

# THE ROAD TO Easter

4-DAY DEVOTIONAL



HOUSTON'S FIRST  
BAPTIST CHURCH

# DAY 1 | PALM SUNDAY: TRUST THE KING

## BIBLE VERSE

*"Jesus then sent two disciples, telling them, "Go into the village ahead of you. At once you will find a donkey tied there with her colt. Untie them and bring them to me. If anyone says anything to you, say that the Lord needs them, and he will send them at once." — Matthew 21:2-3*

## DEVOTIONAL

Palm Sunday marks the beginning of Holy Week, when Jesus entered Jerusalem fulfilling a prophecy written over 500 years earlier (Zech. 9:9). He came not as a conquering king on a war horse, but as a humble King riding on a donkey — revealing that His kingdom would be built through surrender, not force.

When Jesus told His disciples to go and untie a donkey, He gave them instructions without explanation. They were asked to act before they fully understood. This is the essence of faith: trusting God before clarity comes. In our lives, we often want the full plan before we obey, but God usually gives us the next step, not the whole picture.

There are likely areas in your life that feel "tied down" or things you've held tightly to, whether it's control, comfort, time, or resources. Palm Sunday reminds and invites you to "untie" those things and place them in Jesus' hands. As you do, you may find that what feels small or ordinary can be used by God in ways far beyond what you imagined.

Today, take a tangible step of obedience. It might be initiating a spiritual conversation, making time for prayer, or surrendering something you've been holding onto. As you take that step, trust that God will guide what comes next, even if you can't yet see it.

## REFLECTION QUESTION

What is one step of obedience God is asking you to take before you have full understanding?

## KEY TAKEAWAY

God calls us to trust Him step by step, not all at once.

## PRAYER

Lord, help me trust You even when I don't have clarity. Give me courage to take the next step of obedience and to release anything I've been holding onto. Use my life for Your purposes. Amen.



# DAY 2 | THE LORD'S SUPPER: REMEMBER AND RECEIVE

## BIBLE VERSE

*"As they were eating, Jesus took bread, blessed and broke it, gave it to the disciples, and said, "Take and eat it; this is my body." Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks, he gave it to them and said, "Drink from it, all of you. For this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins." — Matthew 26:26–28*

## DEVOTIONAL

On the night before His crucifixion, Jesus gathered with His disciples to celebrate the Passover — a meal that had commemorated God's deliverance of Israel from slavery in Egypt for over a thousand years (Exodus 12). But in this moment, Jesus redefined the meal entirely.

He took the bread and said, "This is my body." He took the cup and said, "This is my blood." Jesus was revealing that He is the true Passover Lamb — the One whose sacrifice would bring ultimate freedom, not just from physical slavery, but from sin and death.

This moment marks the transition from the Old Covenant to the New Covenant. Instead of striving to follow laws perfectly, we are invited into a relationship with God through grace. The Lord's Supper becomes a rhythm of remembrance, calling us to reflect on what Jesus has done and to realign our lives around Him.

As you reflect today, don't let this be just a historical moment: make it personal. Pause and thank Jesus specifically for His sacrifice. Consider where you may still be trying to earn God's approval instead of receiving it. Choose to live in the freedom He has already provided, letting gratitude shape your actions, your priorities, and your relationships.

## REFLECTION QUESTION

Are you living like you have to earn God's love — or resting in what Jesus has already done?

## KEY TAKEAWAY

Jesus' sacrifice didn't just change history: it changes how we live today.

## PRAYER

Jesus, thank You for Your body broken and Your blood poured out for me. Help me to live in the freedom of Your grace and to remember daily what You've done. Amen.



# DAY 3 | THE CROSS: TRUST GOD IN THE STRUGGLE

## BIBLE VERSE

*"Look at the nations and observe - be utterly astounded! For I am doing something in your days that you will not believe when you hear about it." — Habakkuk 1:5*

## DEVOTIONAL

The cross is the most paradoxical moment in history: what looked like defeat was actually God's greatest victory.

In Habakkuk, we see a prophet crying out in confusion and pain, asking God why He seems silent in the midst of injustice. These are the same kinds of questions many of us carry: "God, where are You? Why is this happening?"

When Jesus was crucified, His followers felt the same confusion. The One they believed was the Messiah was now dying on a cross — a form of execution reserved for criminals and rebels in the Roman world. It appeared that all hope was lost.

But what they couldn't yet see was that God was working through that very moment. The cross was not an interruption of God's plan; it was the fulfillment of it (Isaiah 53:5).

In your own life, there may be seasons that feel like silence or loss. The cross reminds us that God is still at work, even when we don't understand. Bring your honest prayers to Him today — your doubts, fears, and frustrations. Then choose to trust that He is doing something deeper than what you can see, just as He was at the cross.

## REFLECTION QUESTION

Where in your life do you need to trust that God is working behind the scenes?

## KEY TAKEAWAY

God's greatest work often happens in moments that feel like loss.

## PRAYER

God, when I don't understand, help me trust You. Thank You that You are always working, even when I can't see it. Strengthen my faith in difficult seasons. Amen.



# DAY 4 | EASTER: FROM EMPTY TO FULL

## BIBLE VERSE

*"The angel told the women, "Don't be afraid, because I know you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. He is not here. For he has risen, just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay." — Matthew 21:2-3*

## DEVOTIONAL

Early on the first day of the week, women came to Jesus' tomb expecting to find His body — but instead, they found it empty. An angel declared, "He is not here, for He has risen."

In the first century, a crucified Messiah was unthinkable. Crucifixion was designed to shame and destroy. But the resurrection overturned everything, proving that Jesus is who He said He is and that death itself has been defeated.

The women came carrying grief and emptiness, but they left with hope and purpose. That same transformation is available to us today. We often try to fill our lives with things that can't satisfy us — success, relationships, approval — but those things were never meant to carry the weight of our souls.

The resurrection reminds us that only Jesus can truly fill what feels empty. Today, take a moment to identify what you've been relying on for fulfillment. Surrender it to God and ask Him to fill that space instead. As you do, you'll begin to experience the fullness of life that only the risen Christ can provide.

## REFLECTION QUESTION

What have you been depending on to fill your life instead of Jesus?

## KEY TAKEAWAY

The resurrection proves that Jesus alone brings true life.

## PRAYER

Jesus, thank You that You are alive. Fill every empty place in my life with Your presence. Help me to find my hope, purpose, and joy fully in You. Amen.



THE ROAD TO  
Easter

DISCUSSION GUIDE



HOUSTON'S FIRST  
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# THEME

From trust to sacrifice to resurrection — understanding how Jesus changes everything.

# ICE BREAKER

Lord, thank You for bringing us together. As we walk through the story of Easter, open our hearts to understand Your truth more deeply. Help us not just to hear it, but to live it. Draw us closer to You and to one another. In Jesus' name, amen.

# OPENING PRAYER

What is one moment in your life where something didn't make sense at the time, but later you saw a bigger purpose?

# SCRIPTURE FOCUS

• Matthew 21:1–11 • Matthew 26:26–28 • Habakkuk 1:1–5 • Matthew 28:1–10

# SUMMARY

The Road to Easter shows us a powerful progression:

- Palm Sunday calls us to trust Jesus, even without full understanding.
- The Lord's Supper reminds us of His sacrifice and the new life we have in Him.
- The Cross reveals that God is working, even in suffering and confusion.
- The Resurrection proves that Jesus has ultimate victory over sin and death.

Together, these moments show us that Jesus didn't just come to improve our lives: He came to transform them.



# DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Why is it difficult to trust God without full clarity?
2. The Lord's Supper helps us look back to the cross, examine our present lives, and look forward to Christ's return. Which of these three aspects do you find most meaningful and why?
3. Have you ever experienced a season where God felt distant? What helped you through it?
4. Why do you think we often try to "fill" our lives with things other than Jesus?
5. What does the resurrection change about how you view your life today?
6. The women came to the tomb with grief and emptiness but encountered God's power. How have you experienced God's power in moments of your own emptiness or grief?

## LIFE APPLICATION

- Identify one area where you need to trust God more this week.
- Spend intentional time remembering Jesus' sacrifice (through prayer or Scripture).
- Bring one honest struggle to God and surrender it to Him.
- Replace or substitute one distraction with time spent pursuing Jesus.

## KEY TAKEAWAYS

- God calls us to trust Him before we understand His plan. Faith grows when we take steps forward, even when we don't have all the answers.
- The Lord's Supper reminds us that Jesus' body and blood were given for us, making a way for forgiveness, freedom, and a restored relationship with God.
- God is present and working, even in seasons that feel confusing or painful. The cross shows us that what looks like loss or silence may actually be God accomplishing something greater than we can see.
- The resurrection changes everything about our present and our future. Because Jesus is alive, we have hope beyond our circumstances, purpose in our daily lives, and the promise of new life — both now and for eternity.

## ENDING PRAYER

Jesus, thank You for the cross and the empty tomb. Help us to trust You more, follow You closely, and live in the fullness of what You've done for us. Use our lives to point others to You. In Your name we pray, amen.

