

You learn the most about someone when you see them go through tough times. I've heard that saying many times. A similar phrase says, you learn who your real friends are when life gets hard. I hope we will see both of these are true during our Lent Study this year.

Lent is the 40 days (not counting Sundays) leading up to Easter. Often during Lent, we spend little time focusing on the crucifixion of Jesus. This Lent, we are going to spend those 40 days focused on the final 24 hours of Jesus' life. Instead of seeing Jesus healing, teaching, and reaching people, we will see Jesus experience betrayal, denial, torture, and execution.

These difficult situations Jesus faced will show us the real character of Jesus. He was strong and humble. He was anxious and resilient. He was loving and forgiving, even in the face of pain and anger. Jesus shows his true self.

We are then called to recognize that in the midst of these tough times, Jesus did not face them for himself. He faced these tough times to bring glory to God, and to bring us freedom. He traveled this road and took the punishment for our sins, to give us a new life.

My hope is that by focusing on the timeline of Jesus' final hours, you will know that Jesus is a friend and savior who will always be there for you, even through the darkest of times in your life. He endured these tough times and will go with you through anything and everything.

God bless you as you travel The Timeline.

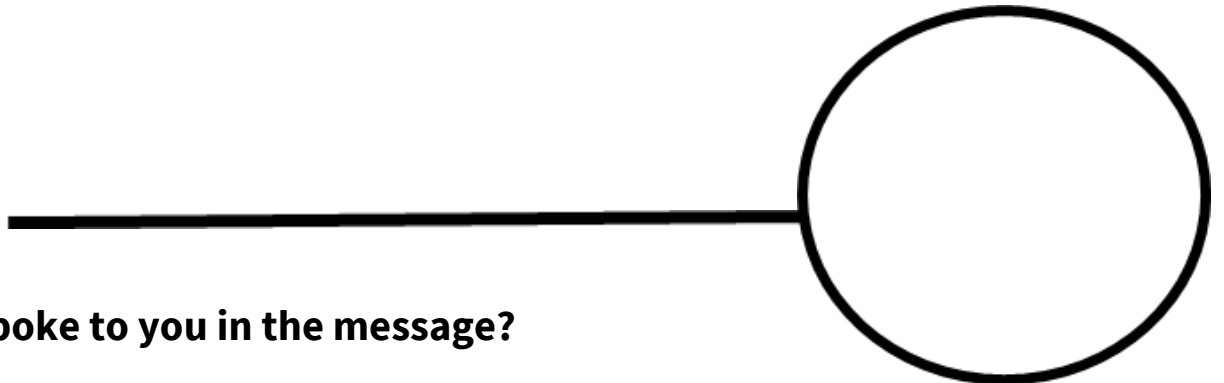
Pastor James

## Week 1

Jesus' final 24 hours begin with the Passover meal. This is an annual meal to celebrate how God delivered their ancestors from slavery in Egypt. Jesus will transform this meal into a celebration of freedom from slavery to sin through the sacrifice he was about to make. Notice this week how Jesus offers a new idea on how to be God's people.

### **EXPERIENCE** God's Love.

**Prayer Focus: Where has God prepared you for what you are facing today? Each time you see a circle from the timeline you can write a few words that come to your heart or mind in prayer or reading this week.**



**What spoke to you in the message?**

# DEVELOP

Relationships.

## **Day 1: Read Mark 14:12-25**

1. What special preparations do you make when you have people coming to your house?
2. What was the reaction of the disciples to the news that one of them would betray Jesus?
3. What profound meaning does Jesus give to the Passover bread and the Passover cup?
4. What does the bread and cup mean to you?

## Day 2: Read Deuteronomy 16:1-8

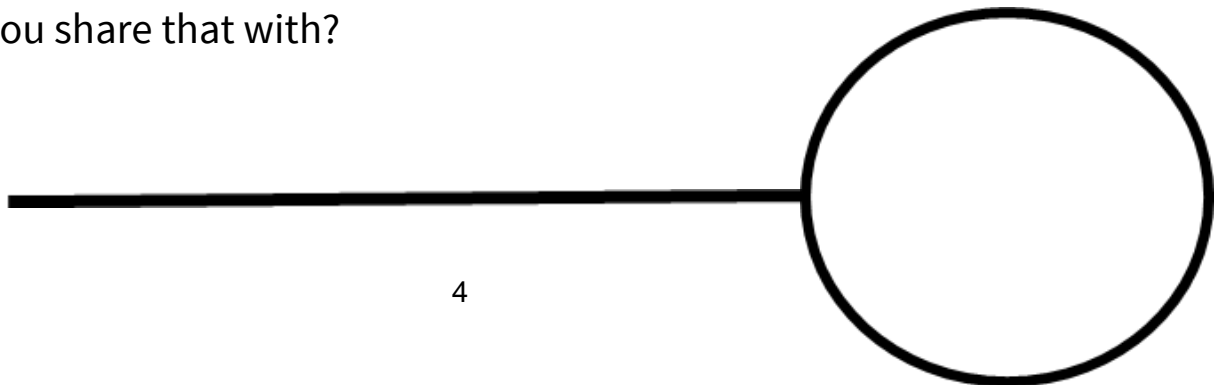
For more on the Passover you can read the event that is remembered in Exodus 12:12-28.

1. What tradition in your family has important specific details?  
(Examples: dressing must be made with sourdough bread or cranberry relish must have orange peel in it.)

2. What anniversaries do you remember and celebrate? Could be things like moving to a new home or the death of a loved one.

3. Why was Passover celebrated? What were some of the instructions God gave the Israelites in this passage?

4. How do you regularly remember what God has done in your life?  
Who do you share that with?



### **Day 3: Read Hebrews 9:11-15**

Note: Hebrews 9:1-10 describes the Old Covenant.

1. Share a time from your childhood when your guilty conscience made you come clean.

2. How did the blood of the animal sacrifices cleanse the people? What did Jesus' blood do that theirs could not?

3. How has Christ's sacrifice and cleansing of your conscience changed your life?

4. What present-day analogies might help clarify this to non-believers?

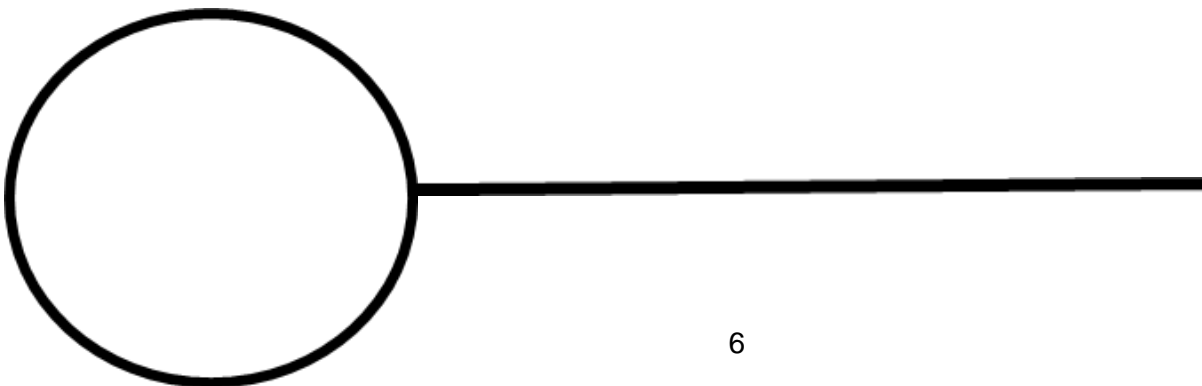
**Day 4: Read John 6:35-60**

1. What type of bread are you today: All natural, rye, moldy, crusty, or easy to butter up?

2. What promises did Jesus make to everyone who comes to Him?

3. Later, how were the Jews misunderstanding Jesus' words? How do people misunderstand His words today?

4. How can we feed on Jesus Christ the Bread of Life? How often do you feast on Him?



**Day 5: Read Luke 7:36-50**

1. How has someone gone out of their way to make you feel welcome in their home?

2. What lesson is Jesus teaching Simon in the parable?

3. What does Jesus see in the woman that Simon does not?

4. Who can you identify with the most in the story right now? The woman? The Pharisee? Jesus? Why?

5. Where have you been forgiven much and how does that help you forgive others?

# REVIVE

T h e W o r l d .

In this week's scripture Jesus said that he is the bread of life. He is a basic essential in life. What basic essentials do you see missing in the lives of people around you? What are the biggest needs of our community? Discuss with your small group or a friend.

## Week 2

Jesus looks for support this week as he feels the pressure building. Notice this week where struggles and temptations can come from. Also, notice how God can encourage us to overcome.

# EXPERIENCE

G o d ' s L o v e .

**Prayer Focus: Where are you overwhelmed? Who around you is overwhelmed and in need of prayer?**

**What spoke to you in the message?**



# DEVELOP

Relationships.

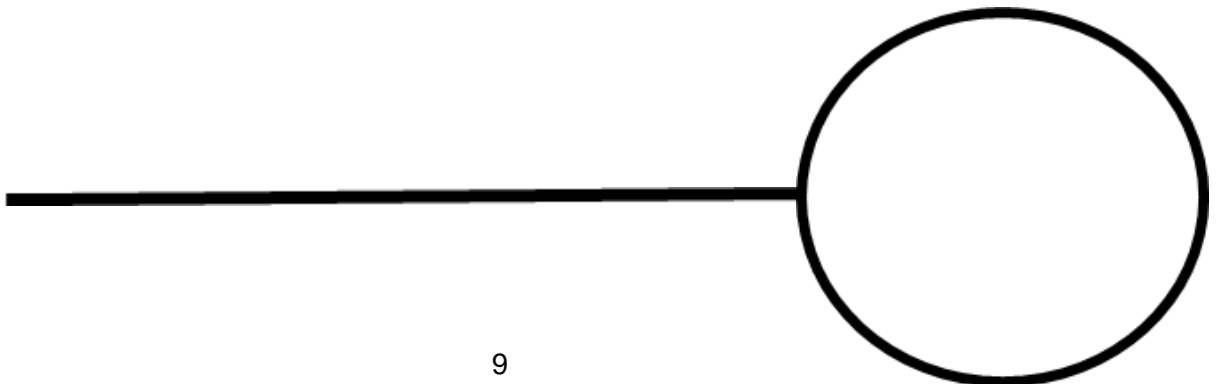
## Day 1: Read Mark 14:32-42

1. Have you ever let a friend down by forgetting an event or being late? How did you feel?

2. How does this passage describe what Jesus was feeling?

3. How does it make you feel knowing Jesus experienced those feelings?

4. What can we learn from Jesus' prayer?



## **Day 2: Read Genesis 3:1-13**

1. When you were young, what was “off limits” to you?
2. How did the serpent entice Eve? How does Satan use those tactics today?
3. How did Adam and Eve respond when God asked them if they had eaten from the forbidden tree? How do you respond when caught in the act?
4. How did this passage “open your eyes” to actions or attitudes that should be changed in your life?

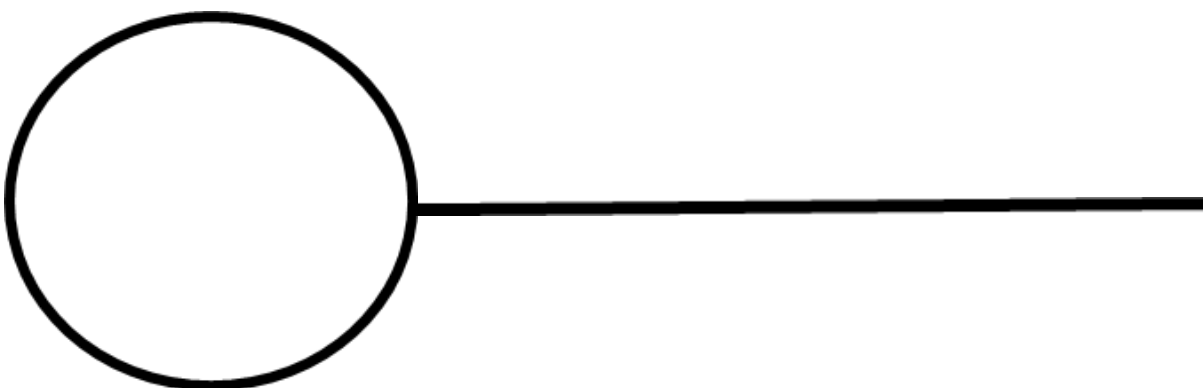
**Day 3: Read Luke 4:1-13**

1. If you were emperor of the world, what would be your first decree?

2. What are the different ways Satan tempted Jesus and how did Jesus respond?

3. What do we learn about Satan's methods and Jesus' responses that can help us be better prepared for Satan's temptations?

4. What scripture will you memorize this week to help you resist your temptations?



**Day 4: Read 2 Corinthians 12:7-10**

1. What embarrassing moment in your life helps keep you humble?

2. What is Paul's response to his thorn remaining?

3. How do you react when God appears to be silent?

4. What "thorns" have you asked God to remove from you?

5. Boast about a time when God's power was made perfect in your weakness.

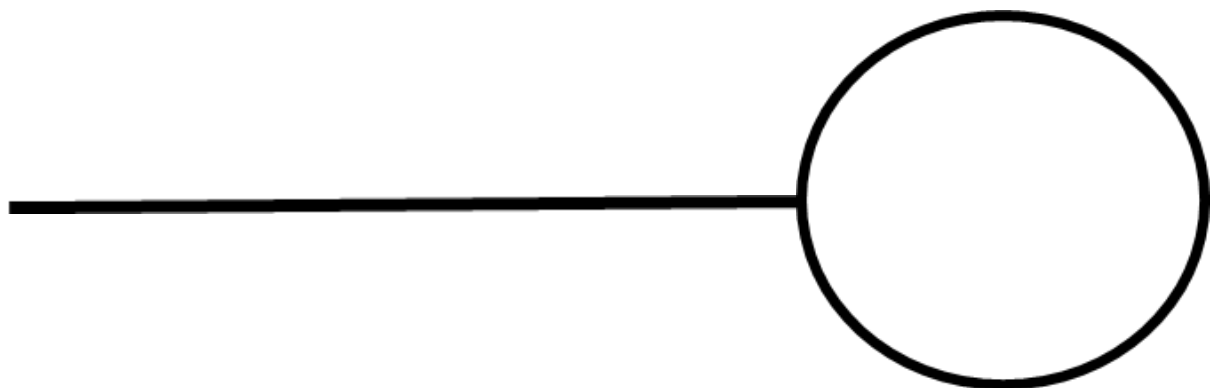
## Day 5: Read Psalm 86

1. What is a way that someone makes you feel like you are special?

2. What four reasons does David give for God to answer him (v1-4)?

3. What attributes of God are listed in this psalm? For which are you most thankful and why?

4. How can you relate your attitude to David in this Psalm? If your heart is “divided”, what can restore your internal unity?



# REVIVE

The World.

Jesus wanted prayer from his disciples. Who can you pray for? Maybe there is a friend who needs you to pray with them this week. Another idea would be to pray for a ministry close to your heart.

## Week 3

Jesus faces false accusations and the denial of one of his closest friends. Notice this week how lies and deception do not lead to God's best. However, there can also be forgiveness and restoration.

# EXPERIENCE

God's Love.

**Prayer Focus: Where do you struggle to fully follow Jesus' call on your life?**

**What spoke to you in the message?**

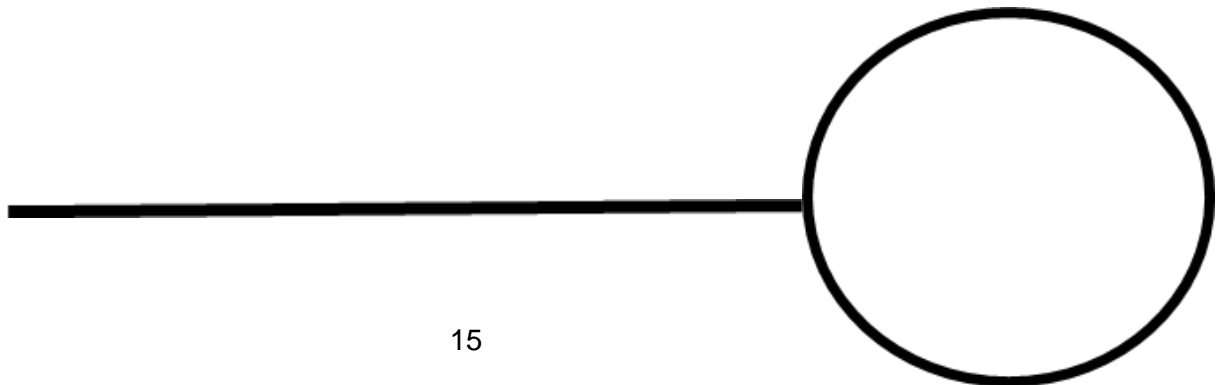
## Day 1 Read: Mark 14:53-72

1. When have you witnessed injustice and how did you feel?

2. What was the goal of the meeting of the Sanhedrin and why was it proving difficult to accomplish?

4. How did Jesus handle the questions from the Sanhedrin? How did Peter handle the questions in the courtyard? What can we learn from this?

5. How do you deny Jesus in your daily life today? Why?



## **Day 2 Read Matthew 21:23-27**

1. When have you done something embarrassing, but thankfully no one was around?

2. Why did the chief priest and elders question Jesus as he was teaching?

3. Why wouldn't the chief priests and elders answer Jesus' question?

4. How does pride keep people today from wanting to know the truth about Jesus?

5. Where are you more concerned about being politically correct than with honoring God?



### **Day 3 Read 1 John 1:5-2:2**

1. What lie of yours landed you in trouble as a child?
2. In verse 9 what does it say is necessary for forgiveness? Is that a regular part of your prayer life?
3. Why does John say he is writing these words? What hope does he give us?
4. What are the pitfalls of denying the sin within us?
5. How could confession improve our relationship with Jesus, our atoning sacrifice?

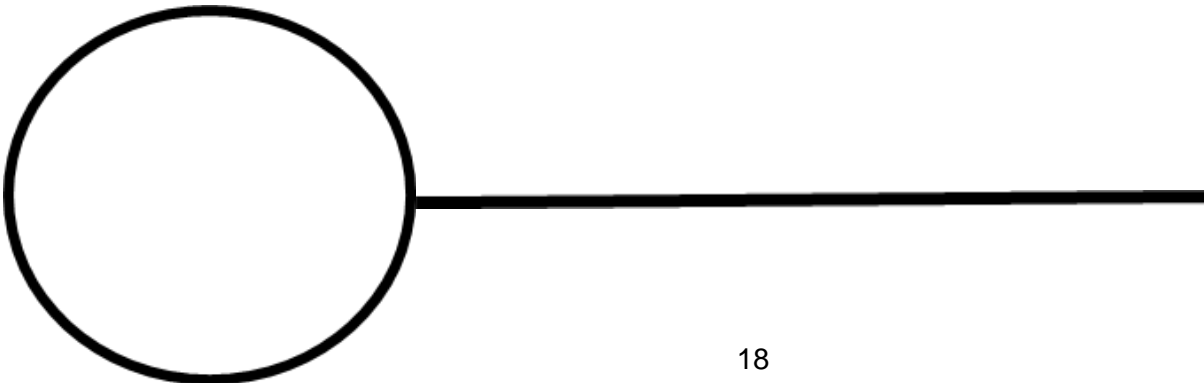
## **Day 4 Read Psalm 38**

1. What is the first part of your body to serve as an alarm clock that “something’s wrong”?

2. Do you relate to David’s description in Psalm 38:5-12? Why do you think God would allow a person after God’s heart to experience those kinds of things?

3. What kinds of suffering is David experiencing in this Psalm? To what does he attribute it?

4. In verses 15 and 18, what does David say he is doing? What does David ask of God in the end? Do you think your actions/responses would be similar or not?



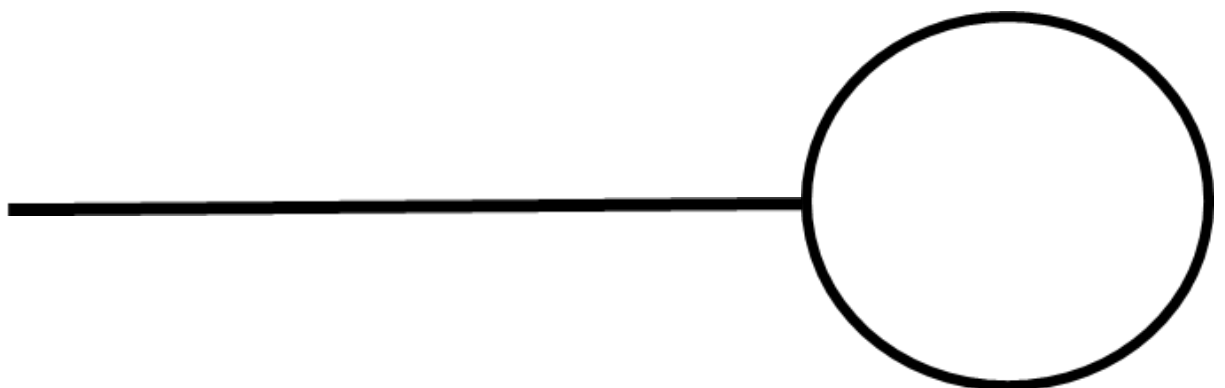
**Day 5 Read John 21:15-19**

1. Who was expected to do most of the chores around the house when you were young? Who got off the easiest?

2. What did Jesus ask Peter three times? Why do you think the three times is significant?

3. What did it mean to feed or shepherd the sheep?

4. If Jesus asked you the same question, how would you respond? In what ways can you help “feed” Jesus’ sheep?



# REVIVE

The World.

Jesus told Peter to care for his lambs. On Saturday, April 1 at 10:00am Christ Church will have our annual Easter Egg Hunt. Last year over 125 kids came. You can support this event by:

- Filling plastic eggs
- Serve that day and welcome the kids and their families
- Inviting any kids in sixth grade and below

## Week 4

Jesus is set next to an actual criminal. Pilate allows the crowd to decide who is guilty and who is innocent. In the end, the innocent one is handed over as guilty. Notice this week how God allowed the innocent one to free the guilty.

## EXPERIENCE

God's Love.

**Prayer Focus: Where do you feel out of place? Sometimes we are sent by God to where we feel out of place because we need to bring God's love and grace there. Other times it means it is time to move on from that place.**

**What spoke to you in the message?**

# DEVELOP

Relationships.

## **Day 1 Read: Mark 15:1-15**

1. When have you let yourself get caught up in what a group was doing even though you disagreed?

2. Why do you think Jesus was so silent before Pilate?

3. What did Pilate try to do to appease the crowd? What was the result?

4. What are some of the emotions you feel when trying to please everyone?

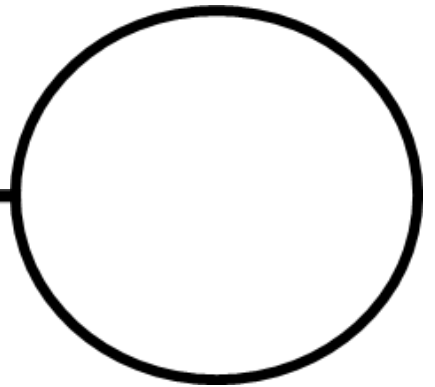
5. How are people using their voices today to make change either for good or for bad?

**Day 2 Read John 8:1-11**

1. As a child, when were you caught “red-handed” doing something you shouldn’t have?

2. What does it say about the Jews that they were willing to risk the woman’s life with their plan?

3. How did Jesus diffuse their plan?



4. What lessons are there for us in the words Jesus spoke to the woman that would apply to our interactions with others?

5. When did you come to realize that Jesus values you as a person?

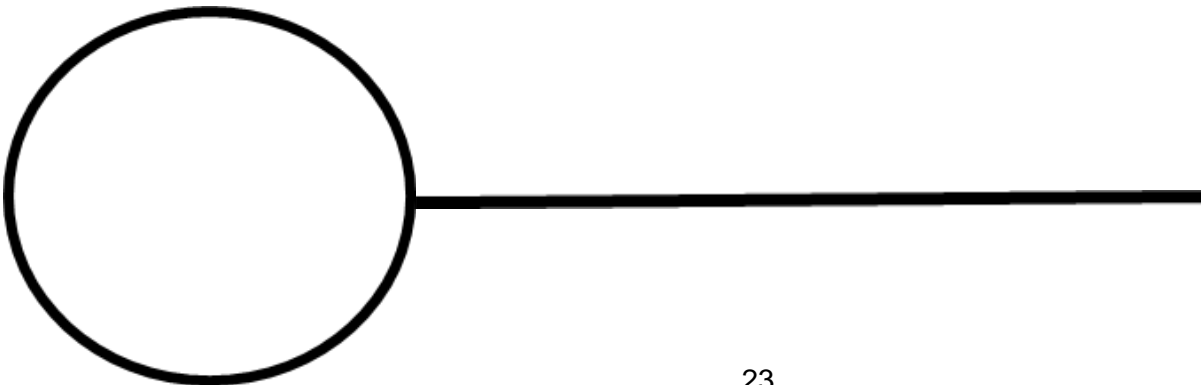
### **Day 3 Read Isaiah 53:1-6**

1. How does outward appearance influence your perception of people you meet?

2. How does the servant appear to the people?

3. How were verses 4 and 5 fulfilled by Jesus?

4. Read verses 4 and 5 substituting your name for the pronouns our, we, and us. How does that make you feel about Jesus' sacrifice for you?



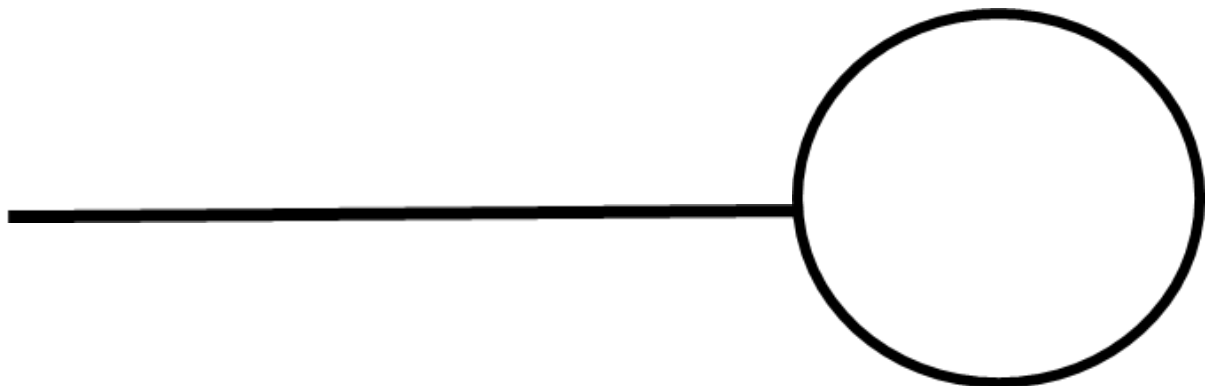
**Day 4 Read Romans 5:6-11**

1. When have you done a good deed for someone you really didn't think deserved it? How did you feel about doing it?

2. What four words from these verses describe the condition of those for whom Christ died?

3. What justifies the sinner? What does being justified mean to the believer?

4. If you or someone you know feels powerless, what from this passage can give you strength?





## **Day 5 Read 2 Corinthians 5:11-21**

1. If you were appointed to be an ambassador, where would you like to be sent?

2. Before Paul became a Christian, how did he regard Christ? How do people do that today?

3. What does it mean that “God made him who had no sin to be sin for us”, and what did that do for us?

4. What has your love of Christ, your Savior, compelled you to do that others might think is crazy?

5. What is the job of an ambassador? How should knowing we are ambassadors for Christ to carry his message of reconciliation affect our daily lives?

# REVIVE

The World.

Jesus takes the place of Barabbas. Is there someone you could step into their place in order to serve them? This could be a parent you could offer to watch their kid(s) so they can have a break. It might be someone with a spouse who is in need of constant care that you could fill in for them. Or you may just want to do a chore that regularly belongs to someone else in your house.

## Week 5

Jesus faces torture and humiliation at the hands of his enemies. They are trying to break him. Here we see the brokenness of humanity as Jesus is attacked after doing nothing wrong. Notice this week how our hearts should break for others.

## EXPERIENCE

God's Love.

**Prayer Focus: Where do you respond to others out of frustration or anger? How might you grow in responding differently?**

**What spoke to you in the message?**

# DEVELOP

Relationships.

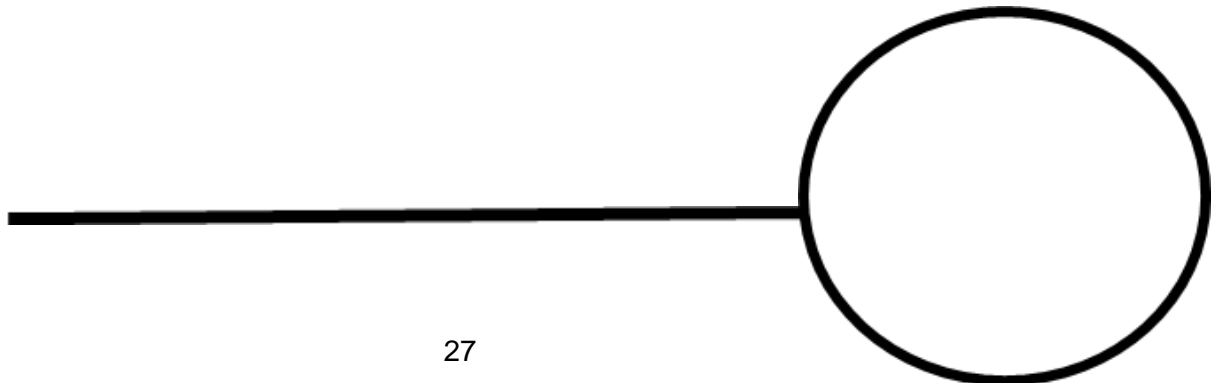
## Day 1 Read Mark 15:15b-20

1. What nickname do you dislike?

2. Why do you think the soldiers mocked Jesus? How did this add to Jesus' pain and humiliation?

3. How did their words and actions mock Jesus' true kingship?

4. How seriously do you take Jesus as King of your life? Do those around you know that you worship Jesus as King of your life?



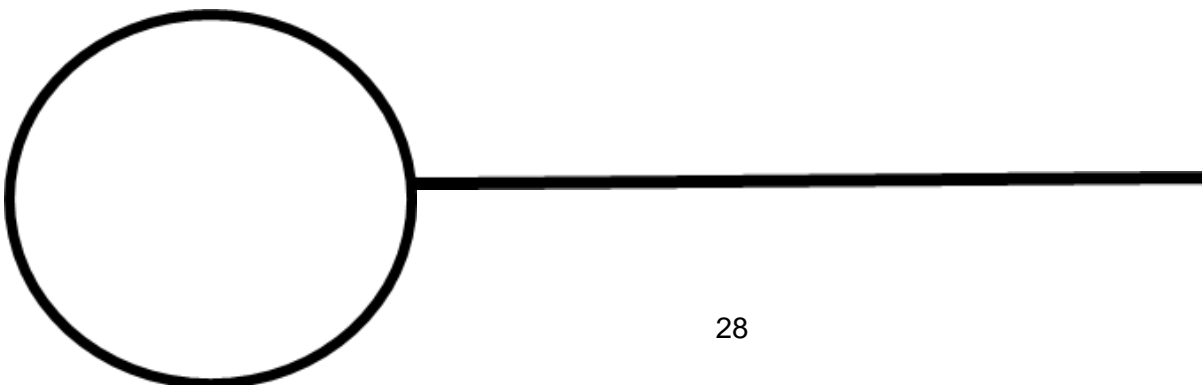
## **Day 2 Read Isaiah 53:7-12**

1. In what circumstance might you consider giving up an organ or even your life for someone else?

2. How does this passage written hundreds of years before Jesus seem to tell us about his death?

3. How does the explanation of Jesus' death in this scripture show it's more than a death, but a sacrifice?

4. How does reading it was the Lord's will to crush him and cause him to suffer make you feel?



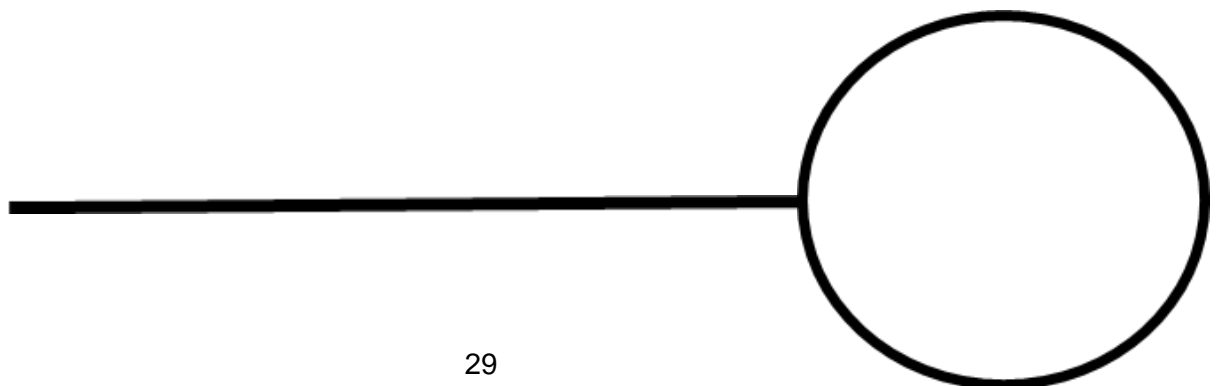
**Day 3 Read Luke 6:27-36**

1. Has showing love to an 'enemy' ever gained you a friend?

2. List the ways Jesus said we are to respond to mistreatment in verses 27-31. Which would you find the hardest?

3. What promise is given to believers for showing love to their enemies?

4. To what person does Jesus want you to show mercy this week?  
How will you pray for that situation?



**Day 4 Read Matthew 25:31-46**

1. How has someone's unexpected kindness really helped you through a rough time?
2. What criteria did the King use to separate the people of the nations?
3. What kinds of people are described as needing compassion?
4. How do you see Christ Church helping the 'least of these?' In what way would you like to be more involved with that?
5. If we are not saved by our good works, what is this passage saying?

## **Day 5 Read Romans 12:9-21**

1. As a child, who was the troublemaker in your family? Who was the peacemaker?
2. Of the commandments of this scripture which two are the easiest to follow in your life now?
3. Of the commandments of this scripture which are the most difficult for you to follow?
4. What does Paul say to do when we have a desire to take revenge against someone?
5. Which command from this passage do you find particularly helpful right now?

# REVIVE

The World.

Jesus endured pain and mocking at the hands of others. Prayerfully consider how you might forgive someone who has hurt you. Is there something you could do to show that forgiveness? You also might consider if there is someone you do not get along with. You could spend some time praying for them and consider why they may act the way they do. During this time, you might also pray about if there is someone you need to ask forgiveness from because of your past actions. Reconciliation can revive the world.

## Week 6

Jesus dies. He feels alone and separated from God the Father for the first time ever. This moment is so dark that even the sun refused to shine. Notice the significance of the cross this week.

# EXPERIENCE

God's Love.

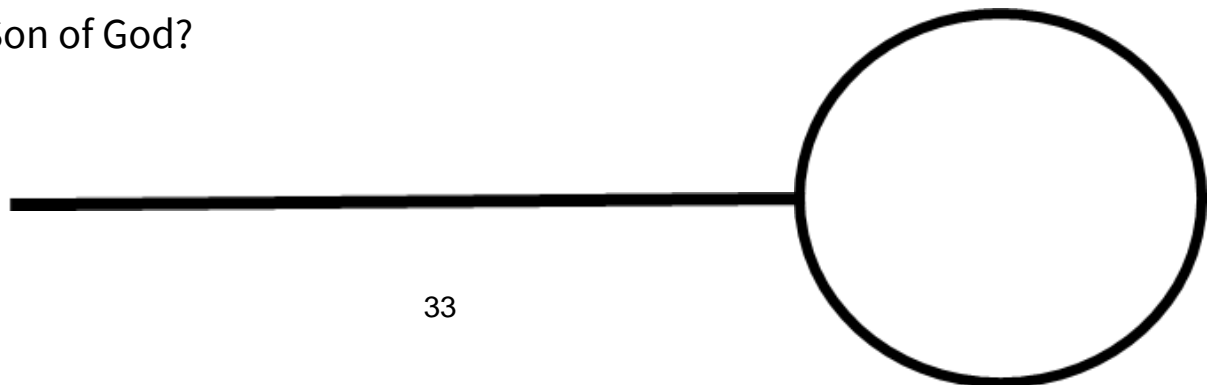
**Prayer Focus: How do you feel when you remember that Jesus died for you?**

**What spoke to you in the message?**



## Day 1 Read Mark 15:25-39

1. Have you ever sat with someone who was dying?
2. What kinds of people witnessed the crucifixion? How did they treat Jesus?
3. Has there been a time when you felt forsaken by God but found blessing on the other side of it?
4. What do you think was different about Jesus' death that caused the centurion to make his comment? What made you certain Jesus is the Son of God?



## **Day 2 Read Psalm 22:1-21**

1. When do you feel the loneliest?
2. How would you describe the mood in this passage?
3. What parallels to the end of Jesus' life do you see in this psalm?
4. When you are stricken with grief or feeling abandoned by God, how do you express yourself?
5. How does it help to know that Jesus experienced despair and felt the same way?

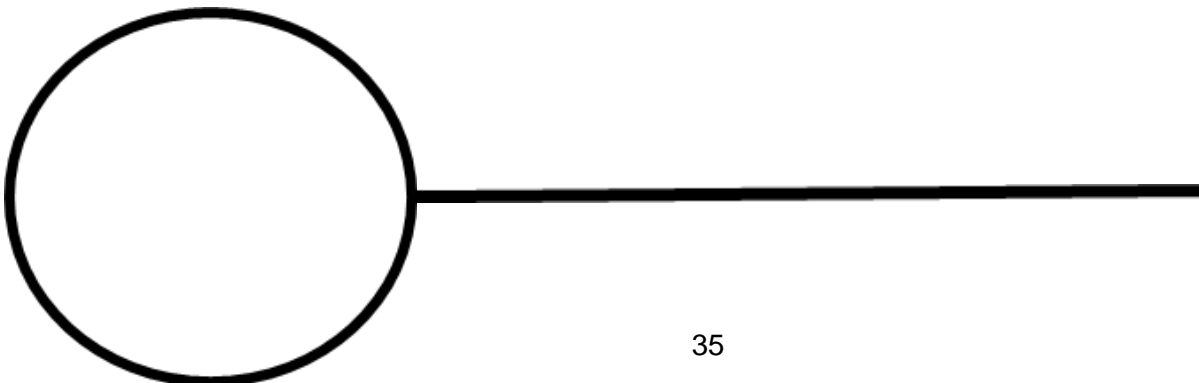
### **Day 3 Read Hebrews 10:19-25**

1. What have you done recently that you needed to gather your confidence?

2. What are the four “let us” statements in verses 22-25? What does each mean?

3. How does this passage help you understand the symbolism of the torn curtain at Jesus’ death? What does it mean to you personally?

4. How have the actions of another believer spurred you on toward love and good deeds? What will you do this week to encourage someone?



## **Day 4 Read 1 Corinthians 1:18-25**

1. What is the least useful class you have taken in school?

2. How do we see this passage in our Mark 15:25-39 passage from Day 1? (What foolish things were being done?)

3. Why is the message of the cross foolishness to some and the power of God to others?

4. How do we see God making foolish the wisdom of the world today?

5. What picture comes to mind when you think of a successful powerful person? How does this idea sometimes conflict with Christ?

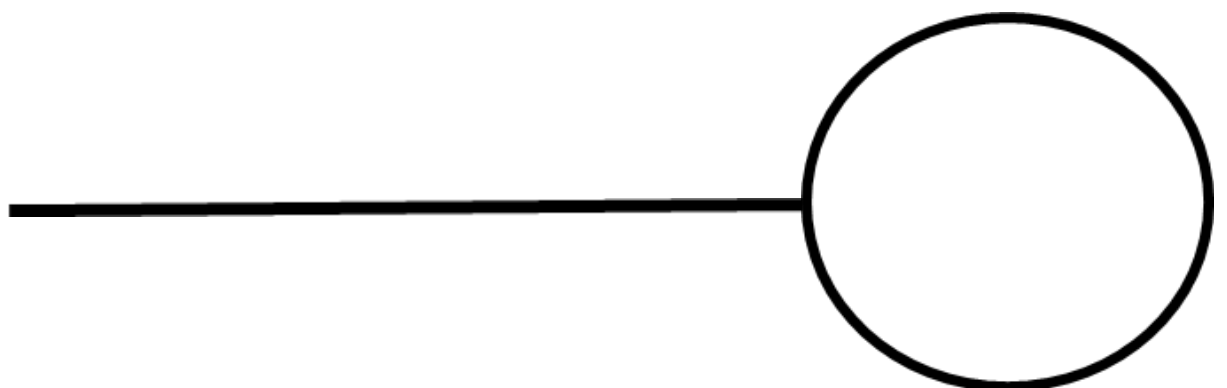
**Day 5 Read Luke 9:18-27**

1. In whose footsteps have you wanted to follow?

2. Who were the people saying Jesus was? Who did Peter say he was? Do you agree? Why do you think they could not tell anyone yet?

3. What does Jesus tell the disciples is going to happen to him? Do you think they understood?

4. What does it mean for you to deny yourself? Take up your cross daily? Lose your life?



# REVIVE

The World.

Jesus gave his life for sinners, which may seem like foolishness. This week, in a me-first world, put others first. Find ways to foolishly serve others. Pay for the person behind you at the drive-thru. Let someone go in front of you in line at the cashier. Give a little more of yourself to others than you normally would.

## Week 7

The resurrection of Jesus is the ultimate proof that all of Jesus' teaching can be trusted. It is also a promise of new life for all of us who believe in him. This week notice the call to live for Jesus.

# EXPERIENCE

God's Love.

**Prayer Focus: Where is Jesus leading you to new life?**

**What spoke to you in the message?**

# DEVELOP

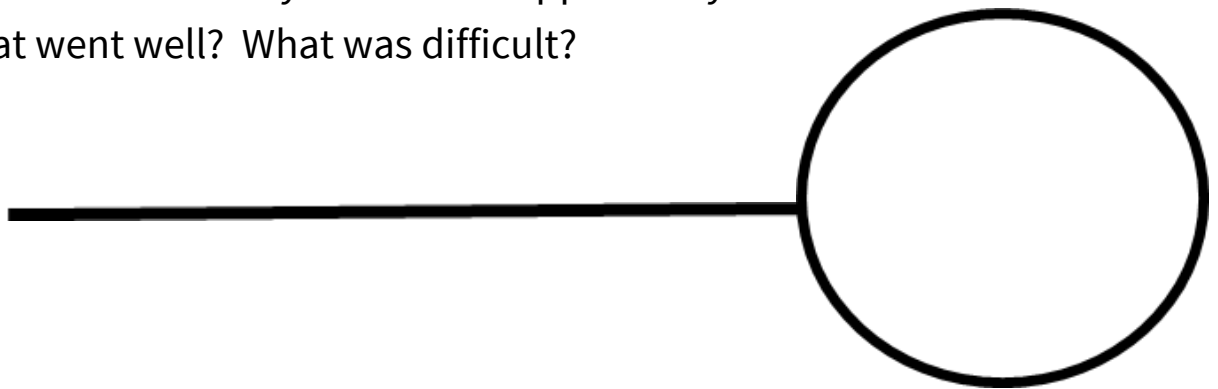
Relationships.

## Day 1 Read Mark 16:1-8

1. What is the most incredible event you have seen? How did you convince others that it really happened?
2. What does the actions of the women going to the tomb tell you about their faith?
3. What did they find when they arrived at the tomb and what instructions were they given? Why do you think Peter was singled out?
4. Why do people have a hard time believing Jesus' resurrection today? Does it matter?
5. If you were there, would you have had trouble believing the angel's words? What would have been your reaction at that time?

## Day 2 Read Acts 2:29-41

1. What is your favorite quote? Or share about a speech that impacted your life.
2. How do the people respond when Peter tells the crowd they were responsible for crucifying Jesus? What did he tell them they needed to do?
3. Share about a time you took the opportunity to witness for Jesus. What went well? What was difficult?

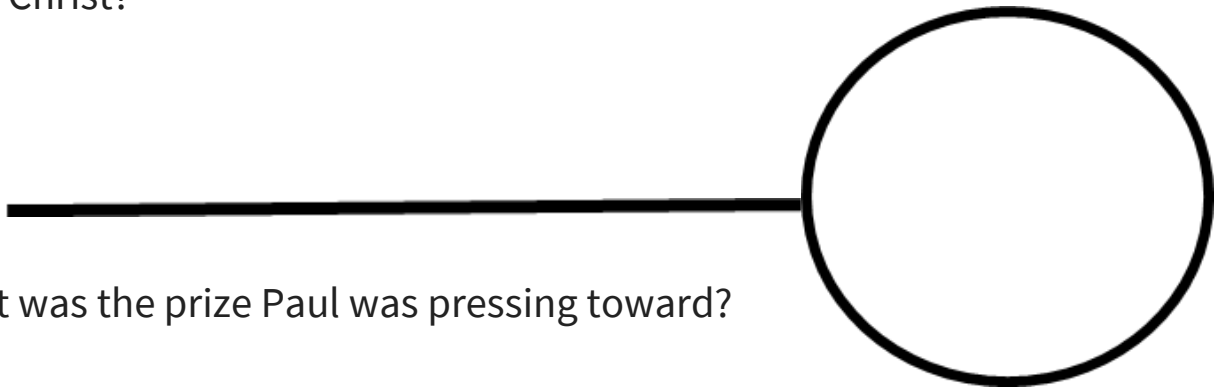


Note: Peter called those listening to repent and be baptized. On Sunday, April 30th at 6:30pm we will have a Baptism Night. At this event, anyone who wants to will have the opportunity to be baptized by immersion, which means going fully under water. There will also be the opportunity for those who have been baptized to remember their baptism and recommit themselves to Jesus by immersion as well. Talk with Pastor James if you have questions.



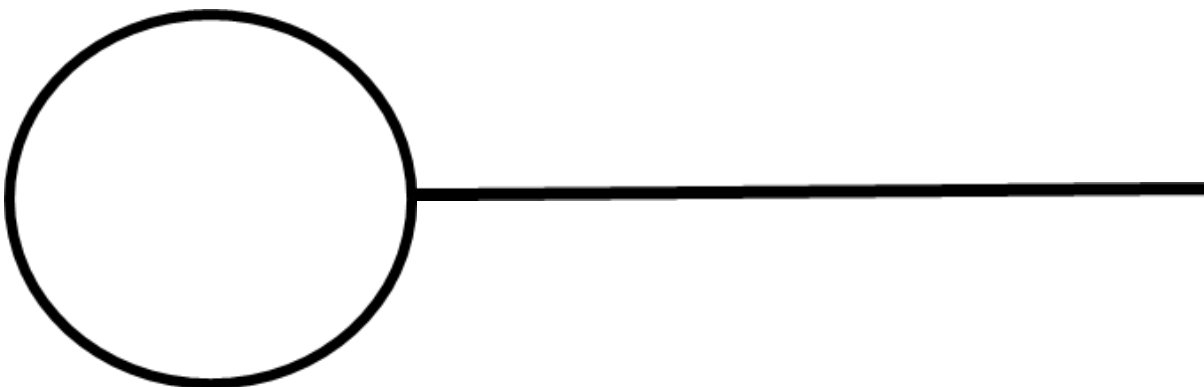
**Day 3 Read Philippians 3:4-14**

1. What skill do you have that you could brag about?
2. What do you think Paul means in verse 10 when he talks about the power of the resurrection?
3. In what was Paul putting his confidence before he encountered Christ? What things do people rely on today for salvation other than Christ?
4. What was the prize Paul was pressing toward?
5. How important is your relationship with Christ to you? What steps will you take to deepen that relationship after the study?



Day 4 Read Galatians 2:15-21

1. What traditions have been handed down in your family or what traditions are you passing down?
2. How would you explain verse 20?
3. What would make Christ's death meaningless?
4. If you are a self-made person who likes to see everyone pay their own way, how does this gospel of undeserved grace strike you?



## **Day 5 Read Luke 14:25-35**

1. If you were on a TV game show, having won \$25,000, how willing would you be to risk it for the grand prize of \$50,000?
2. What three stipulations does Jesus give for people to be able to be his disciples? What two examples of counting the cost? What do you think he wanted them and us to understand?
3. What is the cost of not following Jesus wholeheartedly (verses 34-35)? How can we as a church encourage each other to stay salty?
4. Is there someone or something you fear losing more than Jesus? How will you pray about that?

# REVIVE

The World.

Jesus brings new life. Sunday, May 7th is Revive Sunday. There will be many opportunities to serve our community. Decide if you want to serve a project together as a small group or just have everyone pick the project that fits them. Get signed up and prepare to revive the world as a Christ Church community.