

# The Promised Land



DailyLife  
Five Oaks Church

Week 5: April 15–21, 2017

*Day 1*

*April 17*



*Pray | Ask God to show you how to be more like Jesus.*

## ESUS' CHARACTER

This week we are looking at the Easter story: the story of Jesus' betrayal, crucifixion, and resurrection. Jesus was fully man, and as a man, he endured so much physical, emotional, and spiritual pain for us. Even though he was also fully God, the Bible tells us we can be just like him. All of Jesus' character qualities are at our disposal as we submit to him, growing in our understanding of him and, therefore, our likeness of him. We may feel like this is a tall order to fill, but Philippians and Colossians say this is more than possible when we are filled with the Spirit of God!



*Read | Philippians 2:5–8*

## Day 2

April 18



*Reflect | Spend some time reflecting on the following questions.*

What qualities of Jesus do you feel you've grown in, and how have you grown in them?

What qualities of Jesus would you like to begin to work on this very day?



*Pray | Thank Jesus that we always have his support.*

### ESUS' BETRAYAL

If you are familiar with the Easter story, you are probably familiar with the betrayal of Jesus by Judas, his friend. But there is more betrayal and loneliness in this story. Jesus took his disciples to pray with him as he wrestled with the knowledge of what was to happen to him that night. He needed the support of his friends. And how did they "support" him? By sleeping! Then there is the story of Peter, one of the most instrumental disciples, who denied knowing Jesus three different times. Next is the story of the Jews, Jesus' own people as a whole. The Jews wanted a Messiah to deliver them from the Romans, but in this story they proclaim their allegiance to these very Romans when it became convenient for them. Their laws wouldn't allow them to put anyone to death, and for Jesus, they weren't satisfied with their customary punishments. So they turned him over to the Romans, asking for crucifixion. And finally, there is the story of the crucifixion itself, which we will address tomorrow.



*Read | Matthew 26:36–56, 69–75; 27:11–26*

## Day 3

April 19



*Reflect | Spend some time reflecting on the following questions.*

Jesus experienced loneliness and betrayal during the crucifixion but kept his eyes on God for strength. Think of a time that you have experienced loneliness or betrayal, a time when you needed a friend but felt abandoned. How could the story have changed if you had followed Jesus' example of reliance on God for your support?

All of us are guilty of sin and betrayal of our Creator. How can you relate to the sleepy disciples, Judas, or the Jews, betraying the God who loves you and created you?

If you have never given up your life for the sake of Christ, consider reaching out to God now and submitting yourself to his always-loving embrace.



*Pray | Ask God to show you the glory in submission to him.*

### JESUS' SUBMISSION

In Matthew, before Jesus' arrest, we saw Jesus overwhelmed with sorrow, praying for God's will to be done, even though it would cost him much. He prays some powerful words, asking God to spare him if possible, but then he submits himself to the Father, saying, "Nevertheless, not as I will, but as you will." God's will was more important to him than his own comfort or status. After his arrest, Jesus was repeatedly taunted by his accusers. They mocked him and his claimed connection with God, who was not coming to his rescue. Here Jesus is betrayed by his most beloved of creation: man, whom he created in his own image. Perhaps the closest analogy we have to this is our own children—our children, whom we can remember before they were born, whom we held, comforted, guided, and love unconditionally. These are the faces Jesus stared into that night, and he willingly subjected himself to them.



*Read | Matthew 27:27–44; Philippians 2:6–7*

*Day 4*  
*April 20*



*Reflect | Spend some time reflecting on the following questions.*

Consider a time in your life that you were resistant to God's authority. How did it turn out? How may it have turned out differently if you had followed Jesus' example of submitting to God?

Compare these passages with John 19:11. Jesus had the power to change his circumstances, yet he did not because God's will was of utmost importance to him. What is of utmost importance to you?

Jesus willingly gave himself up to be humiliated and tortured for our eternal salvation, which he considered greater than his own comfort. Consider how you can give up your own status for something greater.



*Pray | Pray for courage to make the next difficult, godly choice.*

ESUS' CHOICE

As we reflect on the last three days of study, recall the various emotions Jesus has experienced. We've seen him overwhelmed by the task of taking on the sins of the world, overwhelmed with sorrow "to the point of death." He felt loneliness again and again as his disciples failed to support him in his time of deepest need. He was disowned by one of his closest friends and betrayed to death by another friend. He was mocked, humiliated, and tortured to death by his most beloved of creation.

And through all of this, taking on the sins of the world, Jesus willingly subjected himself to the wrath of a just God. As we saw in Day 1, the Bible says that Jesus was completely dependent on the Father. He was never apart from God. But taking on our sins, the unthinkable took place: Jesus experienced total separation from God. Yet he continued the task at hand to the cross and beyond.



*Read | Matthew 27:46; John 5:30, 8:27–28; John 13:14–15*

## Day 5

April 21



*Reflect | Spend some time reflecting on the following questions.*

Consider a time that you have given yourself permission to take an “easy out” in the face of pain or adversity, and consider how it turned out. How would it have changed if you had followed Jesus’ example of choosing God’s will?

Just before his death, Jesus experienced separation from God. He felt abandoned and forsaken by God. When have you been able to relate to his feeling of being far from God?

Jesus never took his eyes off the Father and his will during this time. But previously, Jesus had said that he did nothing on his own. He consulted God the Father for every move he made, and he was completely reliant on the Father. How can you follow Jesus’ example and grow in your reliance on God the Father as well?



*Pray | Celebrate the relevance of Jesus’ triumph in your life!*

ESUS’ TRIUMPH . . . over feeling overwhelmed, over sorrow, over loneliness, over betrayal, over mockery, over physical torture, over separation from God. Jesus completes his task!

And then he is resurrected from the dead, not only living again but joining God and sitting at the right hand of his Father in perfect unity again! God has exalted him above all else. God has given him the name above all names, the most powerful name in all creation.

Colossians says that Jesus disarmed the rulers and authorities and put them to open shame when he triumphed over them at the cross. The rulers and authorities of this world that would attempt to separate you from God have been defeated. You now have access to the name above all names and complete freedom to live a full, peaceful, abundant life!



*Read | Matthew 28:5–6; Philippians 2:9–11; Colossians 2:15*



*Reflect | Spend some time reflecting on the following questions.*

Consider the women in Matthew 28:5–6. They were afraid because they did not know what had happened to Jesus’ body. But look at the angel’s words: “just as he said.” Jesus did exactly what he said he would do. Jesus is still doing exactly what he said he would do. How can you triumph over the fear in your life, trusting God to do what he says he will do?

Take some intentional time to reflect on Jesus’ choices and pain that we have studied this week. Reflect on his triumph over each and every one, culminating in his unparalleled triumph on the cross. Think about everything he endured for you! How does this triumph affect your life?

*Portions of this study were adapted from Ed Stetzer and Trevin Wax, eds., *The Gospel Project Chronological: God Delivers, Vol. 2, Adult Personal Study Guide ESV* (Nashville, TN: LifeWay Christian Resources, 2015). Used by permission.*

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