



## All About Easter - Bible Readings – 2010

### Jesus. All About Life = Easter

Easter is all about Jesus; and as we know, Jesus is all about life! This Easter, we'd like to encourage you to take time to reflect again for yourself what Jesus chose to do for us that first Easter, to bring us life.

Laid out here are suggested readings from the Bible for Thursday night, Friday, Saturday, Sunday and Monday. Each of the readings are planned so they take as little as 5 minutes to read. It'd be great if, when reading the Bible, you had a pen and paper handy as well. Spend another 5 minutes responding to what you've read. Record your thoughts, impressions, feelings or questions from what you have read. You may like to draw or sketch, write out your thoughts, a poem, or a prayer.

You may like to read about the events from a different perspectives. If so, parallel passages from the other gospels are suggested. You will find that Matthew, Mark and Luke's accounts are quite similar; John's account is a little different, shedding light on different aspects of the story.

We trust that in taking the time to hear from God this Easter, and taking time to connect with Him, you will be encouraged, uplifted and reminded of the amazing love which He has for you - and that Jesus is all about life, and life to the full (John 10:10).

### THURSDAY NIGHT

Tonight is a time to remember Jesus on the night before he died. This passage goes through the account of the Last Supper, and Jesus' prayer time in the garden of Gethsemane. You'll also read about Jesus' arrest and how Peter disowned Jesus at his hour of greatest need.

#### **Read: Mark 14:12-72**

If you would like to read more, some suggested passages are listed below.

**Additional reading:** Exodus 12:1-30

This reading is about the Passover in Egypt and how the Israelite people were spared from the plague which brought death to the firstborn son of every Egyptian household. There are many connections between the Passover of the Jewish people and the Last Supper which Jesus celebrated with his disciples. Write down the similarities which strike you and use them as an opportunity to reflect on Jesus' sacrifice for us, and what the Last Supper symbolises for Christians.

**Parallel accounts in the other gospels:**

Matthew 26:1-75 ; Luke 22:1-65 ; John 13:1-38;  
18:1-27

### FRIDAY

Good Friday. Why is it called 'good'? Read today about Jesus' trial and his crucifixion. As you reflect on what Jesus went through that day, consider that he chose to do so out of his great love for us, so that our sin could be paid for by his blood.

#### **Read: Matthew 27:1-60**

**Parallel accounts in the other gospels:** Mark 15:1-47; Luke 22:66-23:50; John 18:28-42



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### SATURDAY

Today sits between the remembrance of Jesus' death, and the celebration of his resurrection. Jesus' death is recorded for us in the gospels, which you have read. Jesus' life, and death, were also predicted in the earlier books of the Bible, in the Old Testament. One of these predictions is from the eighth century AD prophet Isaiah, which is where our reading for today is from. Isaiah spoke of Jesus as God's Suffering Servant. Although he didn't mention Jesus by name, as you read his predictions of the servant to come, notice the connections with Jesus and his character, his life and his death. Reflect on the insight which this passage, written hundreds of years before Jesus' birth, can give you into Jesus' life and his heart.

#### **Reading:** Isaiah 53:1-12

**Additional Reading:** Psalm 22

This is another passage from hundreds of years before Jesus' was born which gives us insight into Jesus' heart as he underwent suffering on our behalf. Again, reflect on the connections you can see between the suffering described in Psalm 22 and that which Jesus' underwent on our behalf.

**Account in the gospel:** Matthew 27:62-66

### SUNDAY

Easter eggs; have you bitten into a large one yet this Easter? Was it hollow? This can serve to remind us of what we can truly celebrate on Easter Sunday; the tomb was discovered empty! Jesus did not remain dead, in the grave; he rose to new life, defeating death. Today's reading goes through the account of Jesus' empty tomb, and his appearance to those he loved, resurrected and alive!

#### **Reading:** Luke 24:1-35

**Additional Readings:** 1 Corinthians 15; Romans 6:4

These additional readings from the New Testament reflect more on Jesus' resurrection and what it means for Christians. Jesus' resurrection from the dead is a promise to us that we also will be resurrected to new life. Death no longer has power over us; in Jesus' death and resurrection we have the promise of new life!

**Parallel accounts in the other gospels:** John 20:1-23; Matthew 28:1-10

### MONDAY

The good news continues! Jesus appeared to those closest to him the day he rose from the dead. Today's reading goes on to describe other occasions where Jesus appeared after his resurrection, to those who followed him.

#### **Reading :** John 20:24-21:25

**Additional readings:** Acts 1:1-10

**Parallel accounts in the other gospels:**  
Matthew 28:11-20; Luke 24:36-53