

evyouth



KNOWING GOD

JOHN 15-21

WEEK 2: JOHN 15:26-16:15

We're starting in week 2, because this will line up with what your parents are reading in the daily reading notes with the rest of church. This week we pick up where we left off last year, part-way through an extended speech that Jesus gives to his eleven disciples in an 'upper room'. This is happening on the night of Jesus' betrayal. This whole section is Jesus saying "here's everything you need to know for when I go away."

DAY 1: He will testify about me

Read John 15:26-27

1. Jesus refers to the Spirit as the 'advocate'. You might have also heard the word translated as 'comforter' or 'helper'. What do these words show us about who the Spirit is and what he does to us and for us?

2. Earlier, in 14:16, Jesus used this same word, describing the Spirit as 'another advocate'. Read that verse and consider: what is revealed about Jesus' relationship with the Spirit? How are they the same, and how are they different?

3. In these chapters, we're going to learn a lot about the Trinity. *Trinity* is a technical word expressing the mind-blowing fact that God is *three* persons in *one* God - Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Remember it like this: tri (three) + unity (oneness) = Trinity. Consider these two verses together, what is revealed in each about the distinct relations between Father, Son and Spirit? (Who sends who? Who 'goes out' / 'proceeds' from who?)

4. In these verses, we see both an order and distinction in the members of the Trinity, as well as a unity of purpose and action. What would you say is the goal of this action in 15:26-27?

If you're confused by the idea of the Trinity, don't worry! These are deep truths about our massive God that Christians have puzzled over for the last 2000 years. Keep reading, and keep praying that the Spirit will help you understand these things. And you'll enjoy getting to know God better and better every time you come back to think about this stuff.

Prayer: Thank God that he has revealed himself in three persons working in perfect unity for his glory and our good. Thank God for the work of the Spirit, as he reveals Jesus to us.

DAY 2: Remember, I warned you

Read John 16:1-4a

1. In verse 1, 'all this' refers most immediately to 15:18-27. What kinds of things has Jesus been telling his disciples?+
2. What reason does Jesus give in 16:1 for why he is saying these things? How does him saying these things prevent this outcome?
3. How does the context of anticipated suffering in 15:18-27 shine new light on the promise of the Spirit coming to testify about Jesus? Why is the Spirit's work necessary in this context?
4. Re-read verses 2-3. Jesus describes the behaviour of those who think they are offering service to God. What reason does Jesus give for this behaviour (verse 3)? How should we think about those who oppose us as Christians? What ought our prayers for them be from this verse?

Prayer: Ask God to help us shape our expectations of the Christian life around the experience of Jesus and his words to us. Ask that he might keep us and our brothers and sisters from falling away. Ask that when we are opposed for our faith we might pray for the salvation of those opposing us.

DAY 3 : It is for your good that I am going

Read John 16:4b-7

1. Why are the disciples grieving? What does Jesus want them to understand?
2. Why is it good for the disciples that Jesus leaves?
3. Jesus says, unless he goes the advocate will not come. This is not because he is the advocate and needs to go and do a costume change! (This would be a form of the heresy called 'modalism' whereby God exists sometimes as Father, sometimes as Son and sometimes as Spirit.) No, Jesus has already clearly referred to the Father and Spirit as distinct persons from himself (eg. 15:25). Rather, this is about what Jesus is yet to accomplish. What light do the following verses shed on what must happen before the Spirit comes?
 - a. Isaiah 11:1-10
 - b. Joel 2:28-32
 - c. John 18:4 and 11
 - d. John 19:28-30
4. It can be tempting to think that the Christian life would be easier if we lived in the time when Jesus was physically here on earth. How do these verses correct that view? How ought these verses make us thankful to live in this time of the Spirit?

Prayer: Give thanks that Jesus went to the cross and ascended to the Father so that we could receive his Spirit. Give thanks that he remains with us by his Spirit, and that we are blessed to live in an age where we have his presence always.

DAY 4: The Spirit in the world

Read John 16:7-11

Jesus continues to teach about the work of the Spirit.

1. When the Spirit comes, what will he do? Why?
2. In what sense might the world be “wrong” about:
 - a. Sin?
 - b. Righteousness?
 - c. Judgement?
3. How do the following verses help make sense of these statements?
 - a. John 3:19-20, 6:21
 - b. Isaiah 64:5, Matthew 5:20
 - c. John 7:24
4. What continuity can you see between what the Spirit will do and what Jesus has been doing? Why is it good then that the Spirit comes?
5. Given what the disciples have been asked to do in 15:27, how would these verses help them take heart in that task? What encouragement do you find in them?

Prayer: Give thanks that God has sent his Spirit so that people may come to a knowledge of the truth. Ask that God would continue to shape your heart to see the evil of sin, and the depths of our need for Christ and his judgement. Ask that he might be at work in your school and on the Coast to convict people of their need for Jesus and that he might use you in that work.

DAY 5: He will glorify me

Read John 16:12-15

1. When the Spirit comes, what does Jesus say he will do?
2. What do you think is meant by “he will guide you into all truth”? How do the following verses help sharpen our understanding of this promise?
 - a. John 14:26
 - b. John 15:26
 - c. John 16:14
 - d. Hebrews 1:1-3a
3. This promise may be easily misunderstood, because Jesus is not speaking directly to us. Jesus is speaking to his disciples who went on to teach the world about Jesus, and left behind the whole New Testament to teach later generations. How do we benefit from this promise being fulfilled to them? In what way does the Spirit continue to reveal the same truth to us today?
4. What (or rather who) is the focus of the Spirit’s revealing work in these verses? How should this shape what we expect the Spirit to be doing in our lives?

Prayer: Give thanks that God has made himself known through his Son and his Spirit. Give thanks for his provision of his Spirit-breathed word so that we can know him today. Ask that God would be at work by his Spirit to glorify his Son in your eyes and in the eyes of others.

WEEK 3: JOHN 16:16-33

DAY 1: Your grief will turn to joy

Read John 16:17-20

1. In these verses, Jesus mentions two “little whiles”. What does he say will happen after each “little while”? What events do you think he is referring to? (There are a couple of options!)
2. What are the different reactions of the world and the disciples to these events? Why are they so different?
3. How do you see these reactions playing out today?
4. What hope does Jesus give to the disciples? How and when do you think this will happen? What encouragement is this to you today?

Prayer: Give thanks for the joy we have this side of the death and resurrection of Jesus. Ask him to help us to long for the fullness of that joy at Jesus’ return. Ask that more and more people would move from darkness to light, from their opposition to Jesus to finding lasting joy in him.

DAY 2: No one will take away your joy

Read John 16:20-22

1. What is the time being spoken of here? (see yesterday)
2. Jesus adopts the metaphor of childbirth to describe what the disciples' experience will be like. What similarities does he draw between childbirth and the disciples’ experience? Why do you think he uses this metaphor?
3. What here is especially true about the apostles’ experience? What is true of all Christians? (See also Romans 8:22-25, 2 Timothy 3:12.)
4. In light of today's verses how would you respond to the following ideas:
 - a. “It’s important that Christians put a positive spin on things and honour God by not being too down about life.”
 - b. “Being in Christ protects you from hardship in this life.”

Prayer: Thank God that we can be honest about suffering and grief in a world marked by sin, suffering, and, at times, suffering for bearing the name of Christ. Give thanks for the promise of abiding joy that is given us in Christ.

DAY 3: The Father loves you

Read John 16:22-27

Jesus gives some time to discussing who the disciples go to with their requests, and to whom they will go in the future.

1. What changes does he anticipate?
2. What change does this express in their relationship with the Father?
3. What does this reveal about what Jesus' death and resurrection will achieve? (See also John 14.)
4. What does it mean to ask things 'in Jesus name'? How does 14:13 help?

Prayer: Thank God that we can come to him as our Father because of Jesus. Ask that by his Spirit he would remind us of our status as his children. Ask that his Spirit would help us to know what will glorify his Son in our lives and to prayerfully seek these things.

DAY 4: Do you now believe?

Read John 16:28-32

1. What do the disciples now believe, and why?
2. What does Jesus reveal to them about the strength of their faith?
3. Jesus has just been making incredible promises to his disciples of comfort and hope, despite knowing that they are about to abandon him. What does this show us about the nature of his love?
4. How is this a comfort to you when you fail?

Prayer: Give thanks to God for his gracious, forgiving character. Confess to him the times when you feel you have failed him recently, give thanks for his forgiveness of those things and ask for his help to trust in Jesus.

DAY 5: Take heart!

Read John 16:33

1. Why has Jesus told his disciples these things?
2. What does Jesus say will be the experience of his disciples in the world? What consolation does he offer in the midst of this experience?
3. What do you think it means that Jesus has overcome the world? (See also John 12.31.)
4. Where do you tend to go to feel at peace? How is the peace that Jesus offers different?
5. What situations in your life are causing you trouble at the moment? How does Jesus' victory give you perspective on these things?

Prayer: Give thanks that Jesus has defeated Satan, and given us assurance of eternal joy with him. Ask God to let his peace, which passes all understanding, guard your heart and mind in Christ Jesus.

WEEK 4: JOHN 17:1-19

The start of John 17 represents a significant shift in the scene we've been engaging with so far. Jesus moves from speaking to his disciples, to speaking to his Father. This is an incredible and precious part of scripture as it gives us one of the deepest insights into the Son's relationship with the Father.

DAY 1: Glorify your Son

Read John 17:1-19

1. Re-read verses 1-5. Jesus has been speaking about 'an hour' that is coming. What is this 'hour'? What will happen, what will be the result? (See John 12:23-24.)
2. Count how many times the word 'glory' is used in verses 1-5. In each case, who is glorifying who? When? How?
3. What does this show us about:
 - a. Who Jesus is, and what he is worthy of?
 - b. The Father's relationship with the Son?

Prayer: Give thanks to God that he is worthy of all glory. Give thanks that he is perfectly complete in himself in the love and glory that the persons of the trinity share. Ask that he would be glorified in our eyes, on the Coast and beyond.

DAY 2: Given by the Father

Read 17:1-8

1. Who does Jesus give eternal life to?
2. What has he done to/for them? How have they responded?
3. How does this fit with our experience of 'choosing' Jesus? How do these verses help?
 - a. John 15:16
 - b. John 6:44
 - c. John 1:12-13
4. How is this a humbling thing? How is it a comforting thing? (See also 6:37, 10:28-29.)

Prayer: Give thanks that God gives life! Thank him that he is able to work in complete unity of purpose – Father, Son and Spirit – to bring life to those he has chosen. Ask that he might enable you to believe and to obey the Son, and that many more on the Coast might do likewise.

DAY 3: This is eternal life...

Read John 17:1-8

1. How do we gain eternal life?
2. What 'is' eternal life? What do you think this means?
3. How is this different from popular ideas of heaven? How ought it shape what we hope and long for about eternity?
4. If eternal life is about knowing God and being in relationship with him, how can you taste 'heaven' now?

Prayer: Give thanks to God that he wants for us to know him and be known by him. Ask that he would help us by his Spirit to treasure our relationship with him above all other things. Ask that we might walk in communion with him daily, and enjoy knowing and being known by him.

DAY 4: In the world, not of the world

Read John 17:9-19

1. Who does Jesus pray for? Why? Who does he not pray for? Why?
2. What does Jesus want for his disciples?
3. What do we learn about what the experience of following Jesus will be like?
4. What does Jesus send his disciples into the world for? (See also John 18:37.)
5. What things could you pray for yourself and others in light of Jesus' prayers?

Prayer: Pray in light of your response to question 5.

DAY 5: Sanctify them by your truth

Read John 17:16-19

1. How will God sanctify his people?
2. How does this shape your view of God's word? Consider:
 - a. His purpose in giving it to us
 - b. Our expectations as we read it
3. What is unusual about verse 19? (See also John 10:36.)
4. Consider the way the word 'sanctify' is being used in the following verses. What is being sanctified and why? (Note, 'sanctify', 'consecrate', 'make holy', and 'set apart' all translate the same Greek word, 'hagiazō'.)
 - a. Exodus 28:36-38
 - b. Exodus 29:1
 - c. Deuteronomy 15:19-20
 - d. Hebrews 10:8-10
5. What do you think Jesus is saying in John 17:19?

Prayer: Give thanks that Jesus gave himself as the last priest and sacrifice, so that we could be holy to God. Ask that God would continue to purify us by his Spirit through his word, that we may grow into our status as his holy people, set apart for him.

WEEK 5: JOHN 17:20-26

DAY 1: Belief through the message

Read John 17:20-23

1. Who has Jesus been praying for? Who does he now pray for?
2. How does he anticipate that these people will come to know and believe in him? (verse 20)
3. How should this shape our attitude to the words of the apostles preserved for us in scripture?
4. How does it make you feel to know that Jesus prayed for you?

Prayer: Give thanks for Jesus' knowledge and love of all his people down the ages. May he give us a commitment to his word, to know and believe in him, and to make him known that others might believe.

DAY 2: One

Read John 17:20-23

1. What does Jesus pray for his future followers?
2. What is the goal of this prayer?
3. What does unity look like in the following verses?
 - a. Ephesians 4:3-4
 - b. Ephesians 4:11-13
 - c. Philippians 2:2-5
4. How can you pursue this kind of unity with your brothers and sisters at the moment?

Prayer: Ask that God would be changing us by his Spirit to have a common and true understanding of his word, to be united in love for each other, and to share in the mission that he has given us. May he use us to see others come to know Jesus.

DAY 3: Glorified

Read John 17:20-23

1. What does Jesus give to his disciples?
2. According to John 12:23-26, where is Jesus' glory most clearly seen?
3. What does this suggest about what sharing Jesus' glory will look like in this life?
4. How does this come about in us? (See also 2 Corinthians 3:16-18.)

Prayer: Give thanks that God desires to share his glory with us, both in making himself known in Christ, and drawing us into relationship with him through Christ. Ask that he may transform us by his Spirit so that, more and more, we might reflect Christ's glory to the world.

DAY 4: Loved

Read John 17:22-26

1. How are Jesus' followers made "one"?
2. How will this come about? (See also John 14:17, 23.)
3. What two things will the world know based on the unity of believers?
4. What does it mean to be loved by the Father "even as" the Father loves the Son? How do the following verses help?
 - a. John 17:26
 - b. Romans 8:14-17

Prayer: Praise God for his incredible grace, that he would adopt us as his children and love us as his 'sons' because of our union with Christ, the Son. Ask that his love may transform and renew us to be like him that others may believe and share this same incredible privilege.

DAY 5: Known

Read John 17:24-26

1. What does Jesus want for his disciples? Why?
2. Where is Jesus going? (See John 17:13, 14:2.)
3. Why do you think he wants this for them? How do the following verses help?
 - a. Romans 8:30
 - b. Philippians 3:20-21
 - c. 1 John 3:2-3
4. How do these verses comfort and encourage you knowing that Jesus has prayed this for you?

Prayer: Give thanks that Jesus wants us to be with him and be transformed to be like him in all his glory. Ask that God might bring this prayer about by the work of his Spirit in us.

WEEK 6: JOHN 18:1-14

DAY 1: A willing sacrifice

Read John 18:1-4

1. How did Judas know about the garden? Why do you think John highlights this?
2. Why do you think Jesus chose to go to this location given he knew what Judas was doing?
3. What do the following verses show about Jesus' attitude towards his death?
 - a. John 6:51
 - b. John 10:11
 - c. John 10:17-18
4. Jesus willingly and knowingly gave his life so that we could have life.
 - a. What does this show of his love for you?
 - b. How does this encourage you to sacrificially love others?

Prayer: Give thanks that Jesus was a willing sacrifice for our sin. Ask that he might encourage us with the knowledge of his love for us, and, by his Spirit, transform us to love like he does, deliberately and sacrificially.

DAY 2: "I am"

Read John 18:1-8

1. What is surprising about the exchange in verses 4-8?
2. Why might the priests, officials and soldiers be surprised that Jesus would identify himself so willingly?
3. The words Jesus identifies himself with, "I am he", are literally translated simply "I am". What do the following verses show about the significance of these words?
 - a. Exodus 3:14
 - b. John 8:57-59
 - c. John 13:18
4. What does this add to our understanding of:
 - a. Who it was that died on the cross?
 - b. The character of our God?

Prayer: Give thanks for God's incredible mercy that he would take on flesh in the person of the Son and give his life for our salvation.

DAY 3: Fulfilment

Read John 18:7-9

1. What reason does John give for Jesus' words in verse 9?
2. Check out the following verses to see how this idea has been developed earlier. Why does it matter that his words are fulfilled?
 - a. John 6:36-39
 - b. John 17:12
3. If Jesus' words are fulfilled in time and space just a few moments later, what does this show about:
 - a. Jesus' authority over history?
 - b. The power of his word? (See also John 5:25.)
 - c. His ability to save and protect his people? (John 10:28)
4. How do these ideas encourage you to:
 - a. Trust in Jesus' words?
 - b. Rely on his power to save?

Prayer: Honour God as the one whose word upholds and determines all of reality. Ask that he would protect and preserve you by the power of his word. Ask that he would help you trust in, depend on, and hunger for his word.

DAY 4: The cup

Read Psalm 75

In John 18, Peter attempts to defend himself and Jesus with a sword. Jesus responds "shall I not drink the cup the Father has given me?". The idea of drinking the cup of the Lord is a theme that develops in the Old Testament. Psalm 75 is one of the occasions it occurs.

1. What does the psalmist praise God for?
2. How does the psalmist describe God's judgement?
3. What does the metaphor of the cup add to this picture in the psalm?
4. In light of this psalm, what do you think it means in John 18 for Jesus to "drink the cup" the Father has given him?

Note: You could also have a look at the following passages to see how the idea of the cup of God's wrath develops, and answer the same questions above for each:

- a. Isaiah 51:17-23
- b. Jeremiah 25:15-29
- c. Revelation 14:9-11

Prayer: Praise God for his perfect, righteous justice. Confess your own guilt before him and your deservedness of his punishment. Praise him for his mercy that Jesus was willing to drink the cup that we deserve. Ask that he would give us a humble gratitude for saving us from what our sin deserves. Ask that he would fill us with an urgent desire to see others saved from his wrath.

DAY 5: One for many

Read John 18:8-14

1. What is surprising about Peter's actions in verse 10 given what Jesus has just said?
2. John casts our mind back to an earlier interaction with Caiaphas (see John 11:47-53). What else is said here of what Jesus' death will achieve?
3. Keep in mind what Jesus said in verse 11 about drinking the "cup". What does the idea of Jesus dying 'for the people' add to our understanding of his death?
4. Given the necessity of Jesus' death to save us from sin, what is foolish and futile about Peter's attempt to save himself with the sword? How might you be tempted to do similar things? What might it look like for you?

Prayer: Give thanks that our triune God has made a way for us to be saved. Give thanks that Jesus was willing to give his life to drink the cup on behalf of his people, including us. Ask that we would renounce any and all attempts to save ourselves. Ask that we may each take our part in seeing thousands on the Coast and beyond saved from God's wrath.

WEEK 7: JOHN 18:15-32

DAY 1: You will disown me three times

Read John 13:31-38

Today's passage gives some crucial context for the scene we will focus on this week.

1. How does verse 31 frame our understanding of what is about to happen in Jesus' death?
2. Consider the exchange in verses 36-38. What do these verses reveal about:
 - a. The limits of Jesus' knowledge and what he is able to do?
 - b. The limits of Peter's knowledge and what he is able to do?
3. Peter seems overly optimistic about his own capacity to understand and follow Jesus. How ought his example humble us in our estimate of what we are capable of?
4. Despite Jesus' knowledge of Peter's imminent failure, he is adamant that Peter will be among his people. How is this a comfort to you as you consider your own failures past, present and future?

Prayer: Give thanks for God's incredible grace that while he knows us deeply (even the sins we are yet to commit), he loves and accepts us in Christ. Ask that he give us humility in our estimation of ourselves and joyful confidence in his grace to us in Christ.

DAY 2: Hero or coward?

Read John 18:15-27

1. Summarise the key steps in the narrative.
2. How do you think John wants us to think of Peter? What is courageous about his behaviour here? What is cowardly?
3. What do you think is going on for Peter as he denies Jesus? What is he fearful of? What is he forgetting?
4. When are you most likely to be ashamed of following Jesus? What would you want yourself to remember in those moments?

Prayer: Give thanks that God is gracious and forgives Peter and us! Ask him to give us such a large view of Jesus and his glory, such a deep affection for our saviour that we would endure anything out of love and loyalty to him.

DAY 3: Why did you strike me?

Read John 18:19-24

1. Jesus is questioned about his disciples and his teaching. He addresses his teaching but records him saying nothing about his disciples. Why do you think this is? (See also 18:7-9.)
2. Why is it significant that Jesus had spoken publicly:
 - a. In terms of his mission (see 19:37)?
 - b. In terms of the trial (see also John 8:59, John 10:31)?
3. Does Jesus deserve to be slapped? As part of John's passion narrative this is the first in a series of trial scenes. How does this scene set the tone for:
 - a. Jesus' deservedness to be punished?
 - b. The integrity of the judicial process by which he was condemned?

Prayer: Jesus is on his way to suffer as 'the righteous in place of the unrighteous' (1 Peter 3:18). Give thanks for Jesus' perfect righteousness. Give thanks for his willingness to endure injustice for the sake of protecting the unrighteous who the Father 'gave him'.

DAY 4: You strain out a gnat and swallow a camel

Read John 18:25-31

1. According to John, why did the Jewish leaders not enter the Roman palace? Why do you think this mattered to them?
2. How do the following verses reflect on the Jewish people's treatment of Jesus?
 - a. John 3:19-21
 - b. Acts 3:13-15
3. The Jewish leaders were profoundly concerned for obedience to God (at least on the outside), and yet managed to murder God the Son. How can this be? What lessons can we learn here about the dangers of:
 - a. Religious hypocrisy?
 - b. Religious works as opposed to relationship with God?

Prayer: Ask that God would give you a heart that is eager both to obey him, as well as to know and love him deeply. That obedience would flow not from obligation, but from deep knowledge of him and his will for his world. Pray for God's mercy for the millions of people around the world who are pursuing religious observance of various kinds apart from knowledge of the one true God.

DAY 5: God's unseen hand

Read John 18:26-32

1. What does verse 32 suggest about the Jews ability to legitimately convict Jesus? How does this reinforce John's portrayal of Jesus' character?

2. Only Romans were technically able to sentence people to death. Had Jesus been killed by the Jews, it would likely have been by the traditional method of stoning (as in John 8:59, 10:31, Acts 7:58). What significance does John see in this? (See 18:32 and 12:32-33.)

3. Jesus is no passive victim. In the midst of the injustice of these human powers, John enables us to see God's sovereign hand at work and the effective power of Jesus' own words. What confidence can this give us:

- a. In the meaning and power of Jesus' death?
- b. In God's ability to work through all circumstances for his glory and our good?

Prayer: Praise God for his sovereignty over all things, good and evil. Give thanks for the cross as the prime example of God using evil for good. Ask that he would give us deep confidence in the cleansing power of the cross and in his ability to work in all circumstances.

WEEK 8: JOHN 18:33-19:16

DAY 1: Sword or testimony?

Read John 18:33-37

1. What evidence does Jesus give for his kingdom being 'not of this world'?
2. Back in the garden (18:10), Peter did in fact attempt to put up a fight to prevent Jesus' arrest. What does that reveal about Peter's misunderstanding of Jesus' mission? (See also Mark 8:31-33.)
3. Rather than taking a kingdom by force, what does Jesus say he came to do? (See verse 37.)
4. Jesus' kingdom will come on earth as in heaven one day. For now though, how do these verses help us understand the nature of his kingdom and how to take our part in seeing it grow? How might we expect people to respond?

Prayer: Worship Jesus as a humble king. Ask that his kingdom would come and that his testimony might be known by more and more people. Ask that God would stay the hand of violence around the world, especially of those who claim religious grounds for acts of violence.

DAY 2: Substitute

Read John 18:38-19:6

1. What phrase does Pilate repeat three times in this passage? Why do you think John records all three occurrences?
2. While Jesus' innocence is highlighted, what do we learn about Barabbas?
3. Barabbas, a criminal, is released, while Jesus, an innocent, is condemned.
 - a. What does this show us about the Jews and the human heart?
- b. How does this help us understand, in miniature, the effect of Jesus' death?
4. What would it look like for you to identify with Barabbas in this story? What could you repent of? What could you be thankful for?

Prayer: Give thanks that Christ died, the innocent in place of the guilty. Ask his forgiveness for the way that we reject his rule over our lives. Reaffirm your gratitude for him taking your place and the punishment you deserve. Ask for his help to live humbly, joyfully and obediently under his loving rule.

DAY 3: A slap in the face

Read John 19:1-7

1. List the things that are done to Jesus in these verses.
2. Take a moment to reflect on and imagine what each of these would have been like to experience. What stands out to you?
3. What is fitting about a crown and robe for Jesus? What would be an appropriate response to Jesus' true identity (see verse 3 and 7)? How can you give expression to this response in your own life this week?
4. Seeing how Jesus is treated here, what comfort is there here for those who suffer or have been mistreated? (See also Hebrews 2:18 and 4:15.)

Prayer: Honour Jesus as the Son of God worthy of our praise, worship and obedience as King. Grieve the evil in our world and our own heart that would reject him. Give thanks for his willingness to endure such mistreatment for our salvation, and to secure our future in a place with no suffering or evil.

DAY 4: Where do you come from?

Read John 19:6-12a

1. What makes Pilate fearful?
2. Why do you think Jesus remains silent? (See also 18:11.)
3. What kind of power does Pilate have over Jesus? (Verses 10-11)
4. How do these verse help give us insight into:
 - a. The nature of civil government?
 - b. What it meant for Jesus to become human in history?

Prayer: Give thanks that the Son of God became human and humbled himself to be a suffering servant. Ask that our own governments would have humility before God and seek his wisdom as they lead. Ask that we might have wisdom to live under Jesus' heavenly rule as well as under human rule instituted by him.

DAY 5: Shall I crucify your king?

Read John 19:11-16

1. What do you think is motivating Pilate's behaviour in verses 12-13?
2. What is wrong with the Jewish leaders' responses to Pilate in verses 12 and 15? (See also verses 7 and 11.)
3. There's a note of disbelief in Pilate's question, "shall I crucify your king?" Why might he be surprised? What does this show of the Jewish leaders' view of Jesus?
4. It's easy to look down the tunnel of history and shake our heads at the Jewish leader's rejection of Jesus. How are you going at living under Jesus' rule today? Consider a few different spheres of your life (eg. home, extended family, workplace, social spaces), what might it look like to honour Jesus' rule in these different areas? How can you emulate his heart of costly humility?

Prayer: Lord, we praise you that you sent your Son to become a man, to live in our world, in human society, to be mistreated, mocked and dishonoured by it, so that we might be saved. Give us a clarity to see and honour his rule, to live humbly under it, even when it means discomfort from those around us.

WEEK 9: JOHN 19:16-20:18

DAY 1: Numbered among the transgressors

"Transgressor" is a very similar word to "sinner". There is a slight distinction which is worth noting though. "Sin" refers to falling short of God's standards – failing to do what is right, while "transgression" is about going beyond a boundary that God has established, beyond what he permits. Both words are used in this passage. Both are true of all people, and both are addressed in the death of Jesus.

Read John 19:16-24

1. What does John highlight in verse 18? Why might this be significant?
2. Jump across to Isaiah 53:12. This verse describes someone's death.
 - a. What is described about the circumstances of the death?
 - b. What is said about the effect or outcome of the death?
 - c. What is the future of the one who died?
3. Given Jesus is 'numbered among the transgressors', as described in Isaiah 53:12, what is John saying by highlighting this in verse 18?
4. In the lead up to Good Friday, take some time to reflect on your ongoing need for forgiveness.
 - a. In what ways have you 'transgressed' recently (ie, gone beyond what God would want you to do)?
 - b. In what ways have you 'sinned' recently (ie. failed to do what is right – either towards God or others)?

Prayer: Lord God, I confess that I have transgressed in the following ways... I acknowledge that I have sinned in the following ways... Father, forgive me.

Thank you that Jesus was numbered among transgressors in his death, even though he was not one. Thank you that because he died a sinners' death, I can be forgiven. Lord Jesus, intercede for me before the Father. Father, accept my prayer in Jesus' name. Spirit, give me full assurance that Jesus' death can take away my sins and transgressions.

DAY 2: Preparing a home

Read John 19:25-27

1. Re-read this little moment that John captures and write down a list of the people involved. What is asked of whom?
2. Why do you think Jesus is making these arrangements? What is it achieving?
3. As Jesus says these words, he is enduring the most excruciating pain human beings have been able to inflict on one another. What does it show of his character that he would think of, and act on these concerns at this moment?
4. How does this small interaction recorded by John, point to the character of God being worked out in the cross?

Prayer: Father, thank you that you demonstrated your love for the world by sending your Son to suffer and die for sinners. Thank you that, just as Jesus ensures provision for his mother for this life while on the cross, he also ensures, in his death, provision of eternal safety and comfort for his people in the life to come. Lord, shape my heart to trust in this hope, and to be like him in deep concern for the needs of others.

DAY 3: The scorned Messiah

Read Psalm 69:1-4, 19-36

This is a psalm written originally by (or possibly about) the 'Messiah', King David. The title, 'Messiah' simply means 'anointed one'. It was primarily for the kings of Israel, and later became associated with the promised redeemer of God's people. John quotes verse 21 of this Psalm as being fulfilled in the crucifixion of Jesus (John 19:28).

1. In the psalm, what is the Messiah experiencing? How do you see this reflected and fulfilled in the experience of Jesus?
2. What fate awaits the enemies of the Messiah in the psalm (see especially verses 22-27)? How might this be similar to the fate of those who reject Jesus?
3. What hope and confidence does the psalmist hold for those "who seek God"? What claim is John making by seeing this psalm fulfilled in the execution of Jesus?
4. What insights does this psalm give into:
 - a. The experience of Jesus on the cross?
 - b. The hope and comfort offered by the cross?

Prayer: Lord God, we praise you that your Messiah, Jesus, was willing to suffer. Thank you that he entered our world of suffering and endured the worst of it. We grieve the wickedness of our world such that this is how we treated him when he came to us. We confess that we are "needy" of your mercy. Thank you that through his cross, you have brought salvation to your people. We pray that you would turn more and more hearts to seek you, to be saved from your right wrath, and to anticipate the fullness of your salvation. Amen.

DAY 4: The One who was pierced

Read Zechariah 12:8-13:1

In John 19:33-37, John describes the piercing of Jesus' body by the soldiers after his death. He then describes this as a fulfilment of Zechariah 10:12.

1. In Zechariah, how will God protect his people (Jerusalem)?
2. Who is it that is pierced in Zechariah 12:10? Given that John sees Jesus' piercing as a fulfilment of this prophecy, what claim is he making about Jesus' identity?
3. As Jesus is pierced, blood and water flow out. What flows out from Jerusalem in Zechariah 13:1? What insight does this give into the purpose of Jesus' death?
4. As Jesus dies, his disciples mourn but that grief is soon turned to joy (see John 16:20).
 - a. In light of these verses, what ought we mourn in the death of Jesus?
 - b. What can we be thankful for and rejoice in?

Prayer: Give thanks that Yahweh took on flesh in the person of the Son and was pierced. Praise him for his mercy and grace in cleansing his people from sin and impurity. Acknowledge your own need for cleansing and receive his forgiveness. Ask that many more would know and receive the cleansing power of the blood of Jesus.

DAY 5: Pierced for our transgressions

Read Isaiah 53:3-11

John 19:32-34 describes the 'piercing' of Jesus' side. While John directly quotes Zechariah (as we saw yesterday), this detail also has strong echoes of Isaiah's 'Servant Song'.

1. Read over the passage and note:
 - a. How is the servant described?
 - b. How is the servant's experience described?
 - c. How are sinners described?
 - d. What is achieved in the servant's death?
2. What insights does this passage give you into:
 - a. Jesus and his experience on the cross?
 - b. Your need for his death?
 - c. What it achieves for you?

Prayer: Pray in light of your answers to question 2:
Lord, thank you that Jesus...
Sorry that I...
Thank you that through his death, I...

WEEK 10: JOHN 20:19-31

DAY 1: Sent

Read John 20:19-23

1. What does verse 19 reveal about the disciples' situation? How are they feeling?
2. How is this alleviated in Jesus' arrival (verses 19-20)?
3. What does Jesus say in verse 21?
4. What was Jesus sent for (see, for instance, 19:37)? What is the same, what is different in what we are sent to do compared to Jesus? (See, for instance, Matthew 28:18-20.) What opportunities do you have to do this work this week?

Prayer: Give thanks that Jesus drives out fear and brings peace and joy. Ask that all God's people might know the peace and joy that comes from knowing the risen Jesus. Ask that he gives you courage and conviction to take your part in making disciples.

DAY 2: Receive the Holy Spirit

Read Acts 1:4-8, 2:1-4

1. What does Jesus say will happen in Acts 1?
 - a. When and where will it happen?
 - b. What will be the outcome?
2. In Acts 2:32-33, what does Peter say is happening at Pentecost?
3. Flip back to John 20:22. What do you think is happening here?
4. Noting that the word for 'breath' and 'spirit' are the same in Greek, what does this mini 'sign-act' show about the relationship between Jesus and the Spirit? (See also John 16:7.)

Prayer: Give thanks that Jesus poured out his Spirit, just as he had promised. Praise God as the one he has revealed himself to be: One God in three persons. Ask that the Spirit who proceeds from the Father and the Son would continue to reveal Jesus to us and make him glorious in our eyes.

DAY 3: My Father and yours

Read John 20:1-18

1. What is Mary feeling, and why, in verses 11-13?
2. What is Mary's hope in verse 14-15? How is the reality in verse 16 greater?
3. What message does Jesus ask Mary to tell the disciples? What do these words show us about their new relationship with the Father achieved through Jesus' death and resurrection?
4. Why is it good that Jesus returns to the Father (see John 16:7, 27)? What hope and comfort can we share from these verses?

Prayer: Give thanks that God raised Jesus to life and that he is seated with him in heaven. Give thanks that through faith in Jesus we can call God our Father, just as Jesus is his Son. Ask that many more would come to share this joy and privilege.

DAY 4: My Lord and my God

Read John 20:24-29

1. What does Thomas say he requires in order to believe?
2. What is the connection between verse 25 and verse 27?
3. What does this show you about:
 - a. Jesus' knowledge of Thomas?
 - b. Jesus' patience and compassion with Thomas?
4. What is Thomas' response to Jesus? How is this different from where he started the story?
5. As John records Thomas' words to Jesus, what do you think he hopes will be our response to Jesus (see also 20:30-31)?

Prayer: Praise God for his patience and kindness in revealing himself. Ask that he would give more and more people faith to believe without seeing Jesus physically. Ask that he would give us and others a humble, worshipful heart that stands in awe of the risen Jesus.

DAY 5: The risen Jesus

Twice in John 20:19-29 John mentions that Jesus stood among the disciples 'even though the doors were locked'. Other gospel accounts have him appearing to the disciples, and then disappearing. Jesus has risen from the dead. His resurrection body is recognisably him, but at the same time... different.

Read 1 Corinthians 15:35-58

1. In this passage, compare what Paul says about our current bodies to our glorified, resurrection bodies. List the things that are similar and what is different.

2. What excites you the most about this?

3. How is this all possible? (See especially verses 54-56.)

4. What would Paul have us do with this confidence and hope? (Verse 58)

Prayer: Praise God as the one who raises the dead and gives eternal life! Thank him for the hope and confidence we have through the resurrection of Jesus. Ask that he would help us stand firm and give ourselves to the work of the Lord. Ask that more and more on the Coast and beyond would share this hope.

WEEK 11: JOHN 21:1-25

DAY 1: Life in his name

Read John 20:30-21:14

1. Why has John recorded what he has written about Jesus? (See 20:30-31.)
2. How do we have eternal life? What do the following passages add?
 - a. John 3:18
 - b. John 5:24
 - c. John 6:37-39
 - d. John 10:27-28
3. What wrong views of salvation or relationship with God does this correct?
4. How would you summarise the gospel on the basis of these verses?

Prayer: Give thanks for God's grace that he does not judge or condemn anyone who believes in Jesus. Pray that the gospel of salvation by grace through faith in Christ would be preserved and passed on in our country to the next generation and to the nations. Ask that God would guard your faith in Jesus and bring many others to faith and life in him.

DAY 2: Apart from me you can do nothing

Read John 20:1-14

1. Why do you think Peter and the disciples are going fishing? (See also Mark 1:16-20.)
2. What lesson do you think Jesus is teaching his disciples in the sign he performs in verses 3b-7?
3. Read John 15:5 and 15:16. What similarities do you see between these verses and the miracle Jesus has performed?
4. In what ways are you tempted to rely on yourself? In what ways are you drawn away from being 'fruitful' in the Christian life? What do you want to remember from these verses?

Prayer: Give thanks that God has called us to share in his work of bearing fruit for eternal life. Ask that he would keep you humbly dependent on him in all things. Ask that he would encourage and sustain you to be fruitful as you draw near in dependence on him.

DAY 3: Come and eat

Read John 21:5-14

1. According to verses 5-7, who is responsible for this miraculous catch?
2. Who does Jesus say caught the fish in verse 10?
3. How ought this shape the way we see God at work in anything that we do?
4. In what areas are you most likely to claim credit for yourself? What opportunities do you have this week to give credit to God?

Prayer: Praise God as the creator who is able to work in and through all things supernaturally and “naturally” for his purposes. Confess your failure to acknowledge him as the giver of all things and for your self reliance or pride. Ask for his help to point away from yourself and to give all glory to him.

DAY 4: Do you love me?

Read John 21:15-25

1. Why do you think Jesus asks Peter three times if he loves him?
2. Read John 13:36-38 and John 18:17, 25-27. What parallels do you see between the questions Peter was asked on the night of Jesus’ death, and what Jesus is asking him here?
3. What does this moment represent for Peter? What comfort would this be to him?
4. What comfort can we take from these verses (see, for instance, 1 John 1:8-9)?

Prayer: Give thanks that God is faithful to forgive according to his promises in Jesus. Confess to him where you have failed this week, and ask for his forgiveness. Give thanks for the assurance we can have in the finished work of Jesus to secure our forgiveness.

DAY 5: Feed my lambs

Read John 21:15-25

1. What three things does Jesus ask Peter to do after each question? List the three instructions below:

a.

b.

c.

2. What do these instructions show us about:

a. The needs of God's people?

b. The work of the apostles?

3. Read Acts 20:20-32. Here Paul addresses a group of church leaders from the city of Ephesus. What insights do we get into the work of 'shepherding' God's people?

4. Read Ephesians 4:11-15. What are the roles of apostles and pastors etc., and what is the role of God's people? What opportunities do you have to engage in that this week?

Prayer: Give thanks that God has forgiven you and called you to be part of his flock. Ask that you would have humility to learn from and listen to those leaders God has placed in our church. Pray that God would grant wisdom to those who shepherd our church, and that we would all play our part in 'feeding' one another. Ask that God would continue to raise up leaders to pastor his flock on the Coast and beyond.