and actions reflect that Christ is your Savior this week?*



READ the passage to conclude discussion.



PRAY that God would convict your group to apply what was just read and discussed. Afterwards, please share prayer requests and other needs to conclude your time together. Do this either as a large group or break into smaller groups to share.

**Leader reminder: ask a person(s) to share their Jesus story next week*



*On His robe
and on His thigh
He has a name written,
King of kings
and Lord of lords.*

Hail, King of the Jews!



WEEK FOUR GOING DEEPER:

This week is traditionally called Passion Week, signifying the week leading up to Jesus' crucifixion and resurrection. Spend this week reflecting on Jesus' passion. Following the group time model, study these passages:

- **MONDAY:** *Matthew 26:36-46*
- **TUESDAY:** *Matthew 26:47-56*
- **WEDNESDAY:** *Matthew 27:32-44*
- **THURSDAY:** *Matthew 27:45-56 + Psalm 22*
- **FRIDAY:** *Matthew 27:57-61*
- **SATURDAY:** *Matthew 27:62-65*

- **TRBC EASTER PRAYER EXPERIENCE:** Come with your Life Group or family to the TRBC Easter Experience. Come and reflect on Jesus' great sacrifice. Invite others to join you (see page for 27 details).

- **EASTER AT TRBC:** Invite others and share with them the joy of Easter Sunday. Celebrate with your church family on this glorious day! (Easter service times on page 26).

WEEK FIVE: FOLLOW ME (MARK 1:16-20)

WEEK OF APRIL 21 (EASTER SUNDAY)

➤ Once you're ready to begin discussion, gather your group and open your Bibles to this week's passage.

➤ *Consult the Leader Tips Appendix at the end of this guide to see creative ways to engage your group in discussion.*



ICEBREAKER: A group member shares their prepared 2-minute Jesus story.



WATCH this week's video.



READ the passage aloud.



PRAY to ask the Holy Spirit to guide discussion.

THE THREE STEPS:



1. DISCOVER: What is the passage saying?

- *Ask the group to summarize the passage.*
- **The Big Idea:** Jesus calls His disciples to follow Him. They immediately follow.



2. LEARN: What is the passage teaching?

- *Ask the group to discuss the passage. What do they see? Ask the following questions and use the supplemental answers as needed.*

➤ **What does this passage teach about God and His character?**

God is a good God, who, although does not need humans, invites us to be both a part of and witness to His kingdom work.

➤ **About Christ and salvation?**

Jesus calls the disciples to join Him in His earthly ministry. He invested in them, and after Jesus' ascension, it was these disciples who changed the world. Jesus is still calling people to follow Him today.

➤ **About human nature and behavior?**

The disciples immediately leave their nets, livelihood, and comforts to follow Jesus. They willingly leave everything to follow Him.



3. APPLY: What is our response?

➤ *What is the Holy Spirit convicting you to do or change? Challenge your group to find “real life” application.*

➤ *Jesus has called all of us to serve and follow Him. What are you clinging to? How will you let go to follow Jesus?*



READ the passage to conclude discussion.



PRAY that God would convict your group to apply what was just read and discussed. Afterwards, please share prayer requests and other needs to conclude your time together. Do this either as a large group or break into smaller groups to share.



*Follow Me, and I will make you
fishers of men.*

*They immediately left their
nets and followed Him.*

WEEK FIVE GOING DEEPER:

He is Risen! To continue the celebration of His glorious resurrection, follow the group time model and study these passages.

- **SUNDAY:** *Matthew 28:1-15*
- **MONDAY:** *Luke 24:13-35*
- **TUESDAY:** *Luke 24:36-53*
- **WEDNESDAY:** *John 21:1-19*
- **THURSDAY:** *Matthew 28:16-20*
- **FRIDAY:** *Acts 1:1-11*
- **SATURDAY:** *Acts 2:1-13*

LEADER TIPS

Either before or after discussion, encourage group members to share with one another how they applied last week's passage. God's Word is alive and transforms people when it is applied!

> CHANGE IT UP!

While keeping the same structure, here are some helpful tips to mix up discussion.

> When you read the passage:

- > *Have 1 person read the entire passage aloud*
- > *Take turns popcorn-reading the passage*
- > *Read in a circle*
- > *Read silently to yourself*
- > *Listen to an audio clip of the passage (the audio Bible is available on the Bible app).*

> When you pray at the beginning and close of discussion:

- > *Leader prays*
- > *Ask for a volunteer*
- > *Choose someone specifically*
- > *Ask someone beforehand*

> When you are asking the 3 Questions:



1. DISCOVER: What is the passage saying?

- > *Summarize the passage in your own words*
- > *Leader summarizes*
- > *Ask for a volunteer to share*
- > *Specifically call on someone to share*
- > *Have everyone share with the person beside them*



2. LEARN: What is the passage teaching?

- > **Here are some specific questions to ask:**
What does this teach us about God and His character? About Christ and salvation? About human nature and behavior?
- > **It's okay to sit in silence for a few moments.**
Sometimes, people need some time to formulate their thoughts!



3. APPLY: How does God want me to apply this passage into my life, thinking, or actions today (what is the Holy Spirit convicting in your spirit)?

➤ *Share specific ways God wants you to apply the passage. The more specific the application, the more likely you'll apply God's Word!*

➤ When you share prayer requests and other needs after discussion:

- *Separate men and women to share*
- *Share in smaller, gender-specific groups of 3-5 people.*
- *Have someone write prayer needs down, so that your group can continue to pray and follow up with one another.*

➤ Encourage relationships:

Encourage your group to get to know one another better and deepen relationships.

- *Challenge the entire group to meet with at least one other group member outside of normal group time during this study.*
- *Text and follow up with your group members to encourage their faith journey.*
- *Get together to celebrate Easter and Jesus' resurrection. Have a potluck or game night.*
- *Serve together. Serve at your child's school, community event, or at our Easter Experience. Park View Community Mission, Food for Thought, or Gleaning for the World are also great places to serve.*

➤ HELPFUL RESOURCES:

Here are some resources that can help you as you go through this study.

- *Invest in a good study Bible. We recommend the ESV, CSB, NKJV, or NLT versions.*
- *The Christ-Centered Exposition Commentary Series*
- *The Bible Project (on RightNow Media, as well as other Easter studies on RNM)*
- *Praying the Bible by Donald Whitney.*

EASTER

AT
THOMAS ROAD

APRIL 21

7:00, 9:00, & 11:00 AM

THE EASTER PRAYER EXPERIENCE



This self-guided experience allows individuals to reflect on Christ's death and celebrate the resurrection.

Come alone, with your family, or with your Life Group.

GOOD FRIDAY (4/19)

10AM - 7PM

EASTER MORNING (4/21)

6AM - 1PM

IN BRUNER HALL

NOTES

WORDS
THE TEACHINGS OF JESUS
MATTER

NOTES

This is a worksheet titled "WORDS MATTER" with the subtitle "THE TEACHINGS OF JESUS". The page is designed for writing, featuring horizontal lines. A large, faint watermark of the title "WORDS MATTER" is visible in the background. The subtitle "THE TEACHINGS OF JESUS" is centered on a grey rectangular background. The page is divided into two main sections by a horizontal line, with the title and subtitle positioned in the upper section.

NOTES

WORDS
MATTER

THE TEACHINGS OF JESUS

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