

A FAITH MEDIA STUDY



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CHRIST



A JOURNEY THROUGH JESUS' LIFE,
DEATH, AND RESURRECTION

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that accompanies this study.**



I N T R O D U C T I O N

Read: John 18-20, Luke 23:46, John 19:30

Two thousand years ago in Jerusalem, two thieves and a man charged with blasphemy were crucified on a hill called Golgotha.

The man charged with blasphemy hung on a cross between the thieves. He was severely beaten 39 times with a whip made of three pieces of leather and sharp stones. They pressed a crown of thorns onto His head and mockingly called Him the “King of the Jews.”

The religious leaders who demanded His death, along with the Roman authorities who carried it out, believed killing Him would extinguish the religious and cultural movement He started.

When the man on the middle cross breathed His last, He called, “Father, into Your hands I commit my spirit” (Luke 23:46, NIV).

Suddenly, the veil in the temple, which separated humanity from the presence of God, was torn from top to bottom. The earth quaked, darkness fell, and three days later, His sealed tomb would be empty.

His resurrection would change the eternal destiny of every person willing to repent and believe in Him. His name is Jesus, the Son of God.

Over 300 Old Testament prophecies dating back to Genesis 3:15 were fulfilled with Jesus’ life, death, and resurrection. Ironically, the Jewish leaders of the day let pride and self-righteousness cloud their understanding, and they failed to see the long-awaited completion of the Scripture they rigorously studied.

Jesus was not a tragic victim of their scorn. He was the anticipated Messiah, and what appeared to be defeat was actually the ultimate victory. His death and resurrection fulfilled God's plan for salvation.

God's desire for you began before time itself. It was foretold by the prophets, accomplished through Jesus' death and resurrection, woven into your life at conception, and is fulfilled when you repent and believe that Jesus is the Son of God who died for you.

It is the greatest love story ever told: a story of sacrifice and betrayal, suffering and hope, despair and triumph. A love story thousands of years in the making and fulfilled with the words, "It is finished" (John 19:30, NIV). Through Jesus' victory over death and by the power of the Holy Spirit, you can know Him now and live with Him for eternity.

This story is not about your worthiness. It is instead a story about God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit, and His relentless pursuit of His beloved: YOU!

Day 1

Read: John 14:6, Romans 2:4, Jeremiah 17:9, John 17:17
Psalm 119:142, John 16:13, John 18:28-19:16

OUR WICKEDNESS

Have you ever wondered why the Jewish leaders of Jesus' day wanted Him killed? What made Jesus such a threat?

The answer is simple but revealing. Jesus spoke the truth—and in doing so, exposed their hypocrisy.

When Jesus in John 14:6 (NIV) declares, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me," He is not offering a philosophical idea. He is disclosing His divine identity and sovereign position within God, who is truth (John 17:17, Psalm 119:142, John 16:13, ESV).

In Jesus' time, such a claim was considered intolerable or blasphemous. Yet His declaration

remains just as confrontational now as it was then. It challenges the idea that we're in control, and that we get to define truth on our own terms.

The preference to be our own gods is universal and comes from the wickedness within our hearts (Jeremiah 17:9, NIV). As humans, we are more prone to self-adoration than humility, surrender, and obedience before God.

For a clear example, consider the tense exchange between Pontius Pilate and Jesus at His trial (John 18:28–19:16, ESV).

When confronted with the truth of Jesus' divinity, Pilate did not respond with humility or faith. Instead, he questioned, demanded, mocked, and allowed pride and self-preservation to drive his decisions. Ultimately, unwilling to submit to the truth standing before him, Pilate turned away from Jesus and handed Him over to death.

Pilate's responses reveal emotions and attitudes that remain stumbling blocks for us today. Like him, we reveal our brokenness when we persist in patterns of sin and refuse to recognize Jesus as the Son of God or submit to His authority.

Yet, we are not left without hope. God is merciful and patient, and Romans 2:4 reminds us that it is His kindness that leads us to repentance. Even in our rebellion, He remains faithful, gently drawing us back to Himself through grace rather than condemnation.

QUESTIONS

1) What is preventing you from asking God for help with a sin you've been struggling with?

*2) Are there areas in your life where you are afraid to trust God?
Ask Him to show you why.*

*3) Have you ever asked God to blanket you in His love and kindness?
Ask Him now!*

Read: John 16:33, Luke 7:18-28, Matthew 4:1-11

WAITING AND TEMPTATION

Waiting rarely feels good; we usually want results immediately. However, it is often in seasons of waiting that God does His most transformative work. Our trust is refined, patience is cultivated, and endurance is strengthened like a well-developed muscle.

These spiritual disciplines are formed in the tension of waiting, as we confront the temptation to doubt God's goodness or question His love.

This is especially true when our past mistakes make us doubt that we can be forgiven, when our prayers go unanswered, or we endure suffering.

The life of John the Baptist is a wonderful example.

Set apart from birth to prepare the way for Jesus, John was in the public eye, calling people to repentance and baptizing thousands, including Jesus Himself. Then Jesus' ministry expanded, and John's life narrowed to the confines of a prison cell.

As John sat imprisoned and awaited execution, he faltered briefly with uncertainty. One can only imagine Satan's whispers: *Where is your God now? You have sacrificed everything. Why won't He save you? Is Jesus really the Messiah?*

In his moment of darkness, John sought reassurance from Jesus. After receiving Jesus' answer, John found the strength to endure and was beheaded for standing firm against sin and boldly calling others to repentance and forgiveness (Matthew 11:2-11, Luke 7:18-28, ESV).

It is important to remain alert to Satan's relentless desire to lure us away from God, especially in seasons of waiting. He is bold, and his tactics are calculated.

He even tempted Jesus in the wilderness after forty days of fasting and later pressed Him again in the Garden of Gethsemane, just before His betrayal.

If Satan dared to tempt Jesus, he isn't going to think twice about targeting us too.

In times of temptation, particularly while waiting, let us respond as Jesus did. We rebuke Satan. We speak God's promises aloud. We ask others to pray for us. We remember our identity, and that God is victorious.

Then we praise. We worship. We stand. We wait, resting in Jesus' words: "In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world" (John 16:33, NIV).

QUESTIONS

- 1) *What season of waiting felt heaviest, and how did you experience God?*
- 2) *What tactics does Satan typically use to tempt or confuse you?*
- 3) *Have you studied God's names? Knowing them brings strength and comfort.*

Day 3

Read: Matthew 5:17-20, Matthew 16:13-20

JESUS' IDENTITY

Throughout His time on earth, Jesus was questioned and challenged by those who opposed Him, bystanders who heard His messages, and even at times His own followers.

Who was this Man who healed people, performed miracles, and spread countercultural messages? He certainly wasn't like anyone they had encountered before, and that made them feel uncomfortable—even desperate.

The people also questioned what Jesus said. What was the meaning hidden behind His cryptic and convicting words? And how did that connect to what they already knew about Jewish law?

The Jewish people who called themselves "religious" were well versed in the Torah, or the

Law—the first five books of what we now call the Bible, filled with stories about Moses and the Israelites, along with a set of rules for God’s people to follow.

The laws covered everything from ritual sacrifices to how to interact with your neighbor, and many of the laws were summed up in the Ten Commandments.

But to many of the religious people, Jesus’ words and actions contradicted the Law. For example, when Jesus healed a man on the Sabbath, a day when no work was supposed to be done, the religious people accused Him of breaking the Law (Mark 3:1–6, NIV).

During His Sermon on the Mount, Jesus responded this way: “Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them” (Matthew 5:17, NIV).

In the past, God’s people were required to make sacrifices to God so He would forgive their sins, along with following the other very specific rules of the Law.

But when Jesus came, that was no longer required. Soon after this speech, Jesus would die, and He would carry with Him the weight of the world’s sin—everyone who had lived, was still living, and would yet live on the earth.

Because Jesus was the ultimate sacrifice, animal and food sacrifices were no longer needed, and anyone can be forgiven simply by asking Jesus, who died for you and loves you more than you can imagine!

QUESTIONS

- 1) Answering the question Jesus asked His disciples in Matthew 16, who do you think Jesus is?*
- 2) What does it mean that Jesus came to “fulfill” the Law and Prophets (Matthew 5:17, NIV)?*
- 3) How does it feel to know that you are forgiven?*

Read: Matthew 28:18-20, Hebrews 13:8

JESUS LIVES

After Jesus' death on the cross, His followers felt hopeless. Though Jesus had just saved the world through His death, the minds of those who loved Him couldn't comprehend it. Jesus had told the disciples (His closest friends and followers) about His death and that He would come back to life in three days, but many didn't believe Him.

So when Jesus appeared to the disciples three days after His death, they were shocked and overjoyed. In His short time with them, He shared a message now known as the Great Commission:

"All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age" (Matthew 28:18-20, NIV)

The disciples were likely still wrestling with Jesus' death and what it meant, and now Jesus appeared and gave them instructions for how to move forward without Him. How confusing would this have felt?

Let's break it down. With His first statement, Jesus confirms that He really is the Son of God—as He claimed countless times.

Then, Jesus tells them to spread the Gospel: the reality of His identity, the messages He shared, and the legacy He left behind. That is their true calling (and our calling too)—to point people to God through His Son Jesus.

Lastly, He leaves them with a comforting reminder: though He wouldn't be with them in flesh and blood, His presence would never leave them. He would sit with God and the Holy Spirit in heaven, listening to the prayers His people prayed and acting on His plan.

And the same message Jesus gave to His disciples is meant for you today. When you feel hopeless like the disciples did, remember that Jesus came to save you through His death, He remains beside you constantly, and He is always moving. That's something you can hope in, no matter what happens.

QUESTIONS

1) *How do you think the disciples felt after Jesus' death?*

How about when He rose again?

2) *Have you ever been through a season when you felt like all hope was gone?*

3) *What restored your hope in that season?*

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