# Passion Week

Prayer & Scripture Guide

2023

## A note from Pastor Jeff

We don't do these types of things just to make you busier!
Our aim is to let this week be set apart to sharpen us, grow us,
and increase our Love for Him.

I want to encourage you to make your time with Him a priority this week. Get up earlier, stay up later, or plan to spend your lunch break with Him. I know we all lead busy lives and have a lot of other things to do, but I am confident that if you give Him precedence in your life, you won't regret it. Time alone with Him is never wasted! My prayer for you is that as you reflect on the path Jesus walked during his last week on earth, you will grow in your understanding and love for Him.

May we be people that are passionate about the things that He is passionate about!

## On our own

We will focus each day this week on one aspect of our Christian walk, setting aside time each day to reflect, read, and pray. We will also take a look at what Jesus did each day in that last week before His crucifixion.

## As a Church

We will come together to be strengthened in our walk and practice some of these daily themes.

## Passion Week Calendar

Palm Sunday APRIL 2: Family Dinner & Worship @ 6pm

Wednesday APRIL 5: Serving Night @ 6pm

Thursday APRIL 6: Prayer Service @ 6:30pm

Good Friday APRIL 7: Communion Service @ 6:30pm

Easter Sunday APRIL 9: Celebration Service @ 10am

Visit our website for more information about these events: www.gatheringadell.org

## Passion for Community

On this day that we've come to know as *Palm Sunday*, Jesus triumphantly entered the city of Jerusalem, riding on a donkey and was greeted by crowds of people heralding his arrival. They waved palm branches, spread their clothes on the road in front of him, and shouted praises. But right before His arrival, Jesus saw the city of Jerusalem, was filled with compassion, and he wept for it. (Luke 19:28-44)

### Jesus was passionate about community, and we should be too!

Prayer Prompts: Thank God for the community He has placed you in, for your family, your friends, and your church. Ask Him to give you a heart for your city. Ask Him to show you how you can be a blessing in the lives of the people around you and share the love of Jesus with the people in your community.

<u>Dig Deeper</u>: Romans 12:4-9, 1 Corinthians 1:10, Galatians 6:1-5, Proverbs 27:17, John 15:12-13

## Join our church family for dinner

April 2 @ 6pm
Dinner provided
Bring a dessert if you want to!

We will have a short time of worship after we eat to kick off our week.

## Passion for the Word

On this day, Jesus curses the fig tree. The tree had the appearance of fruitfulness, but it was deceptive, there was no fruit. He also cleanses the temple by driving out the money-changers who were gouging the people by charging exorbitant prices for the sacrifices. Jesus says to them, "It is written..." demonstrating honor for the Word. (Matthew 21:12-13, Luke 19:45-48)

#### Jesus was passionate about the Word, and we should be too!

Prayer Prompts: Thank God for His Word. Ask Him to give you a greater hunger, love, and understanding for the Word. Ask Him to help you to walk in the truth of scripture and to apply it to your life.

<u>Dig Deeper</u>: 2 Timothy 3:16-17, James 1:22-25, Psalm 119:105, 111-112, Hebrews 4:12-13

John 1:1-5 tells us that Jesus is the Word. So when we read the Bible, we are gaining a greater understanding of Jesus!

In light of this, we encourage you to spend some more time in the Word today than you normally do. Take time to read it, study it, and pray through it.

His Word brings life!

## Passion for Generosity

On this day, Jesus was questioned by the religious leaders, he told many parables, and people were amazed by his answers. Across from the temple treasury, he watched people giving their money. He was deeply moved by a poor widow, who dropped two small coins in, worth very little. He praised the poor widow for giving everything she had. (Mark 12:41-44)

#### Jesus was passionate about generosity, and we should be too!

Prayer Prompts: Thank God for the ways He has provided for you and for everything He has given you. Ask Him to show you how you can be more generous with your time, talents, and treasure. Ask Him to help you to live an open-handed lifestyle because it all belongs to Him anyway!

<u>Dig Deeper</u>: 2 Corinthians 9:6-11, Proverbs 11:24-25, Luke 16:10-13, 1 John 3:16-17, Hebrews 13:14-16, 1 Timothy 6:17-18, Matthew 25:29

Jesus gave up everything to come to earth and give his life as a ransom for us.

When we are generous with what He's given us, we demonstrate our trust in Him to meet all our needs.

God is the Great Provider!

## Passion for Serving

On this day, Jesus had just finished talking with his disciples on the Mount of Olives. He ends his lesson there by telling them of what it will be like on judgement day. The sheep will be separated from the goats. Some will be told, "For I was hungry, and you fed me. I was thirsty, and you gave me a drink. I was a stranger, and you invited me into your home. I was naked, and you gave me clothing. I was sick, and you cared for me. I was in prison, and you visited me." Later that evening, the plot to kill Jesus was put into motion. (Matthew 25:31-46, Matthew 26:1-16)

#### Jesus was passionate about serving, and we should be too!

Prayer Prompts: Thank God for the example we have in Jesus to be a servant. Ask Him to open your eyes to the needs of those around you. Ask Him to show you how you can serve your family, your community, and your church better.

<u>Dig Deeper</u>: Matthew 25:31-46, Matthew 5:13-16, Philippians 2:4-7, Galatians 5:13, Mark 10:43-45, 1 Peter 4:8-10

Jesus declared in Mark 10 that even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve others and to give His life as a ransom for many.

We are the most like Jesus on the earth when we are selflessly serving others.

## Passion for Prayer

On this day, Jesus and the disciples have their last supper together, then go to the Garden of Gethsemane. Jesus prayed and asked his disciples to keep watch and pray too, but they kept falling asleep. Then Jesus is arrested and taken before the High Priest Caiaphas. Peter denies Jesus three times.

(Matthew 26:17-75)

#### Jesus was passionate about prayer, and we should be too!

Prayer Prompts: Thank God that because of Jesus we can come straight to God in prayer. Ask Him to increase your prayer life and help you to do better at bringing everything to Him in prayer.

<u>Dig Deeper</u>: Matthew 6:5-13, 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18, 1 John 5:14,

2 Chronicles 7:14-15, Psalm 116:1-2

Prayer is simply talking to God. It does not need to be complicated. He already knows everything about you. Jesus laid out an example of how to pray in the garden that night. He poured out His heart to God in anguish at what was to come.

If you don't know how to pray, start with the model Jesus gave us in the Lord's prayer (Matthew 6:9-13).

Start with thanksgiving and praise; pray for God's will in your life and tell Him what you need; ask for forgiveness and for God to help you forgive those who have wronged you; ask Him to help you avoid temptation and resist the plans of the enemy in your life.

He wants to hear from you.

## Passion for Communion

On this day, Jesus stands trial before Pilate and is handed over to be crucified. He is mocked, severly beaten, and a crown of thorns is forced onto his head. He is nailed to a cross and dies around 3:00 that afternoon. At the same time the lambs were being slain for the Passover celebration, Jesus was slain for the sins of all mankind. It is finished. Jesus' body is removed from the cross and placed in the tomb of Joseph of Arimathea. A large stone is rolled to cover the opening of the tomb. Jesus is in the grave. (Matthew 27)

#### Jesus passionately gave His body and His blood for us!

Prayer Prompts: Thank Jesus for His obedience in enduring the cross and the punishment for our sins. Ask Him to give you revelation of what His body and His blood mean for you.

<u>Dig Deeper</u>: Isaiah 53:3-12, 1 Peter 2:21-25, Hebrews 12:2-3, Philippians 2:5-8, Luke 22:14-20

When Jesus died, the earth shook, the rocks split apart, tombs opened and people who were dead were raised to life, and the curtain in the inner sanctuary was torn in half. The Passover Feast, the Feast of Unleavened Bread, was observed during the nighttime hours.

## Jesus is our Passover Lamb

We encourage you to fast from food today and in place of mealtimes, spend time with Jesus reflecting on what He endured on your behalf and what He accomplished through his death.

### Communion Service

Join us as we break our fast with the taking of Communion followed by a time of worship. Tonight @ 6:30pm

## Passion for Rest

This day was the Sabbath. The body of Jesus lay in the tomb, while it was guarded by Roman soldiers. In the evening, when the Sabbath had ended, Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome went out and purchased burial spices so they could anoint Jesus' body.

Today, we encourage you to enjoy a day of rest. Hold off on doing work, enjoy time with your family, or take a nap!

#### Rest in the finished work of Jesus!

*Prayer Prompts*: Thank God for the finished work of Jesus on the cross. Ask Him to help you to learn to rest in Him. Ask Him to help you to stop striving and be still, knowing that He is God.

Dig Deeper: Matthew 11:28-30, Hebrews 4:1-11, Psalm 127:1-2,

Psalm 91:1-2, Genesis 2:1-3

Take a day to reset, rest, linger, and play.

After creation, God demonstrated a pattern that we would need in our lives. We don't work to rest. We rest to work.

#### Mark 2:27-28

Then Jesus said to them, "The Sabbath was made to meet the needs of the people, and not people to meet the requirements of the Sabbath.

So the Son of Man is Lord. even over the Sabbath!

## Passion for Jesus

This was the first day of the week, the Feast of Firstfruits. The women arrived at the tomb and were surprised to find that Jesus was not there. The angel told them, "He is not here! He is risen from the dead!" Jesus arose on the third day, just as He said He would.

Today we celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the grave!

He triumphed over death, hell, and the grave!

We have life because Jesus is alive!

Join us at church at 10:00am to celebrate our Risen Savior!

<u>Dig Deeper</u>: Matthew 28:1-10, 1 Corinthians 15:2-7, 1 Corinthians 15:20-23, 1 Peter 1:3-4, John 11:25-26, Colossians 2:13-15

## the gathering