

## Day 1

September 24



Pray | *Thank God for serving us so willingly.*

### HUMILITY & SERVICE

The Last Supper is well-known as the last time Jesus partook of a meal with his disciples. It was also the Passover meal: a tradition among Israelites as they looked back at the God who had been serving his chosen people through signs and wonders and miraculous deliverance. Most earthly monarchs do not serve their people through menial tasks or get their hands dirty, so to speak. But Jesus followed his Father's servant heart when he became one of us and lived a life focused on serving people.

During the Last Supper Jesus reverses the social order of the day. He humbly takes on a menial and filthy task of washing the dirty, dusty feet of his disciples. Considering that God the Father and God the Son had always been serving their people this should have come as no surprise. It was simply one more way in which their God was ready, able and willing to humbly serve his people. In today's reading, see how one disciple in particular responds.



Read | Mark 10:42-45; John 13:1-11



Reflect | *Spend some time reflecting on one or more of the following:*

Jesus washed his disciples' feet to teach them the importance of humility and service. How can you apply this example to your life?

God the Father and God the Son (Jesus) have continued to serve us throughout time. Jesus was taking on the menial task of washing his disciples' feet to both serve them and set an example for them. Consider who you have sacrificed for and why. Consider who has sacrificed for you and why. What then does sacrifice mean to you?

In what ways did Jesus serve during his ministry? If you're new to the Bible, take a look at some of the stories in Matthew 8:1-11, 9:1-8, 9:18-38 as just a few examples. How can you serve God in return?

## Day 2

September 25



Pray | *Pray for the humility and desire to serve as God does.*

### FOLLOWING IN OUR FATHER'S FOOTSTEPS

We were reminded yesterday that our God is a God who serves his people humbly; and Jesus, God the Son on earth, did the same. He constantly served the Israelites, and branched out to serve the Gentiles (everyone else) as well. As we will read in Philippians, Jesus was royalty. He did not use that status for his benefit. In other words, he was not self-entitled, nor did he feel he “deserved” to be treated a certain way, to be respected in a certain way, or to be served.

In the Bible, Mark tells us that Jesus was always about the Father's work; and John tells us that Jesus sought God's will in everything he did on earth. Jesus paid close attention to the Father so he could follow in his footsteps and bring his kingdom to us.



Read | John 5:19, 13:12-15; Philippians 2:6-8



Reflect | *Spend some time reflecting on one or more of the following:*

Jesus lived his life serving with no sense of entitlement. Think about some times in which you've served someone else at cost to yourself. How did you feel about serving? How does this compare with Jesus' servanthood?

What was Jesus' motivation for following in his Father's humble footsteps? What motivates you and how can you learn from Jesus' example?

Jesus followed in his Father's footsteps willingly and joyfully. The Bible says that God loves a cheerful giver. What happens to a relationship or to your heart when you serve someone joyfully? Or when you serve begrudgingly? Pray that God would give you a heart that serves joyfully.

## Day 3

September 26



**Pray** | *Pray with excitement and anticipation of what God is doing.*

### LOOKING BACKWARDS TO LOOK FORWARDS

There is a quote that says something to the effect of not looking behind you, because you're not going that way. While this can help us to move forwards and not wallow in the past, there is still value in looking back and commemorating where we've been, how God has been with us, and what he is going to do with and for us in the future. In fact, cultures have monuments of the sacrifice and patriotism of the past that show where they've been. These solidify their identity, and give a vision of where they want to go.

The Passover meal, that was Jesus' last supper, was a meal commemorating what God had done for the Israelites-their miraculous deliverance from 400+ years of slavery. Jesus was celebrating the past with his disciples, but as he breaks the bread and lifts the cup, he foreshadows God's new, lasting and perfect covenant with his people that we look forward to with great anticipation!



**Read** | Matthew 26:26-30; Jeremiah 31:31-34; Ezekiel 36:24-30



**Reflect** | *Spend some time reflecting on one or more of the following:*

We take communion to commemorate what Jesus has done for us in the past, and to look forward to what he's continuing to do. What are some ways you can be more intentional about taking communion so that it is meaningful to you?

We all have strong memories of years past. How do those memories affect your future? What has God taught you through these memories?

Jeremiah and Ezekiel talk about the new covenant God is establishing with his people. They must look back at how God has delivered and served them, and now look forward to a new covenant. How might comparing the old and new covenants motivate us to keep our eyes on Jesus?

**Day 4**  
September 27



**Pray** | *Pray patience would be a virtue you carry proudly.*

“HAVE PATIENCE, HAVE PATIENCE, don’t be in such a hurry.” These are cute lyrics from a children’s song we could all sing daily! We wait for things on an hourly basis. We wait for that important call, or for our food to be placed in front of us; for high school graduation, or to see our kids’ kids. “Patience is a virtue that I don’t have” we hear some joke, because it’s difficult to wait!

For those who love God here we are, waiting with great anticipation for the second coming of Jesus, not knowing when it will happen. We can’t speed it up with a gadget or find the date of Jesus’ return on the internet. We just wait, not knowing if it will happen in our lifetimes. And sometimes in waiting we lose sight of the prize, while other times it changes how we live our lives.



**Read** | Matthew 26:29-30; Hebrews 11:39-40



**Reflect** | *Spend some time reflecting on one or more of the following:*

What is something you’ve patiently prayed for or have dreamed of intensely? Consider how long you waited for this, and why. What gave you the hope to keep waiting for this particular event?

Think about what is the most exciting to you about Heaven and eternity. How are you continuing to anticipate the second coming of Jesus, or has your impatience caused you to lose sight of it? How can you continue to patiently and eagerly await Jesus’ eternal victory?

If your impatience causes you to lose sight of the prize, or if it causes you to worry, as the chorus of the little song in our introduction says, can you choose not to be busy? How can you choose more patience and less worry?

Take some time to read through Hebrews 11, or even just a few verses of what we call the “Hall of Faith”. This is a poignant reminder that we must have patience and faith, and may not see the fulfillment of God’s promises to us while we are alive. What could it look like for us to live in patient anticipation, fully accepting that we may not see the fulfillment of our requests?

The Music Machine, “Have Patience” 1977 Frank Hernandez / Sherry Saunders  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9kn6Z2Mop5I>

## Day 5

September 28



Pray | *Thank God for a new, perfect covenant to reconcile you to him.*

### THE SACRIFICE TO END ALL SACRIFICES

We saw this week that before Jesus came, God had a covenant with the Israelites and it was sealed with the sacrifice of animals. The smell of the animals burning on altars permeated the air as a constant reminder of the Israelites' constant sin and God's constant forgiveness. But the people of God continually broke the covenant, sinning again and again, and abusing God's grace. So God wanted a new covenant with his people—one that would last eternally. He would write his laws on our hearts so that our desire would be for our Heavenly Father and the love he has for us. As we continue to sin, Jesus, the sacrifice to end all sacrifices, continues to cover us and change us. He is the sacrifice to end all sacrifices—as the final, eternal covenant.



Read | Romans 5:1-11



Reflect | *Spend some time reflecting on one or more of the following:*

Read what Romans 5:3-4 says about hope and suffering. When you have found hope as a result of suffering? Praise God for giving you the ability to hope in the midst of suffering.

Read Romans 5:8 again. Think of a situation of someone risking their life for someone else. We hear about parents risking their lives to save their children and spouses risking everything for their loved one. But we rarely hear stories of mortal enemies risking their lives to save each other. Consider why that is. Now consider that Jesus sacrificed for us before we repented. While we were still his enemy, fighting against him, he became the eternal sacrifice. Consider why that is. Ask God to help you grasp the weight of this and for it to change your heart like Jeremiah 31:33 and Ezekiel 36:27 talk about.

God is a God who serves humbly and joyfully. So much so that he sent his Son to earth to show us how to apply that humble service to each other and to give a human example of God. He ultimately sacrificed himself so we would not suffer the eternal consequences of sin. Praise God that you follow such a unique God. If you haven't given your life to him yet, thank him for serving you and forgiving you of all your sins.

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