



FIRST  
**Brethren**  
CHURCH

# WORSHIP @ HOME

Guide for Small Group, Family, and Individual Worship & Spiritual Formation

Holy Week: April 5-12, 2020

# USING THIS RESOURCE

Hi Friends,

Holy week is upon us! Although the times are uncertain, we serve a God who is certain even in the storm. My hope is that this resource will serve as an aide for your personal and/or family worship as you journey through Holy Week, from Palm Sunday to Easter morning. Wherever and with whomever you find yourself with this week, may it be an encouragement to know that you've got brothers and sisters joining us elsewhere in the common call to give praise to our wonderful Savior.

## **To get started each day:**

1. Dedicate a set time each day for devotional reflection. Find a comfortable spot, free from interruptions.
2. Check out the back cover of this guide for a list of items you may need for the week. Gather or purchase ahead of time.
3. If you have kids with you, take a look at the special resources we have available at [gobrethren.org/kids](http://gobrethren.org/kids) and make sure you have everything on hand. We'd advise placing any kids activities between giving and scripture meditation, but you can get creative!
4. If there's 2 or more of you, select one person to be the "leader" of your time together. This individual will read the non-bolded portions and lead the group through the instructions listed.

Once you have all of those details figured out, you should be set!

For video resources, you can go online to [gobrethren.org/worship](http://gobrethren.org/worship).

Together, let's set our hearts on things above, and center our attention and adoration upon the person of Jesus Christ.

Sincerely,

Pastor Cory

# COMMON RESOURCES

Each day of Holy Week will have unique features for times of devotion and worship, but there will also be common threads. See below for common resources you will refer to for each day.

*\*LORD's Prayer text and hymns are included at back of this guide.*

## DISCUSS/REFLECT

With a group or on your own, reflect on the scripture texts provided using the following questions:

1. What do you like? Why?
2. What do you dislike? Why?
3. What is confusing or strange?
4. What do you learn about God?
5. How will you live differently in response to this scripture?

## HABIT FOR SPIRITUAL FORMATION

This week, practice the art of confession.

Say:

**I confess to almighty God,  
and to you, my brothers and sisters,  
that I have sinned through my own fault,  
in my thoughts and in my words,  
in what I have done, and in what I have failed to do;  
and I plead the blood of Jesus for my forgiveness."**

Take time to confess to God or to others either out loud, in a prayer journal, or in silent prayer. If someone speaks a confession out loud to you, listen patiently and assure them of Christ's forgiveness.

Conclude by speaking the truth of forgiveness:

**LORD Jesus, through your cross you have forgiven us, and we have new life in you.**

# Palm Sunday

## ORDER OF WORSHIP

The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not want.  
**Your rod and your staff, they comfort me.**

**Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

**Sing** "Doxology"

### **Pray**

Read James 5:16. Practice confession using the guide under the heading "HABITS FOR SPIRITUAL FORMATION" on your "Common Resources" page at the beginning of this guide.

Share prayer concerns and pray for one another.

**Give** Share a word of thanks as an offering to God.

### **Scripture Meditation**

Read Luke 19:28-44 and reflect using the questions provided under the heading "DISCUSS/REFLECT" on your "Common Resources" page at the beginning of this guide. After sharing initial reflections, visit the "DEVOTIONAL THOUGHTS" section following this page.

**Sing** "All Hail the Pow'r of Jesus' Name"

**Pray** Our Father...

May the glory of the LORD endure forever; may the LORD rejoice in his works. Amen.

## **DEVOTIONAL THOUGHTS** *Jeff Parker, deacon*

Have you ever had a time of complete, exuberant celebration? I remember going to watch our son Jeremy during his senior year in high school for marching band competition. Tension was palpable. When the announcer gave the runner-up schools and when it was down to two, no one was breathing. When the other school was announced as second place, we all were cheering and screaming and celebrating like there was no tomorrow. Jeremy was head drum major so he got to hoist the trophy high. What a day that was!

But then the evening came...

We got home from Indianapolis, Jeremy was quiet in his room and then we heard the sobbing. The crash came because the realization that all the hard work and camaraderie was now over and would never be repeated again. In eight hours, he went from jubilation to depression.

On a Sunday long ago, Jesus came riding into the Holy City on a donkey to a crowd eager to crown Him king. In the Matthew account it states that they shouted "Hosanna to the Son of David!", "Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!" (Luke 21:9). That must have been quite the party. But a few short verses later in Luke's gospel Jesus was weeping over the city as He knew the city's future was grim and they had missed the whole point of His journey to town to be crucified for all of mankind's sins (Luke 19:41).

Have you experienced this? Good news one minute and tragedy the next? We have a Savior who is well acquainted with our human condition and He can compassionately weep with us.

But Easter is coming! We can look forward to a new Easter as it says in Revelation 21:5 "I am making everything new!" Will you now not only give God the glory for what He has done but also what He is going to do? Our future is secure because He Lives!

# Monday

## ***Pray***

The LORD leads to green pastures and quiet waters;  
**He restores my soul.**

**Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

Begin your devotional time with a moment of silent prayer. Thank the LORD for a new day and new mercies. Feel free to let your prayer time flow naturally - this is your time with Jesus after all!

Read Proverbs 28:13. Practice confession using the guide under the heading "HABITS FOR SPIRITUAL FORMATION" on your "Common Resources" page at the beginning of this guide.

Share prayer concerns and pray others.

***Give*** Share a word of thanks as an offering to God.

## ***Scripture Meditation***

Read Philippians 2:5-11 and reflect using the questions provided under the heading "DISCUSS/REFLECT" on your "Common Resources" page at the beginning of this guide.

## ***Pray*** Our Father...

LORD have mercy, Christ have mercy, LORD have mercy. Amen.

# Tuesday

## ***Pray***

The LORD guides me along right paths for his name's sake;  
**Your kingdom come, your will be done in me.**

**Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

Begin your devotional time with a moment of silent prayer. Thank the LORD for a new day and new mercies. Feel free to let your prayer time flow naturally - this is your time with Jesus after all!

Read Psalm 32:5. Practice confession using the guide under the heading "HABITS FOR SPIRITUAL FORMATION" on your "Common Resources" page at the beginning of this guide.

Share prayer concerns and pray others.

***Give*** Share a word of thanks as an offering to God.

## ***Scripture Meditation***

Read Isaiah 53:1-5 and reflect using the questions provided under the heading "DISCUSS/REFLECT" on your "Common Resources" page at the beginning of this guide.

## ***Pray Our Father...***

Let the words of our mouths and the meditation of our hearts be pleasing in your sight, O LORD, our rock and our redeemer (Ps 19:14). Amen.

# Wednesday

## ***Pray***

Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,  
**I will fear no evil, for you are with me.**

**Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

Begin your devotional time with a moment of silent prayer. Thank the LORD for a new day and new mercies. Feel free to let your prayer time flow naturally - this is your time with Jesus after all!

Read Acts 3:19. Practice confession using the guide under the heading "HABITS FOR SPIRITUAL FORMATION" on your "Common Resources" page at the beginning of this guide.

Share prayer concerns and pray others.

***Give*** Share a word of thanks as an offering to God.

## ***Scripture Meditation***

Read Matthew 26:14-16 and reflect using the questions provided under the heading "DISCUSS/REFLECT" on your "Common Resources" page at the beginning of this guide.

## ***Pray Our Father...***

Help us, God of our salvation, for the glory of your name; deliver us and forgive our sins for your name's sake (Ps 79:9). Amen

## PREPARATION FOR THURSDAY

Thursday of Holy Week is known as Maundy Thursday, and it is the day that we celebrate Jesus' last meal with his disciples through the practice of Threefold Communion—following the example and command that Jesus gave.

### You will need:

1. ***Basin, pitcher of water, and towel for cleansing feet.*** If you will be practicing this alone, you may wish to have something available for washing of hands.
2. ***A meal to share with others.*** If you are unable to share a meal face-to-face with others, try to arrange a time to share conversation over the phone or a video chat. The point is less about the food and more about taking time to connect with others in relationship.
3. ***Bread and cup.*** You will want some form of flat grain and drink to represent the bread and cup shared at the last supper. Again, the point is less about the actual content of the items and more about what they represent and with whom you share them. Crackers and grape juice are a good option. If you would like to incorporate a fun family activity, you can try making your own communion bread using the instructions below.

### ***Make Your Own “Communion Bread”***

Purchase a pie crust (or use your favorite recipe). Cut into small rectangular pieces. Score each piece in the middle with a fork so that it will break apart easily. Bake accordingly. Set aside for communion.

# Maundy Thursday

## THREEFOLD COMMUNION

*Set aside time to observe your devotional reflection over a meal to celebrate and remember the last meal that Jesus shared with his disciples.*

### **YOU WILL NEED:**

*A pitcher of water, basin, towels, and options for the bread and cup. Refer to preparation instructions on previous page for more details.*

A table has been prepared in the presence of his enemies;

**It is Christ who invites us to meet him here.**

**Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

### ***Pray***

Read 1 John 1:9. Practice confession using the guide under the heading “HABITS FOR SPIRITUAL FORMATION” on your “Common Resources” page at the beginning of this guide.

### ***Feetwashing***

Read John 13:1-17. Following the example of Jesus, take turns washing each others feet. Let someone lead out by kneeling to rinse the feet of another by pouring water from a pitcher over their feet and into a basin, gently massaging away any dirt or fuzz. Once their feet are cleansed, dry with a towel, they may rise and speak a word of encouragement or prayer. Let the example continue on with the first washee becoming the washer until all have been washed.

If you are participating on your own, you may want to take time to wash your own hands and reflect upon the gift of Christ’s forgiveness and cleansing.

### ***Love Feast***

Read Luke 22:7-16. Share a meal with others. If dining alone, call a friend or family member to share about your day.

As you wrap up your meal, take time to share words of thanksgiving and concern for one another. Some prompts you may use include:

*What are you thankful for today?*

*Where have you seen God moving this week?*

*How do you see Jesus reflected in the lives of those around the table?*

***(continued...)***

## ***Eucharist***

Read Luke 22:17-20. Jesus took some of the most common elements at the table—bread and wine—and gave them wholly new meaning. As you share the bread and cup in whatever form you are able, take this moment to remember Jesus' body and blood given for our forgiveness.

Blessing the Bread, say together:

*This bread which we break is the communion of the Body of Christ.*

Blessing the Cup, say together:

*This cup of blessing we bless is the communion of the Blood of Christ.*

## ***Pray Our Father...***

LORD, for this gift and more, we are truly grateful. Amen.

## ***Sing***

Jesus and the disciples ended their meal by sharing a hymn and departing in quiet (Mk 14:26). Share this song together as you close:

*"Blessed be the tie that binds, our hearts in Christian love: The fellowship of kindred minds, is like to that above."*

# Good Friday

## REMEMBERING THE LAST WORDS OF CHRIST

*Spend some time in prayer and reflection upon the last words of Christ recorded in the Gospels. Make sure to have your Bible available, along with something to record thoughts.*

LORD, you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.

**We adorn you with a crown of thorns; your grace overflows.**

**Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

*Read the following scripture texts and follow instructions for response.*

### ***I. Luke 23:32-34***

With the malice, bitterness, and faithlessness of humanity never more evident, Christ responds with grace and empathy. Take a moment in prayer to search your heart for any treasured resentment you may hold against another and pray for their forgiveness.

### ***II. Luke 23:39-43***

The criminal by Jesus' side acknowledges his guilt and Jesus' innocence and in-so-doing is granted the assurance of salvation. Likewise 1 Jn 1:9 assures us that when we confess our sin, Jesus is faithful and just to forgive us and purify us from unrighteousness. Take a moment to acknowledge your own sin before God and accept the forgiveness offered us.

### ***III. John 19:25-27***

Jesus gives special direction for his mother and his friend to care for one another in his physical absence. In the same way, as the Family of God we have a responsibility to care for one another as Christ cares for us. In this moment, pray for the needs of those in your community.

### ***IV. Matthew 27:45-46 (also Mark 15:33-34)***

Jesus' words here echo Psalm 22 - a lament that begins with feelings of forsakenness, desperation, and humility but turns to remembrance and hope in the LORD who has helped in times past. Take a moment to lay before God your grief, wounds, and anger. As you offer these before God, unfiltered, conclude by placing them into his care and affirming trust in the memory of past faithfulness.

### ***V. John 19:28-29***

In his last moments, this sour drink was the only comfort he received. Take a moment to bless Jesus with sweeter, more refreshing words. Speak out or journal words of thanksgiving and praise to Jesus.

*(continued...)*

## **VI. John 19:30**

In a sense of peace and final relinquishment, the end had come. Jesus was faithful to the end, always listening to the voice and direction of the Father. Take a moment of silence to listen for what Christ's Spirit is saying to you in this moment. Journal any notes or insights.

## **VII. Luke 23:44-49**

The entire world was changed in that last breath of surrender. The temple curtain torn, forever altering the way we interact with God. The centurion on guard, with no knowledge of God, even recognized the special significance of this death. Now, as we remember this death, even with the knowledge of the life that is to come, may we surrender our lives to the one who deserves our all.

## **Sing**

*"I have decided to follow Jesus. I have decided to follow Jesus.  
I have decided to follow Jesus. No turning back, no turning back"*

## **Pray**

LORD, for this gift and more, we are truly grateful. Amen.

# Holy Saturday

Naked I came from my mother's womb, and naked will I return.

**The LORD gives, and the LORD takes away. Blessed be the name of the LORD.**

**Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

## ***Scripture Meditation***

Read Matthew 27:57-66 and reflect using the questions provided under the heading "DISCUSS/REFLECT" on your "Common Resources" page at the beginning of this guide.

## ***Pray***

Read Psalm 32:3. Practice confession using the guide under the heading "HABITS FOR SPIRITUAL FORMATION" on your "Common Resources" page at the beginning of this guide.

## **Our Father...**

LORD, lead me from death to life, from lies to truth.  
Lead me from despair to hope, from fear to trust. Amen

# Easter Sunday

Oh LORD let my soul rise up to meet you,  
**As the day rises to meet the sun.**

**Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

## ***Pray***

Read Romans 10:9. Practice confession using the guide under the heading “HABITS FOR SPIRITUAL FORMATION” on your “Common Resources” page at the beginning of this guide.

***Read*** Matthew 28:1-8

***Sing*** “Christ Arose (Low in the Grave He Lay)”

***Give*** Share a word of thanks as an offering to God.

## ***Scripture Meditation***

Read Luke 24:13-35 and reflect using questions provided under the heading “DISCUSS/REFLECT” on your “Common Resources” page at the beginning of this guide. After initial reflections, visit the “DEVOTIONAL THOUGHTS” section following this page, or watch Pastor Cory’s video devotional message on our website.

***Sing*** “Were You There When They Crucified My Lord?”

***Read*** John 20:19-23

***Pray*** Our Father...

***Sing*** “Christ the Lord is Risen Today”

LORD of life, we find our life in you. Amen.

***[optional] Read*** John 21:1-14

Share a meal together, encouraging one another by noting how you see Jesus reflected in each other’s lives.

## **DEVOTIONAL THOUGHTS** *Pastor Cory*

This first resurrection appearance is one of my favorites, mostly because of how odd Jesus' choices are. He could have appeared to any of the disciples in any number of ways. He chooses to take an afternoon stroll with two otherwise unknown disciples on their way to a town of little significance. He spends the majority of the encounter intentionally dulling their perception (Luke 24:16). He prods them to reflect, guiding them to discover truth on their own.

These two seem to know *all* the key details of the Gospel: Jesus' prophetic ministry in word and deed, his crucifixion which completed it, the hope of Israel's redemption which gave it meaning, the witness to the empty grave. Yet they are *still* downcast and slow to believe for lack of a personal sighting of the Jesus. If only they knew he was walking with them as they spoke!

We are so often like these first witnesses. We are so wrapped up in the details of our lives that we fail to see the bigger picture of Jesus right in front of us. We are looking for salvation on our terms, and we miss the greater gift that Jesus offers.

### **So what is this gift?**

Jesus did not suffer so that we could escape suffering. Jesus suffered that we could endure with hope. Jesus did not rise that we could avoid death. Jesus rose that we could confront death without fear in hope of eternal life. Jesus did not reveal himself that we could avoid doubt. Jesus reveals himself that we might navigate uncertainty with faith.

Jesus has won the victory that we might be freed and empowered to live as we were meant to live—as beloved sons and daughters, made in the image of God.

The tomb is empty. Jesus is risen! The invitation is open. Jesus longs to reveal and reconcile. How will you respond today?

# SUPPLY LIST

Our goal was to make this as simple and accessible as possible for individuals and families to use. However, there will be some special materials you may need to gather or purchase in order to make full use of this guide.

## You will need:

- **Bible, pen/pencil, and journal.** Basically, some means of reading God's Word and jotting some notes down.
- **Small basin/bowl, Pitcher or bottles of water, and Towel(s).** These items will be needed to practice footwashing together on Maundy Thursday.
- **Items for Eucharist (bread + cup).** See instructions for preparation for Thursday for options.

Plan as best you can to either share a meal or connect with others via phone or video chat during meal times for dinner on Thursday and Breakfast/Brunch on Sunday.

# HEART VERSE

*Memorize and reflect upon the meaning of this verse for your heart.*

“Whoever does not take up their cross and follow me is not worthy of me.” -  
Matthew 10:38