

40-Day Journey to the Cross

Throughout church history, the 40 days before Easter Sunday has held special significance for Christians. This period, known as Lent, has been used for personal reflection, fasting, and prayer as God's people prepare themselves to celebrate the resurrection of Christ.

This year, as we continue the *Transforming Generations* vision of our church, WHCC is inviting you to join **40-Day Journey to the Cross**. We will read through a selection of Scripture on God's redemptive plan for the sacrificial death of Jesus the Messiah, culminating with the passion narrative in Matthew as we prepare our hearts for the Holy Week of Easter.

If you do not have a consistent devotional habit or plan right now, this is the perfect opportunity to get started. This daily reading and reflection take 10 to 15 minutes as you read 10 to 15 verses each day. Since the traditional counting of 40 days of Lent does not include Sundays, this reading schedule also gives our readers a chance to catch up should you fall behind.

In the Bible, the number 40 carries a special connotation of the process of testing and maturation. The Israelites were in the wilderness for 40 years. Jesus was tested in the wilderness for 40 days. Research also shows it usually takes 30 to 40 days of consistent practice to develop a new habit. We invite you to embark on this **40-Day Journey to the Cross** and allow the Bible's powerful words to transform your life as we journey to the cross together.

Your Communion with God through Devotional Reading

Read: Quiet your heart, turn off any distractions, let go of your straying thoughts, and give yourself to the Lord. Read the Scripture for the day slowly, while letting the words guide you heart. Are there any words or phrases that catch your attention? Consider their meaning.

Reflect: Let the word of God illuminate you, considering the reason the Lord wants you to read these words today. What do these verses reveal about God's grace? What is the Lord saying to you through these words? Take time to consider the heart of God behind the words. Let the reflection question guide you.

Respond: Meditate and talk to the Lord about how you will respond to His words for you today. Consider any promises to claim, attitudes to change, challenges to accept, sins to confess, commands to obey, actions to take, examples to follow. Focus on one take-away action item for today.

Rest: After you have responded to God's Word, receive His word gratefully, quietly resting in His love for you. Prayerfully commit yourself to live according to His Word.

(Flip to see the Scripture Reading Schedule on-back)

WHCC 40-Day Journey to the Cross Scripture Reading Schedule

Day	Scripture	Question for Reflection
1	Is 53:1-6	How can this prophecy about Christ convict me to repent of my sin?
2	Is 53:7-12	How can I thank the Lord for taking away my sins and bringing me into His family?
3	John 10:7-18	What will I do today to follow the Good Shepherd to experience abundant life?
4	Mark 8:31-38	How will I take up the cross today to follow Jesus?
5	Rom 5:1-8	How will God's love enable me to rejoice and persevere in hardship today?
6	Rom 6:1-12	How will I die with Christ today and not let sin reign in my mortal body?
7	1 Cor 1:18-24	How will the message of the cross save me today from the wisdom of the world?
8	2 Cor 5:14-21	How will I stop living for myself today but for Christ who died for me?
9	Eph 2:11-18	How will the blood of Christ help me today to destroy the dividing wall of hostility?
10	Phil 2:5-11	How will my attitude conform to the humility of Christ today?
11	Col 1:21-23	How can Christ's death for me help me to grow a firm, unwavering faith in Him?
12	Heb 10:1-10	How will the sacrifice of Christ help me to draw near to Him in worship today?
13	Heb 12:1-4	How will I fix my eyes on Jesus my Savior today and resist temptations in my life?
14	1 Pet 2:18-25	How will I follow Christ's example to face suffering or injustice for doing good?
15	1John 3:16-20	How will I put the love of God into action today?
16	Rom 8:31-39	Knowing the certainty of God's love for me, how can I live boldly for Christ today?
17	John 1:29-34	How can I testify for Jesus today as the Lamb of God who took away my sins?
18	Gen 22:1-8	How can Abraham's faith inspire me to trust in God with full obedience today?
19	Gen 22:9-18	How can God's provision and promise for Abraham inspire me to greater faith?
20	1Pet 1:18-25	How can our redemption by the precious blood of Christ teach me to love deeply?
21	Rev 5:6-14	How can I worship and praise the Lamb of God who died to free me from sin?
22	John 12:12-19	How can I respond to Jesus' triumphal entry as king and honor His kingship today?
23	John 12:20-26	How does the example of the kernel of wheat challenge me to die to myself?
24	John 12:27-36	How can I live as a child of the light to glorify the name of the Lord today?
25	John 13:1-17	How will I obey Jesus and serve others humbly and without complaint today?
26	Matt 26:1-16	What can I learn from the woman's example of a lavishing love upon God?
27	Matt 26:17-30	How can I honor Christ for His gift of life poured out for the forgiveness of my sins?
28	Matt 26:31-35	What can I learn from Christ in the way He loved the disciples despite of their failures?
29	Matt 26:36-46	How can I learn to pray boldly with Jesus: "not as I will, but as you will"?
30	Matt 26:47-56	What can I learn from Jesus in the way He handled betrayal?
31	Matt 26:57-68	How should the suffering Jesus received for me encourage me to witness for Him?
32	Matt 26:69-75	How will I repent of my own denial of Jesus with my words and deeds in the past?
33	Matt 27:1-10	How does Judas' despair contrasts with Peter's sorrow? Consider 2Cor 7:10.
34	Matt 27: 11-26	How will I guard myself from cowardly passivity when it comes to following Jesus?
35	Matt 27:27-31	How can my own disobedience make a mockery of Jesus' kingship?
36	Matt 27:32-44	What does Jesus' refusal to save Himself teach me about the love of God?
37	Matt 27:45-56	How will I respond to Jesus' incomparable love in suffering and dying for my sins?
38	Matt 27:57-66	How will I resist the temptation of disbelief today as I wait for Jesus' return?
39	Matt 28:1-20	What will be my faith response today to Jesus' resurrection and Great Commission?
40	Gal 6:14	How will I respond to the cross of Christ and continue disciplined Scripture reading?