

Thursday

- Read Hebrews 10:19-22

QUESTIONS

1. Because of Jesus' death, how can we now approach God? What should mark our attitude?
2. If access to God is now available, what should we do with this opportunity? (See also Hebrews 4:14-16.)
3. What do we need to be sure of to draw near to God with confidence?
4. How might these truths help you if you struggle with feelings of guilt?

PONDER

What use do you make of the access Jesus has provided you into the Most Holy Place—to the Father?

PRAYER IDEAS

Talk away to God about whatever you like—with confidence, sincerity and no guilt! Thank him for the privilege.

Friday

- Read Romans 5:20-21

QUESTIONS

1. The devil still seems to have some capacity/power to deceive Christians and to entice them into sinning. What now is the result of them sinning? Does sin drive a wedge between Christians and God?
2. How does this passage suggest you should respond when the devil appears to have a win (i.e. leads you to sin)?
3. Read Ephesians 6:11-14 and Revelation 12:11. How are we to fight the devil's evil schemes?

PONDER

Reflect on the fact that Christ has defeated the devil by his death—all we have to do is stand firm in Christ.

PRAYER IDEAS

Ask God to help you to stand firm in Christ's victory and to give you a greater understanding and awareness of his grace.



15 Steps through the Bible

Jesus' Death

Jesus willingly died to take on himself

the punishment due to humanity for their rejection of God.

The Old Testament was pointing forward to this event. In the cross of Jesus, God the King was God the Saviour too.

It was God's plan to demonstrate his love for his people by this act of self-sacrifice. It is an astonishing way to establish a Kingdom.

Romans 5:6-8

You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly. 7 Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous man, though for a good man someone might possibly dare to die. 8 But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

More detail

The astounding message of the Bible is that the King would suffer for his people. Jesus, the one who came to bring forgiveness, to set the captives free and invite people into the kingdom of God, was nailed to a cross and killed in order for us to be reconciled to God.

Jesus took on the punishment for our rebellion against God's rule.

Jesus' death was essential to his role as the saving ruler of God's Kingdom.

Through his death we are offered free entry into life, as citizens of the Kingdom.

The death of Jesus shows us God's deep love for a rebellious people. John 3:16-17 is a great summary of what God did for us in Jesus.

Who God is

God is the one who loved the world by sending his Son Jesus:

John 3:16-17

“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. 17 For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.”

Once for all

Jesus' death took the punishment for our rebellion against God—one act, for all:

1 Peter 3:18

For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God...

Romans 3:21-26

But now the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the law, although the Law and the Prophets bear witness to it— 22 the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction: 23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, 24 and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, 25 whom God

put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith. This was to show God's righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over former sins. 26 It was to show his righteousness at the present time, so that he might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.

Example and Saviour

Jesus' suffering and death is both the means of our salvation, and an example for us of humble obedience and trust in God.

1 Peter 2:20-25

For what credit is it if, when you sin and are beaten for it, you endure? But if when you do good and suffer for it you endure, this is a gracious thing in the sight of God. 21 For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you might follow in his steps. 22 He committed no sin, neither was deceit found in his mouth. 23 When he was reviled, he did not revile in return; when he suffered, he did not threaten, but continued entrusting himself to him who judges justly. 24 He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed. 25 For you were straying like sheep, but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.

QUESTIONS

1. How did God demonstrate his love?
2. Read through the 'More detail' section. In your own words, what is the significance of the death of Jesus?
3. What kind of example is Jesus for us?

PONDER

Why was it necessary for Jesus to die?

PRAYER IDEAS

Thank God for Jesus' death on your behalf, providing for you free entry into life as a citizen of the kingdom.

Daily Readings

Monday

- Read Mark 14:32-36; Isaiah 51:17-22

QUESTIONS

1. It is the night before Jesus died. Can you recall Jesus being as emotionally distressed as this on any previous occasion?
2. What do you think is causing Jesus to be so disturbed?
What might "this cup" be that he asks his Father to take away? (Isaiah 51:17-22 may help.)
Why is the prospect of drinking the cup so dreadful?

3. From the way things turn out, God didn't take the cup away. If "*all things are possible*" for the Father, what do you think motivated God not to take the cup away?

PONDER

Could there be any other way for people to be saved apart from Jesus drinking "this cup"?

PRAYER IDEAS

Thank your Father for saying "no" to his Son for your sake, and thank the Son for preferring to do his Father's will rather than escape the cup.

Tuesday

- Read Mark 15:25-32

QUESTIONS

1. What are the main insults hurled by the people at the crucifixion?
2. Why do they ridicule Jesus? Do they really want Jesus to save himself? What is it about Jesus that they are mocking?
3. Does Jesus not save himself because he can't? If not, why doesn't he save himself?
4. What would the result be for the scoffers, and us, if Jesus had saved himself?

PONDER

Reflect on the fact that Jesus had you in mind when he chose not to save himself.

PRAYER IDEAS

Pray that the unbelievers you know will stop scoffing and believe the truth that Jesus died for them.

Wednesday

Read Mark 15:33-34; Psalm 22:1-18

QUESTIONS

1. In what ways does it appear that God has forsaken Jesus?
2. Read Psalm 22:1-18.
Why did David feel forsaken by God? Did David still trust in God? What insight does Psalm 22 give us into Jesus' death?
3. What is it that kills Jesus? Is it simply his crucifixion?

PONDER

Thinking back over the last few studies, what did Jesus' death achieve?

PRAYER IDEAS

Thank God and Jesus that they didn't forsake us. Pray that you will have a greater understanding of their plan to save us from our sin.