30 FOR 30
Dear 30 for 30 Participant,

We are so excited that you, along with many others, have committed to a journey with God for the next 30 days. In James 4:8, it says, “Come near to God, and he will come near to you.” God desires to have a relationship with you that goes way beyond your wildest imagination. Press on toward knowing Him more, remembering, God’s grace is sufficient for us. It is our prayer that after 30 days of spending 30 minutes a day with God that you and many others will have such an incredible experience with God that you will desire to continue on the Quest. God is using this unique slow-down to draw us near. Don’t miss it! We are honored to serve you, and we praise God for each of you.

Remember, you are a piece of clay in the potter’s hand. For the next 30 days, invite Him to mold you, shape you, and change you into the likeness of His Son. That is His desire!

Ministry Leadership Team (MLT)
PREPARE
Hebrews 11:1-6
Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see. 2 This is what the ancients were commended for. 3 By faith we understand that the universe was formed at God’s command, so that what is seen was not made out of what was visible. 4 By faith Abel brought God a better offering than Cain did. By faith he was commended as righteous, when God spoke well of his offerings. And by faith Abel still speaks, even though he is dead. 5 By faith Enoch was taken from this life, so that he did not experience death: “He could not be found, because God had taken him away.”[a] For before he was taken, he was commended as one who pleased God. 6 And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him.

DEVOTIONAL
One of the best vacation places in the United States has to be Disney World. It is electrifying and provides you with a full day worth of on the edge entertainment. From the shows, smells of cotton candy, and even the long lines to get – the place is incredible! There are so many great rides and shows. Have you ever been there? Which ride did you like the most? Eventually, I came to a ride called Space Mountain, a roller coaster that was inside of a pretend mountain. The line was long, but in the end, it was worth it. When I was on the ride, all I could wonder about is – what is coming at me next? Space Mountain is inside of a pitch-black mountain, so dark that you literally could not see your hand if you held it in front of your face. It sounds incredible, doesn’t it? While I was on the ride, I didn’t know if a hill was coming, a turn to the right or left, and that’s unsettling. My eyes were wide shut. Although they were open as far as I could have them, I couldn’t see anything!

Hebrews 11, is what I like to call the wall of faith. Faith means living today, not knowing tomorrow, but trusting God will show you whatever you need to know when you need to know it. Faith is knowing He can see what we cannot see. Faith is knowing, nothing is impossible for God. When it comes to faith, God invites us to be bold. The idea of being bold means to go beyond the usual limits of conventional thought or action. To be bold is to be confident! He welcomes our boldness! In fact, the bible tells us to be bold and confident - Hebrews 4:16, says, “Let us then approach God’s throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.”

What are you hoping for in Christ? How hard is it for you to trust in God when you cannot see tomorrow?
-Pastor Andy

PRAISE
“Oceans” by Hillsong - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dy9nwe9_xzw
“Give Me Faith” by Elevation Worship - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dNwt7LQiYck
PREPARE
Exodus 33:12-17
Moses said to the Lord, “You have been telling me, ‘Lead these people,’ but you have not let me know whom you will send with me. You have said, ‘I know you by name and you have found favor with me.’ If you are pleased with me, teach me your ways so I may know you and continue to find favor with you. Remember that this nation is your people.”

The Lord replied, “My Presence will go with you, and I will give you rest.”
Then Moses said to him, “If your Presence does not go with us, do not send us up from here. How will anyone know that you are pleased with me and with your people unless you go with us? What else will distinguish me and your people from all the other people on the face of the earth?”

And the Lord said to Moses, “I will do the very thing you have asked, because I am pleased with you and I know you by name.”

DEVOTIONAL
The current times are troubling. We are in a sense being led into the wilderness that is unknown and scary. In this section of scripture Moses knows he cannot lead the Israelites without the presence and leading of God. He asks that God would teach him how to lead and to find favor with him as he leads God’s people into the wilderness. The Lord responded by telling Moses that His Presence will go with him and that he would give him rest.

I encourage you to spend time reflecting on this scripture. Ask God to show you how to lead your families, coworkers, friends and neighbors through this trying time. May you experience His presence and find rest in His promises.

-Pastor Nate Drege

PRAISE
“The Blessing” - Live From Home  - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VZJFHh93FGc
The Christ Church Choir - “Way Maker”  - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S69RtFf-NhU
PREPARE
Psalm 119:1-11
“Blessed are those whose way is blameless, who walk in the law of the Lord! Blessed are those who keep his testimonies, who seek him with their whole heart, who also do no wrong, but walk in his ways! You have commanded your precepts to be kept diligently. Oh, that my ways may be steadfast in keeping your statutes! Then I shall not be put to shame, having my eyes fixed on all your commandments. I will praise you with an upright heart, when I learn your righteous rules. I will keep your statutes; do not utterly forsake me! How can a young man keep his way pure? By guarding it according to your word. With my whole heart I seek you; let me not wander from your commandments! I have stored up your word in my heart, that I might not sin against you.” (Keep reading the rest of Psalm 119 for an amazing look at the preciousness of God’s Word.)

DEVOTIONAL
Matthew 4:4 says, “Jesus answered, ‘It is written: ‘Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.’” God’s Word is life.

If we attempt to sustain the body with little to no food, we will grow weak, prone to sickness and very possibly die. The body needs food for sustenance. We can’t think clearly or make good decisions without proper nutrition. If our soul is not given what it needs – love, value and safety, it will deteriorate. We were created for a steady flow of soul nutrition. And, of course, a true believer of Jesus Christ has need of satisfaction for their spirit. Pausing to ask ourselves whether or not our spirit is receiving what it needs is essential.

God has given us His Holy Spirit to bring scripture to life. I Corinthians 2:6-16 talks about a secret and hidden wisdom that God has for us through His Spirit. There is a revelation of truth that God delights in giving His children when we allow the Holy Spirit in us to connect with God’s Word. His Word brings life with the truth that sets us free (John 8:31b-32). Hebrews 4:12 says, “For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart.” It makes no sense to have access to the healing, transformative, life-giving Word of God and not utilize it. It’s like having the vaccine for Covid-19 and not taking it.

It’s easy to get distracted with all the things happening in our world. I know I can have good intentions of spending deep time with God in His Word and in prayer, but time is gone in a blink and I rush into my day with just a nibble, not the feast He prepared for me and that my heart longs for.

I want to challenge you and I to not pick up the phone or turn on the tv without first hearing from God. Sit deeply with Him. Ask Him to speak through His Word, the Bible. What would look differently in today if for 30 minutes we allowed God’s Word to spiritually fill us up?

-Loree Veith

PRAISE
“Good, Good Father” by Chris Tomlin - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OfIrxyVnmkE

Praise
Celebrate God

Repent
Agree with God

Ask
Enquire of God

Yield
Surrender to God
PREPARE
Hab. 3:17-19

Though the fig tree should not blossom,
    nor fruit be on the vines,
the produce of the olive fail
    and the fields yield no food,
the flock be cut off from the fold
    and there be no herd in the stalls,
yet I will rejoice in the LORD;
    I will take joy in the God of my salvation.
GOD, the Lord, is my strength;
    he makes my feet like the deer’s;
    he makes me tread on my high places.

DEVOTIONAL
As I was lying awake the other night, God brought to mind a beautiful prayer that I had read many times in the Bible. It is the end of Habakkuk’s prayer at the end of the book, Habakkuk 3:17-19. Written 2700 years ago, it is supremely relevant today. I marvel at how someone could write those words - he amazes me in the sheer depth of his faith and makes me long for the same!

The book of Habakkuk is very short, just three chapters. Chapter 1 and chapter 2 are each a complaint against God. The first chapter is a complaint to God about why he doesn’t seem to do anything about the wrong going on around Habakkuk. The second complaint in chapter 2 is about wicked people judging the good people. God’s answer to both these complaints is simple: wait and trust.

Central to what God is saying to Habakkuk is a challenge of faith - does Habakkuk believe, and do we believe that God is great and God is good? Our faith or trust is only as great as the object of our trust. Faith isn’t a feeling, it is action based on a source. I have trust every day that when I sit in my office chair, it will hold me. I don’t have confidence that it will hold 5000 pounds, but it doesn’t have to. Believers in Jesus have a much greater object to trust than my chair!

Habakkuk 2:4 says this, “the righteous shall live by his faith.” This is all about perseverance by faith. If God is the object of our trust, the justified (the person who trusts in Jesus) are able to endure and wait because they know God is faithful.

I don’t know what next week, next month, or the rest of this year holds, but I know the infinitely great and perfectly good God is in control. I can have confidence and rejoice in God my strength, who will enable to me to leap and climb to the heights through his unending grace and mercy.

-Pastor Craig Johnson

PRAISE
“In Christ Alone” - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gMixnWehee0
“Joyful, Joyful, we Adore Thee” - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eMY3ivdNzwE
PREPARE
Mark 11:1-11 (Sunday)

As they approached Jerusalem and came to Bethphage and Bethany at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two of his disciples, saying to them, “Go to the village ahead of you, and just as you enter it, you will find a colt tied there, which no one has ever ridden. Untie it and bring it here. If anyone asks you, ‘Why are you doing this?’ say, ‘The Lord needs it and will send it back here shortly.’” They went and found a colt outside in the street, tied at a doorway. As they untied it, some people standing there asked, “What are you doing, untying that colt?” They answered as Jesus had told them to, and the people let them go. When they brought the colt to Jesus and threw their cloaks over it, he sat on it. Many people spread their cloaks on the road, while others spread branches they had cut in the fields. Those who went ahead and those who followed shouted, “Hosanna!” “Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!” “Blessed is the coming kingdom of our father David!” “Hosanna in the highest heaven!” Jesus entered Jerusalem and went into the temple courts. He looked around at everything, but since it was already late, he went out to Bethany with the Twelve.

DEVOTIONAL
Welcome to Passion Week! Let’s take a journey this week and revisit Palm Sunday through Resurrection Sunday. As you read each day, try and imagine what Jesus experienced the last few days of His life. On the first day Jesus entered Jerusalem.

If all we had was the gospel of Mark, we might think this is Jesus’ first journey to Jerusalem. But the gospel of John tells us Jesus, like any devout Jewish man, made several trips to Jerusalem for major feasts.

Jesus gave two of His disciples specific instructions. Then He deliberately chose a young horse (a colt), not a stallion or donkey to enter the city although many expected his entrance to be on a mighty war-horse. This showed the waiting crowd the He was coming as a servant and a man of peace, not as a conquering general.

On this day, the shouts of Hosanna rang out! The people believed that Jesus was there to rescue them from their circumstances, when in fact, Jesus was there to rescue them from their sin. It didn't take long to change their tune from “Hosanna, blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!” to “Crucify Him!”

Have you ever had a change of mind about Jesus when He didn’t do what you thought he ought to? What did you learn?

-Pastor Andy Veith

PRAISE
Paul Baloche - “Hosanna” - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_6t53HBih1I

Praise
Celebrate God

Repent
Agree with God

Ask
Enquire of God

Yield
Surrender to God
PREPARE
Mark 11:12-26 (Monday)
The next day as they were leaving Bethany, Jesus was hungry. Seeing in the distance a fig tree in leaf, he went to find out if it had any fruit. When he reached it, he found nothing but leaves, because it was not the season for figs. Then he said to the tree, “May no one ever eat fruit from you again.” And his disciples heard him say it. On reaching Jerusalem, Jesus entered the temple courts and began driving out those who were buying and selling there. He overturned the tables of the money changers and the benches of those selling doves, and would not allow anyone to carry merchandise through the temple courts. And as he taught them, he said, “Is it not written: ‘My house will be called a house of prayer for all nations’? But you have made it ‘a den of robbers.’” The chief priests and the teachers of the law heard this and began looking for a way to kill him, for they feared him, because the whole crowd was amazed at his teaching. When evening came, Jesus and his disciples went out of the city. In the morning, as they went along, they saw the fig tree withered from the roots. Peter remembered and said to Jesus, “Rabbi, look! The fig tree you cursed has withered!” “Have faith in God,” Jesus answered. “Truly I tell you, if anyone says to this mountain, ‘Go, throw yourself into the sea,’ and does not doubt in their heart but believes that what they say will happen, it will be done for them. Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours. And when you stand praying, if you hold anything against anyone, forgive them, so that your Father in heaven may forgive you your sins.”

DEVOTIONAL
On Monday, Jesus went into the temple, overturned the tables and chased out the moneychangers. This was a big week for moneychangers who exchanged other people’s money into the temple currency so they could purchase sacrificial animals for Passover. The sacrificial animals were being sold at exorbitant prices. Also, every Jewish male had to pay a yearly temple tax - an amount equaling about two days’ pay that had to be paid in the temple currency. The moneychangers would charge an inflated rate for the exchange resulting in large profits for them.

What did Jesus mean when He said, “But you have made it a den of robbers?” He meant, instead of making the temple a house of prayer, like He intended, they have made it a place where robbers associated and hid. Jesus was angry but did not sin, rather, He was angry AT their sin! They turned a holy place into a “happy place” (a place to satisfy their fleshly desires).

What in your life have you turned from holy (God’s intended purpose) to “happy” (a way to satisfy the flesh)?

-Pastor Andy Veith

PRAISE
Sonicflood - “Holiness” - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=g85J9O7RU-4
Pat Barrett - “Build My Life” - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z32HiCoFzlU

Praise
Celebrate God

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Surrender to God
PREPARE
Mark 11:27-33 (Tuesday)
They arrived again in Jerusalem, and while Jesus was walking in the temple courts, the chief priests, the teachers of the law and the elders came to him. “By what authority are you doing these things?” they asked. “And who gave you authority to do this?” Jesus replied, “I will ask you one question. Answer me, and I will tell you by what authority I am doing these things. John’s baptism—was it from heaven, or of human origin? Tell me!” They discussed it among themselves and said, “If we say, ‘From heaven,’ he will ask, ‘Then why didn’t you believe him?’ But if we say, ‘Of human origin’...” (They feared the people, for everyone held that John really was a prophet.) So they answered Jesus, “We don’t know.” Jesus said, “Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things.”

DEVOTIONAL
Tuesday morning, Jesus is back in Jerusalem where He had just escaped from the night before. Immediately, He is confronted by the chief priests and the teachers of the law, asking Him, “By what authority are you doing these things?” In today’s language it might have sounded like, “Who are you to tell us what to do?” To be honest, in today’s world no one wants to be told what to do.

Jesus responds with a question in verse 30 – “John’s baptism—was it from heaven, or of human origin? Tell me!” His question was not a trap; it was again another opportunity for them to realize and confess their stubbornness and unwillingness to surrender to the truth. When people are searching for truth, they ask questions. Little did they know, TRUTH was standing right in front of them.

Take a minute and rehearse the truth of who Jesus is and the truth of who you are in Him.

-Pastor Andy Veith

PRAISE
“Cornerstone” - Hillsong Worship - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=izrk-erhDdk

Praise
Celebrate God

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PREPARE
Day of Rest (Wednesday) – Psalm 91:1-2
*Whoever dwells in the shelter of the Most High
  will rest in the shadow of the Almighty.
I will say of the LORD, “He is my refuge and my fortress,
  my God, in whom I trust.”*

DEVOTIONAL
According to all four gospels, it appears that Wednesday was a day of rest for Jesus. Why don’t we learn from His example and just spend the day recounting all that Jesus has done in us and through us. Maybe you could spend some concentrated time digging into a favorite passage, or spending extra time in prayer and/or worship?

The reality is, our lives have been completely interrupted. Our patterns and routines have changed significantly. We have been forced to hit the pause button and grapple with the unfamiliar. Today is an invitation for us to turn off the noise we have become so accustomed to and give our full attention to Jesus in prayer and/or worship. Like you, I am used to being busy and active, and the uncontrollable change has caused me or at least presented me with the opportunity to rethink my priorities and the usage of my time. To think about that which we don’t usually have time to think about can cause an unsettledness in us. At times, that unsettledness can be the Holy Spirit prompting us to make some necessary changes. This unique time has given us the opportunity to hit the reset button. I am thankful for such needed opportunities.

Everything we claim as believers and as followers of Christ hinges on this week, particularly Friday through Sunday. We have reason to worship and praise Him. We have reason to adore Him. We also have reason to rest in Him! Jesus spent this day preparing for the cross! Let us spend this day reflecting on the cross and its significance in our lives.

-Pastor Andy Veith

PRAISE
“For The Cross”- Brian & Jenn Johnson  - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SuRNZg6uatg
Vertical Worship - “I See The Lord” - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jOiTOqFy4_s
PREPARE
Mark 14:12-52 (Thursday)
They went to a place called Gethsemane, and Jesus said to his disciples, “Sit here while I pray.” He took Peter, James and John along with him, and he began to be deeply distressed and troubled. “My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death,” he said to them. “Stay here and keep watch.” Going a little farther, he fell to the ground and prayed that if possible the hour might pass from him. “Abba, Father,” he said, “everything is possible for you. Take this cup from me. Yet not what I will, but what you will.” Then he returned to his disciples and found them sleeping. “Simon,” he said to Peter, “are you asleep? Couldn’t you keep watch for one hour? Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak. Once more he went away and prayed the same thing. When he came back, he again found them sleeping, because their eyes were heavy. They did not know what to say to him. Returning the third time, he said to them, “Are you still sleeping and resting? Enough! The hour has come. Look, the Son of Man is delivered into the hands of sinners. Rise! Let us go! Here comes my betrayer!”

DEVOTIONAL
After a day of rest, Thursday ushered in the realness of what lay ahead. Jesus was confronted with the fulfillment of His mission. The reality is that He came to die. Verse 34 reveals to us the incredible burden Jesus carried. Followed by the agonizing prayer pleading with the Father to take that burden from Him, yet submitting to the Father’s will over His own. Jesus knew what must happen and yet in His flesh He wasn’t looking forward to the indescribable agony and pain. He was not concerned with His own desires as much as He was willing to be obedient to God’s eternal plan!

Take time today and put yourself in the garden overhearing Jesus’ prayer. What does it do inside of you? What questions does it raise? What does it tell you about Jesus?

-Pastor Andy Veith

PRAISE
“How He Loves” - John Mark McMillan - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bLvgqqZvLZk
“Great Are You Lord” - All Sons & Daughters - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uHz0w-HG4iU
PREPARE
Mark 15:21-41 (Friday)
A certain man from Cyrene, Simon, the father of Alexander and Rufus, was passing by on his way in from the country, and they forced him to carry the cross. They brought Jesus to the place called Golgotha (which means “the place of the skull”). Then they offered him wine mixed with myrrh, but he did not take it. And they crucified him. Dividing up his clothes, they cast lots to see what each would get. It was nine in the morning when they crucified him. The written notice of the charge against him read: THE KING OF THE JEWS. They crucified two rebels with him, one on his right and one on his left. Those who passed by hurled insults at him, shaking their heads and saying, “So! You who are going to destroy the temple and build it in three days, come down from the cross and save yourself!” In the same way the chief priests and the teachers of the law mocked him among themselves. “He saved others,” they said, “but he can’t save himself! Let this Messiah, this king of Israel, come down now from the cross, that we may see and believe.” Those crucified with him also heaped insults on him.

DEVOTIONAL
After the arrest Thursday evening, from what we can tell from scripture, Jesus went through 6 trials starting at 1:30 am lasting until 9:00 am. By this point, everyone, including His own disciples, had abandoned Him. He heard the words shouted at the trials – “Crucify Him!” Remember, just five days ago, He heard the words “Hosanna” which meant – “Please, save us!” The irony of it all is that the week began by Jesus being questioned for who He was and now it was ending with the same questions. “Are you or aren’t you who you claim to be?” This passage reminds us of all that Jesus had to go through, not only for us but the entire human race. It’s true - our sin is what nailed Him to the cross. On this day, He suffered and died, making it possible for all to receive eternal forgiveness of sins.

Let’s not rush through this week untouched by the Savior. The hope that we have today is only because of cross. As Tony Compollo once said, “IT’S FRIDAY – BUT SUNDAY IS COMING!” Today we mourn the cross and Sunday we will celebrate the resurrection!

-Pastor Andy Veith

PRAISE
“You Were On The Cross” - Matt Maher - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WJIwvMNAAll
“Is He Worthy ?” - Andrew Peterson - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Olahc83Kvp4
PREPARE
Psalm 32 (Saturday)
Blessed is the one whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered. Blessed is the one whose sin the LORD does not count against them and in whose spirit is no deceit. When I kept silent, my bones wasted away through my groaning all day long. For day and night your hand was heavy on me; my strength was sapped as in the heat of summer. Then I acknowledged my sin to you and did not cover up my iniquity. I said, “I will confess my transgressions to the LORD.” And you forgave the guilt of my sin. Therefore let all the faithful pray to you while you may be found; surely the rising of the mighty waters will not reach them. You are my hiding place; you will protect me from trouble and surround me with songs of deliverance. I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will counsel you with my loving eye on you. Do not be like the horse or the mule, which have no understanding but must be controlled by bit and bridle or they will not come to you. Many are the woes of the wicked, but the LORD’s unfailing love surrounds the one who trusts in him. Rejoice in the LORD and be glad, you righteous; sing, all you who are upright in heart!

DEVOTIONAL
On Saturday of Holy Week, Jesus laid dead in the tomb. It is a pivotal day, one that separates the two most significant days in human history. The brutal death of Jesus by crucifixion and the resurrection of Jesus when He triumphed over death. It is a day of Easter weekend that we tend to go about our regular schedule as though it were just like any other day. But what if we took some time today to reflect upon our own sinfulness? The sin, our sin, that contributed to Jesus lying dead in a tomb. Psalm 32 helps us to do that.

What does it mean to confess? Confession runs much deeper than just admitting our wrongdoing. The word confess means “to say the same thing about.” In other words, to agree with God about our wrongdoing. The best news regarding the confession of sin is forgiveness. He is “faithful” and “Just” to forgive us. His response toward us is according to His “faithful” and “just nature”! Forgiveness is the necessary means for restoring broken fellowship with God. He holds the key to restored fellowship. As you go forward, make sure there is no sin in your life! Also, encourage those who are within your realm of influence toward a God honoring lifestyle that is free from footholds and strongholds of sin.

-Paster Andy Veith

PRAISE
PREPARE

John 20:19-23 (Sunday)

On the evening of that first day of the week, when the disciples were together, with the doors locked for fear of the Jewish leaders, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you!” After he said this, he showed them his hands and side. The disciples were overjoyed when they saw the Lord. Again Jesus said, “Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you.” And with that he breathed on them and said, “Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive anyone’s sins, their sins are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven.”

DEVOTIONAL

During the forty days after the resurrection, Jesus appeared to over 500 people. We only have a few of those encounters recorded for us in scripture. In John 20, we see three of those encounters including Mary, the disciples, and Thomas.

After Jesus had appeared to Mary, He then appeared to the disciples. More than likely the word disciple in verse 19 was referring to more than just the apostles. Regardless, these followers of Jesus had locked themselves away in a room in fear of the Jews. Remember their actions the previous Friday night when Jesus their friend, their Savior, was dying on the cross and they all ran away? So now, when Jesus came and stood among them, they were probably a little nervous as to how he might react to them. But instead of rebuking them because of their lack of faith and lack of courage, Jesus spoke words of comfort to them by saying “Peace be with you!” I highly doubt that the disciples were expecting Jesus to say what He did!

Here were the disciples locked in a room, possibly designing a plan to escape the city and the Jews attack on them for associating with Jesus of Nazareth. While they were scheming in the quietness of the night, Jesus appeared before them.

The world knows no peace! The world offers no peace. The peace of Christ can only be found in a relationship with Him. It is a peace that drives out all fear and brings comfort to the broken hearted. There is no need for worry when the peace of Christ rules in your heart. The same peace he offered a room full of disciples who were shaking in their boots is the same peace offered to us. He says to us – “Peace be with you”.

Is the peace of Christ ruling in your heart today? The tomb is empty so your heart and mind can be filled with the peace of Christ today…right now!

-Pastor Andy Veith

PRAISE

“Is He Worthy” - Shane & Shane - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1pBeDoSIUnU
“Christ is Risen “- Matt Maher - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-mXeA0G_xKc
THE DAY AFTER . . .

PREPARE
John 14:25-27
All this I have spoken while still with you. But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you. Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.

DEVOTIONAL
Are you feeling confused and uncertain in these unusual times? Are you wondering about what the future holds for you and the ones you love when so much seems out of your control?

The character of God is certain. God knows what you are experiencing and cares deeply. He wants to bring comfort, clarity and peace to you today, if you will turn your focus toward Him.

After the death and burial of Christ all those who followed Him were discouraged, fearful and uncertain about the days ahead. At first, His resurrection only seemed to add to their confusion. How could it be that a man would bodily rise from the dead? What next?

During the next forty days until His ascension, Jesus appeared repeatedly – to His disciples and to over 500 other people. Each time He brought comfort and a powerful assurance that He was really alive again. His loving presence resulted in a peace amidst the confusion of the “new normal” and a renewed sense of hope. Have you cried out to God as you wrestle with all the uncertainties that you face today? Our powerful Father wants to fulfill the promise of His now-risen Son, and through His Comforting Spirit meet you where you are, and fill you with His peace. Turn your eyes upon Jesus today.

-Paster Gary Siefers

PRAISE
“What A Beautiful Name” - Hillsong Worship - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nQWFzMvCfLE
“My Redeemer Lives” - Nicole C. Mullen - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wC6RXAJpPjo

Praise
Celebrate God

Repent
Agree with God

Ask
Enquire of God

Yield
Surrender to God
PREPARE
Matthew 6:1-4
“Be careful not to practice your righteousness in front of others to be seen by them. If you do, you will have no reward from your Father in heaven. “So when you give to the needy, do not announce it with trumpets, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and on the streets, to be honored by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward in full. But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your giving may be in secret. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.

DEVOTIONAL

On October 28, 1949, Jim Elliot penned these words in his journal: “He is no fool, to give what he cannot keep, and to gain what he cannot lose.”

A few months later, Elliot learned of an unreached tribe called the Auca, living in the jungles of Ecuador. Elliot sensed God calling him to reach them for Jesus so he and his family moved to Ecuador and began delivering gifts to the tribe by plane. He learned phrases in the Auca language and spoke with tribe members from across a river bank. On January 8, 1956, Elliot was speared to death while sharing the gospel with them. He gave his earthly life so they could have eternal life. But the story didn’t end there. His attackers became followers of Jesus, and their community became transformed by the gospel.

God calls us to give to those in need—our time, our talents, and our treasures—not because they deserve it, but because God already gave us more than we could ever deserve. We give not so that others will praise us, but so that all people will praise God. Since we stand to inherit heaven’s riches, what stops us from giving freely to build God’s kingdom here on earth?

-Pastor Steven Dunkel

PRAISE
Blessed Be Your Name – https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Rw4H5t3TwHM
I Surrender All – https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4a3dl46zYlo

Praise
Celebrate God
Repent
Agree with God
Ask
Enquire of God
Yield
Surrender to God
PREPARE
Matthew 6:5–15
“And when you pray, do not be like the hypocrites, for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the street corners to be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward in full. But when you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you. And when you pray, do not keep on babbling like pagans, for they think they will be heard because of their many words. Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him. “This, then, is how you should pray: ‘Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.’ For if you forgive other people when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive others their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins.

DEVOTIONAL
One of my favorite autobiographies is George Müller (1805–1898), who along with his wife provided for over ten thousand orphans during their lifetime. Money was tight. Food was scarce. When supplies ran out, they would pray, and God would provide a knock on the door or a letter in the mail to meet every need. Müller recalls: “There was a day when I died, utterly died, died to George Müller, his opinions, preferences, tastes and will, died to the world, its approval or censure, died to the approval or blame even of my brethren and friends, and since then I have studied only to show myself approved unto God.” When you depend fully on God, you realize just how small you are and how great God is.

Prayer reminds us that our world shouldn’t revolve around us. Instead, our lives should revolve around God’s kingdom, God’s will, and God’s leadership. And when we pray, we access everything we need to follow Him:
• We access God’s Person, spending quality time with Him. “Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name.”
• We access God’s Plan, revealing our purpose on this earth. “Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.”
• We access God’s Provision, receiving what we need from Him each day. “Give us today our daily bread.”
• We access God’s Pardon, finding forgiveness and favor with God. “Forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.”
• We access God’s Protection, keeping us close to Him. “Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.”

How can you depend more fully on God in prayer today?

- Pastor Steven Dunkel

PRAISE
“Good Good Father” – https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WoBW4Tw7yH0
“Build My Life” – https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xLSDBG1OcGE
PREPARE
Matthew 6:16–18
When you fast, do not look somber as the hypocrites do, for they disfigure their faces to show others they are fasting. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward in full. But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, so that it will not be obvious to others that you are fasting, but only to your Father, who is unseen; and your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.

DEVOTIONAL
When Hudson Taylor was born in 1832, his parents prayed, “Grant that he may work for you in China.” At that time, few Chinese people had heard of Christianity, and fewer were Christians themselves. Taylor felt God’s call to China early in his teenage years, and diligently studied medicine, Mandarin, and the Bible in preparation for his call. At age 21, he boarded a small boat from Liverpool to China. Once there, he never left. By the time of his death in 1905, his mission had 825 missionaries living in all eighteen provinces of China, more than 500 local Chinese helpers, and over 25,000 Christian converts.

Taylor learned a powerful teaching of Jesus from Chinese Christians: “In Shansi I found Chinese Christians were accustomed to spending time in fasting and prayer. Perhaps the greatest hindrance to our work is our own imagined strength, and in fasting we learn what poor, weak creatures we are-dependent on a meal of meat for the little strength which we are so apt to lean upon.” Taylor learned fasting produces a physical hunger that helps us realize our spiritual hunger for God.

Throughout the Bible, people fasted to deepen their dependence on God. David wrote, “I humbled myself with fasting” (Psalm 35:13). Ezra said, “I proclaimed a fast, so that we might humble ourselves before our God” (Ezra 8:21). Jesus fasted (Matthew 4:2) and the early church did too (Acts 13-14).

Not all fasts look the same (Daniel 10:3). Some fast differently due to medical concerns. Yet, fasting isn’t dieting. If you’re dieting to lose weight, that is your reward. If you’re fasting to feast on God’s Word over a meal time, God is your reward. How can fasting deepen your dependence on God?

-Pastor Steven Dunkel

PRAISE
“Christ is Enough” – https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o7hy6WBI7TM
“The Heart of Worship” – https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0XsB0ltXmRs
Mark 4:35-41

On that day, when evening had come, he said to them, “Let us go across to the other side.” And leaving the crowd, they took him with them in the boat, just as he was. And other boats were with him. And a great windstorm arose, and the waves were breaking into the boat, so that the boat was already filling. But he was in the stern, asleep on the cushion. And they woke him and said to him, “Teacher, do you not care that we are perishing?” And he awoke and rebuked the wind and said to the sea, “Peace! Be still!” And the wind ceased, and there was a great calm. 40 He said to them, “Why are you so afraid? Have you still no faith?” 41 And they were filled with great fear and said to one another, “Who then is this, that even the wind and the sea obey him?”

DEVOTIONAL

About a month ago we talked about this passage at Good News Club at Ed Clapp Elementary. I shared how we can trust Jesus because all of creation obeys Him. There is no thing in all of creation that is not under the control of our God.

Little did I know how quickly I would be able to apply that teaching because of Covid-19. I didn’t even know what, “Covid-19,” was at the time. In fact, I’m learning a lot of new words and phrases these days: coronavirus, “social distancing,” “self-quarantine,” and “flatten the curve.” What a difference a few weeks make!

As I reflect on Mark’s story of that one time in the boat, in a storm, with Jesus asleep …. I can’t help but think of the absolute panic the men were feeling in v. 38. These were men who knew the water and the weather. They were convinced they would die. Yet, there was Jesus – asleep.

Verse 40 is kind of a scary verse. The word “fear” is used as the fear of the unbelieving. In other words, the disciples were acting like those who don’t know Jesus. I guess in so many ways, they didn’t know Him quite yet like they would sometime later.

Jackie Hill Perry (@JackieHillPerry) recently shared on social media: “Jesus slept during a storm. When you trust Him, you can too.”

Their fear quickly turned to worship when they realized that Jesus was more than a good teacher. The waves and the sea obey(ed) Jesus. He was, and is, the Son of the Living God. (see also Colossians 1:15-20)

Therefore, we can trust Him. Like scared disciples in a boat, we can turn to Jesus. He invites you and me to come to Him and invite him to take our fear and turn it to worship.

-Pastor Jonas Bundy

PRAISE

Andrew Peterson - “Be Kind to Yourself” - https://youtu.be/sYiM-sOC6nE
April 18, 2020

PREPARE
Proverbs 16:9
In their hearts humans plan their course, but the lord establishes their steps.

DEVOTIONAL
Several years ago my wife and I thought we had found our forever home. It was on a beautiful acre lot complete with a giant back yard and thick timber for the kids (and dad) to explore. We set to work completely gutting the house and putting our personal touches on every square inch of the house. In every way we were planting our roots and our hearts deep where we were at. Then God called us to Fargo. He asked us to step away from everything that we had worked so hard for and trust Him. I remember vividly the moment I turned the key on our house and the tears that followed as I drove away. At that moment I was mourning our life that was and I was anxious and scared about what the future would hold. Maybe you find yourself today with those same emotions. It’s so hard to let go of control of the plans we had made and trust that God is in control. Ask God for the peace that transcends all understanding and for opportunities to point others to Him, as we trust He is guiding us through these dark times. Now that I am on the other side of the journey that He has brought my family on, I see clearly the work He is doing. My prayer for all of us is that we can trust His plans as we walk the path He has placed us on!

-Pastor Nate Drege

PRAISE
“Oceans” by Hillsong - https://youtu.be/OP-00EwLdiU
“Be Thou My Vision” - ELENYI version - https://youtu.be/_VpSqAcLrDI

Praise
Celebrate God

Repent
Agree with God

Ask
Enquire of God

Yield
Surrender to God
WHAT’S NEXT?

PREPARE
Acts 1:8
But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.

DEVOTIONAL
God’s peace and comfort in the midst of uncertain times gives us a sense of hope. It calms and sustains us as we take a breath and feel secure in His presence. But the questions still linger – “What’s next, Lord?” “What is Your purpose for me in the days ahead?” “Help me understand what You desire for me as a ‘new normal’.”

There is no lack of clarity in the Scriptures. God leaves us here on earth to be witnesses of the risen, living Savior. He wants us to go and tell. He encouraged each one He encountered before His ascension - the women, the disciples, the men on the Emmaus Road – “be a witness of Me, the resurrected Christ.”

Perhaps your life feels like it has been turned upside down by the recent Covid-19 crisis. Everything has been put on hold, and you are not sure how long this state of limbo will last. Will life ever return to normal? When? What will your ‘new normal’ be?

The followers of Jesus found peace in His presence, and then He made His purpose for their lives crystal clear. As they went on their way as His witnesses, He commissioned them to make disciples of all men. That was to be their highest aspiration, their life goal – to be a witness of the love of Christ and His power to transform lives for all eternity. Anything less is a waste of your life! Put Him first! Trust Him that all the other pieces will then fall into place. God can use ordinary people just like you and I to accomplish His purposes.

-Pastor Gary Siefers

PRAISE
Wintley Phipps sings Ordinary People - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hGPYAUNGYO0

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<th>Repent</th>
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<td>Celebrate God</td>
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PREPARE
Matthew 11:28-29
Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.

DEVOTIONAL
Have you ever felt like you are carrying the weight of the world on your shoulders? Maybe you have felt tired, run down or even burned out. God’s Word gives us hope.

Rather than attempt to lessen the load, let’s respond to Jesus’ invitation – “come to me.” The invitation is for those who are “weary and burdened.” Sometimes when we are tired, we try to do everything in our power to lessen the load. It appears to be an uphill road that lies in front of us. If that is you right now, pay attention to God’s invitation.

Jesus continues by explaining that we are to take His yoke (be bound together) upon us and learn from Him. Are you yoked together with Jesus right now, or are you carrying the weight of life all alone? Jesus says, “come to me and find rest and I will teach you in a gentle and humble way.” You will find rest like you have never found rest before. I Am the only one who can lift the burdens from your shoulders. My yoke is easy and light.

-Pastor Andy Veith

PRAISE
“O Come to the Altar” - Elevation Worship - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rYQ5yXCc_CAl
“Cast Your Burden” - Gateway - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bolyI3Jjans
“Do It Again” - Elevation Worship - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0B_InQlITxU
PREPARE
Psalm 91:1-2
Whoever dwells in the shelter of the Most High
will rest in the shadow of the Almighty.
I will say of the Lord, “He is my refuge and my fortress,
my God, in whom I trust.

DEVOTIONAL
I love how the author of Psalm 91 brings our attention to the dwelling place of the Most High and invites us
to spend time there. Psalm 91 has proved to be a great psalm for me to read daily.

Being in close quarters with all of my family all of the time has brought our “dwelling place” into full view.
Here we are, all dwelling in this place together. As I write those words, I remember how fortunate I am. We
have so much to be thankful for!

Eugene Peterson summarizes these verses in his paraphrase The Message:

You who sit down in the High God’s presence,
spend the night in Shaddai’s shadow,
Say this: “God, you’re my refuge.
I trust in you and I’m safe!

When you spend time with God, you are reminded that you live in the shadow of His care. Having trusted
Jesus for our salvation, we are offered the shelter of dwelling with Him. The author of Hebrews says we
can come to the throne of God with confidence knowing that He hears our prayers and intercedes for us. In
what ways can you go to God today in prayer, remembering that we live in His shadow?

Truly, God is our refuge and in Him we are safe.

Today, remember that no matter what you face, you can find shelter and security in the safe arms of Jesus.

Dwell with Him.

-Pastor Jonas Bundy

PRAISE
“Better is One Day” by Kutless - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rGmjwUwY2w0
“Dwell” by Aaron Keys - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-V8n4L_n1kU

Praise
Celebrate God
Repent
Agree with God
Ask
Enquire of God
Yield
Surrender to God
PREPARE
Romans 8:38-39
For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

DEVOTIONAL
Have you ever felt like you have failed God, or like He has given up on you?

Today’s scripture reminds us that God will never stop loving you. You cannot fail too much for God’s love. He never says enough is enough.

Maybe you have experienced a time in your life when you felt as though you had failed somebody so much they stopped loving you. Maybe you felt like you didn’t meet their expectations and they gave up on you. Have you ever felt the love of another slip away because it was based on a condition? Conditional love says I will love you if...

Can I remind you - God’s love is without condition? There is nothing we can do to become unable to receive it. Now that is true love! I can’t imagine the pain that some go through when someone who once claimed to love them looks them in the eyes and says, “I don’t love you anymore.” The pain of feeling loved at one time, but too much went wrong and suddenly you no longer deserve it! God is always saying to us, “I can’t stop loving you.”

Thank you, God, for loving us even when we don’t deserve it.
-Pastor Andy Veith

PRAISE
“Raise a Hallelujah” - Bethel Music - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aJFhHf-NjRg
“Good Good Father” - Chris Tomlin - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-ak0OoFBw3c

Praise
Celebrate God

Repent
Agree with God

Ask
Enquire of God

Yield
Surrender to God
PREPARE
Psalm 37:23-24
The Lord makes firm the steps of the one who delights in him; though he may stumble, he will not fall, for the Lord upholds him with his hand.

Proverbs 3:5-6
Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight.

DEVOTION
How do I take the next step in the midst of all the chaos?

When things are overwhelming it can seem unclear and very challenging to process things. There are so many “what ifs” and not enough answers. We want to stay informed, but the information can be daunting and scary. In the midst God says to be still. He is speaking to us, even if we feel as though we can’t hear Him in the midst of our trials and chaos. Will we listen? What if it’s the only way for us to know, really know, what the next step is to be?

Jehoshaphat was King of Judah, the southern kingdom. He was a good king that truly sought the heart of God. In 2 Chronicles 17 Jehoshaphat was preparing for attack. It makes sense that he was afraid, particularly because the approaching army was powerful - clearly more powerful than Judah and easily able to destroy them. What was his first move? Pray and fast. I would love for you to take time to see his prayer in verses 5-12. Look at the movement. What is he declaring, feeling, and asking for? Then look in verses 13-17 for God’s answer. Verse 17 stops me in my tracks. I love the way the HCSB version puts it, “You do not have to fight this battle. Position yourselves, stand still, and see the salvation of the Lord. He is with you, Judah and Jerusalem. Do not be afraid or discouraged. Tomorrow, go out to face them, for Yahweh is with you.” Wow! How does that speak to you?

Eugene Peterson, in his book The Jesus Way, says, “We stop, whether by choice or through circumstance, so that we can be alert and attentive and receptive to what God is doing in and for us, in and for others, on the way. We wait for our souls to catch up with our bodies.” So, what is the next step for you / your family? No matter the circumstance, God see you, He cares, and He has the next step.

-Loree Veith

PRAISE
“Way Maker” - Christ Community Church Choir - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S69RtFf-NhU
“I Lift My Hands” - Chris Tomlin - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c24En0r-lXg
PREPARE
James 1:2-4
Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.

DEVOTIONAL
Often when I have asked one of our kids to do something that they didn’t want to do, I would jokingly say, “it builds character!” James isn’t joking, in fact he sees joy in trials. Who is this guy? He certainly hasn’t been through the coronavirus pandemic. James did know a thing or two about trials, both his own and others around him. He has something to teach us.

Let’s start at the end of the three verses and work our way back towards the beginning. Trials reveal to us that we are each lacking in many areas, as we see James indicating that the result of trials is that we are not lacking. Think back over the last month. What has God revealed to you about yourself and what you lack that you didn’t realize fully until this disruption of life?

Whatever those things are, James indicates that trials produce the spiritual fruit of toughness or staying power. When we are discouraged or disheartened by our lack of faith, trials give us fortitude to stand in faith and develop a seasoned maturity that we didn’t have before.

Steadfastness makes us mature (perfect). It completes us. It’s hard, but it’s worthwhile. Let that understanding encourage your heart, and use it to encourage others as well.

-Pastor Craig Johnson

PRAISE
“Blessed by Your Name” – https://youtu.be/tTpTQ4kBLxA
“Like a River Glorious” - https://sovereigngracemusic.bandcamp.com/track/like-a-river-glorious
PREPARE
Lamentations 3:22-24
Because of the Lord’s great love we are not consumed,
for his compassions never fail.
They are new every morning;
great is your faithfulness.
I say to myself, “The Lord is my portion;
therefore I will wait for him.”

DEVOTIONAL
God’s past mercies are reminders of the great hope we have for our future. Look closely at the language of verse 22. The all caps of LORD are an indicator of God’s name revealed to Moses, “Yahweh.” We remember from Exodus 3:13-15 that this is God’s chosen revelation of His character as the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob.

Also note that the words, “great love,” are the Hebrew word, “hessed.” Hessed is often translated as faithful love, loyal love, mercy, or lovingkindness. All of these are attempts to make sense of God’s profound generous commitment to His people.

God’s mercies are new every morning. He is faithful!

See also Psalm 103:11-12 and Romans 5:3-5 for ways other Biblical authors are saying similar things.

Like the author of Lamentations, remind yourself today that: “The LORD is my portion; therefore I will wait for him.”

Consider making a list for yourself of ways in which God has been faithful to you in the past. Thank Him for that list.

Allow God to remind you of His faithfulness and turn to Him with hope.

-Pastor Jonas Bundy

PRAISE
“Great is Thy Faithfulness” by Jimmy Needham - https://youtu.be/xXEYooI1lyI
“Mercies (New Every Morning)” by Matt Redman - https://youtu.be/AJg31komsak

Praise
Celebrate God
Repent
Agree with God
Ask
Enquire of God
Yield
Surrender to God
PREPARE
Ecclesiastes 5:1-7
Guard your steps when you go to the house of God. To draw near to listen is better than to offer the sacrifice of fools, for they do not know that they are doing evil. Be not rash with your mouth, nor let your heart be hasty to utter a word before God, for God is in heaven and you are on earth. Therefore let your words be few. For a dream comes with much business, and a fool’s voice with many words. When you vow a vow to God, do not delay paying it, for he has no pleasure in fools. Pay what you vow. It is better that you should not vow than that you should vow and not pay. Let not your mouth lead you into sin, and do not say before the messenger that it was a mistake. Why should God be angry at your voice and destroy the work of your hands? For when dreams increase and words grow many, there is vanity; but God is the one you must fear.

DEVOTIONAL
As I write this devotional it has been two weeks since we have been able to gather in person to worship at Bethel Church. I don’t know if we will have been able to gather when you read this on April 26th or not. I miss being together! The occasional snow storm or trip out of town are totally different from forced isolation for weeks.

In this isolation I also realize that I have taken for granted the opportunity to gather regularly. I have gone to church not ready to worship and so I have not benefited from what God could do in me as a result. The words of Solomon in Ecclesiastes help and guide me on Sunday mornings. Solomon challenges us with four thoughts as we approach the house of God.

- Think before you Worship (verse 1): practice heart preparation before you worship. Pray, meditate on a verse of Scripture, ask the Holy Spirit to soften your heart to hear before the worship service begins.
- Wait before you Worship (verse 2-3): don’t rush into worship, rather have reasoned and sensible participation. Allow the Holy Spirit to work on your heart before you utter hasty words to God.
- Do as you Worship (4-6): the idea of a vow is similar to our idea of application. Take time to sincerely apply what you have learned. Consider what needs to change in you as you reflect on the Sunday morning service.
- Fear who you Worship (7): to fear God is to revere him, to know he is always right, always tells the truth, and is always good. We can’t just brush him off, rather we need to obey him. To fear God is to keep his commandments, this is the whole duty of every person (read Ecc. 12:13-14).

-Pastor Craig Johnson

PRAISE
“Speak, O Lord” - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ubRLjJ8xkds
“How Firm a Foundation” - youtube.com/watch?time_continue=3&v=rwGW8qRqz4I&feature=emb_logo
A champion named Goliath, who was from Gath, came out of the Philistine camp. His height was six cubits and a span. He had a bronze helmet on his head and wore a coat of scale armor of bronze weighing five thousand shekels on his legs he wore bronze greaves, and a bronze javelin was slung on his back. His spear shaft was like a weaver’s rod, and its iron point weighed six hundred shekels. His shield bearer went ahead of him. Goliath stood and shouted to the ranks of Israel, “Why do you come out and line up for battle? Am I not a Philistine, and are you not the servants of Saul? Choose a man and have him come down to me. If he is able to fight and kill me, we will become your subjects; but if I overcome him and kill him, you will become our subjects and serve us.” Then the Philistine said, “This day I defy the armies of Israel! Give me a man and let us fight each other.” On hearing the Philistine’s words, Saul and all the Israelites were dismayed and terrified.

Goliath stood and shouted to the ranks of Israel, “Why do you come out and line up for battle? Am I not a Philistine, and are you not the servants of Saul? Choose a man and have him come down to me. If he is able to fight and kill me, we will become your subjects; but if I overcome him and kill him, you will become our subjects and serve us.” Then the Philistine said, “This day I defy the armies of Israel! Give me a man and let us fight each other.” On hearing the Philistine’s words, Saul and all the Israelites were dismayed and terrified.

What would you do? Every day, twice a day, for 40 days straight, Goliath makes his way down to the valley, all the while, taunting the Israelites. In verse 11, it says they were dismayed (confused, lacking confidence) and terrified!

Standing in the presence of Goliath would have been extremely intimidating. To get around him would have been impossible. He was too big, too strong, and too smart. What giant currently stands in your way? What giant is keeping you from taking another step…in faith? While giants may seem improbable, they are not impossible, that is with God!

-Pastor Andy Veith

“Voice Of Truth” - Casting Crowns - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KwsvqVmFV6Y
“Because He Lives” - Matt Maher - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PBvU7arNhQs
PREPARE
Hebrews 12:1
Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that
hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us.

DEVOTIONAL
Let’s run the Lincoln marathon in May! These were the words of my enthusiastic wife just a few minutes
after I had stuffed my face with turkey that fateful Thanksgiving day 5 years ago. Honestly, I looked at her
like she was crazy. I had never run more than a few miles at a time, and at that time I was more of “a shape”
than “in shape”. But as usual, my wife talked me into this crazy venture. The first run was grueling! It was
two miles of huffing and puffing when I finally stepped off the treadmill!). The thing that kept me moving
forward was the clear plan my wife had laid out for our training and the reward that would come from
finishing the race. Day after day it was a challenge to persevere as two miles turned into 8, that turned into
16, that turned into 20! Through all the pain and lifestyle adjustments I kept my eyes fixed on the end goal.
When I limped across the finish line the feelings of joy and jubilation made every moment of the journey
worth it. God has laid out the plan and training required to finish this race. Through trials of all kinds he has
given us His word to guide us to the finish line. Today may you keep your eyes fixed on Jesus, the author
and perfector of our faith. May you plant your feet deeply into his word that you may persevere through the
days we face ahead!

-Pastor Nate Drege

PRAISE
“Trust & Obey” - Chelsea Moon w/ the Franz Brothers - https://youtu.be/IrSCxfN2B8
“Praise You In This Storm” - Casting Crowns - https://youtu.be/MgpaULjZOl8

Praise
Celebrate God

Repent
Agree with God

Ask
Enquire of God

Yield
Surrender to God
PREPARE
John 8:31-36
So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed him, “If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, 32 and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.” 33 They answered him, “We are offspring of Abraham and have never been enslaved to anyone. How is it that you say, ‘You will become free’?” Jesus answered them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who practices sin is a slave to sin. 35 The slave does not remain in the house forever; the son remains forever. 36 So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.

DEVOTIONAL
Sometimes, especially when I am struggling, I need to get back to the basics of the Christian life. As we come to the last two days of this special series, 30 for 30, it is important to be reminded again of a couple simple truths. Today’s emphasis is on the importance of God’s Word.

Jesus says something very important in this passage: abiding in and persevering in God’s Word confirms to us that we are his followers. When we depend on God’s Word, when we look to and cherish his promises, we are exhibiting our trust in God, which confirms to me that I his child. That is a very encouraging thing! If I want to see if my faith is real, Jesus tells me that one way to recognize and authenticate my faith is to see how much I trust his Word. Trusting God’s Word sets me free from worry, fear, and whatever else might be enslaving me.

God’s Word establishes me in faith, when I believe it. If Jesus says the truth will set me free, I believe it. God’s Word gives me a rock-solid confidence to move forward, in faith. What special promises to you have that you cling to regularly? As we wrap up the month of April and move into May, don’t forget the habit of daily being in God’s Word and clinging to the truths he has given to you.

-Pastor Craig Johnson

PRAISE
“Word of God, Speak” – Mercy Me - youtube.com/watch?v=JTY-UKgLlXs&feature=emb_logo
“Word of God” – Vertical Worship - youtube.com/watch?time_continue=27&v=mJm1HvEWVLY&feature=emb_logo

Praise
Celebrate God

Repent
Agree with God

Ask
Enquire of God

Yield
Surrender to God
PREPARE

John 8:56-59

Your father Abraham rejoiced that he would see my day. He saw it and was glad.” So the Jews said to him, “You are not yet fifty years old, and have you seen Abraham?” Jesus said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I am.” So they picked up stones to throw at him, but Jesus hid himself and went out of the temple.

DEVOTIONAL

On this last day of our 30 for 30 series, there is no more important truth to rest on than the person of Jesus. Who is Jesus? Our answer to this question is critical to each one of us. I love what A.W. Tozer says: “What comes into our minds when we think about God is the most important thing about us.” This passage tells us that Jesus is God.

Think about just two truths these verses teach us. One, God’s independence. Jesus does not depend on someone or something else for anything. Paul said it this way: “The God who made the world and everything in it, being Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in temples made by man, nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mankind life and breath and everything.” (Acts 17:24–25) God doesn’t have needs like us. He is not dependent on anything or anyone else. There are no barriers, no enemies, no outside influences that change or sway God. He is totally independent!

Second, God is unchangeable. “Of old you laid the foundation of the earth, and the heavens are the work of your hands. They will perish, but you will remain; they will all wear out like a garment. You will change them like a robe, and they will pass away, but you are the same, and your years have no end.” (Psalm 102:25–27) Each of us changes in so many ways, especially in difficult times. God doesn’t change. He is our sure rock, our dependable foundation in the storms of this life.

I encourage you to meditate on these simple, amazing truths about Jesus today. Jesus, only Jesus, is worthy of all our praise!

-Pastor Craig Johnson

PRAISE

“Jesus, only Jesus” – Matt Redman https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8QjbugX8hY0

“Is He Worthy?” – Andrew Peterson https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DMWrAqMWhWs