

Calvary Chapel of El Cajon Women's Bible Studies

Easter Lesson

*looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith,
who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame,
and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.*

For consider Him who endured...

- Hebrews 12:2,3a

FIRST DAY: Read Hebrews 12:2-3

1. The verses in today's reading are meant to encourage us in our walk with the Lord to a greater measure of endurance by *looking unto Jesus, Who endured the cross, despising the shame*. This week we want to use the phrases *looking unto Jesus* and *consider Him* to focus our minds and hearts on what He endured for our salvation. In what way does this prepare us to celebrate Easter?
2. Consider Mary of Bethany's preparation for Christ's burial from John 12:1-8. (Also see Matthew 26:6-13; Mark 14:3-9.) Notice Jesus' defense of her in Mark 14:6-9. In what way does verse 8 of Mark 14 speak to you about your preparation in remembrance of what He has done for you?
3. Even before you do this homework, you are probably familiar with many of the sufferings that Jesus' endured. List just a few of those that have impacted you as you have *considered* what He did for you.

SECOND DAY: Read Luke 22:1, 2, 7-23

1. Begin your journey with Jesus through His last days and hours by first looking at the preparation for the Passover meal with His disciples. Jesus gave Peter and John instructions for this preparation. In your own words write Jesus' directions to them from verses 10-12.
 - a. Pause for a moment and think about this. Write the phrase from Luke 22:13 that declares the outcome of their following Jesus' instructions.

2. *Look* intently at Jesus as you reflect on Luke 22:14-23. Briefly describe what you see.
 - a. Consider this remarkable occasion from the following Scriptures and note your observations:
 - (1.) Matthew 26:20-29

 - (2.) John 13:(2,3) 4-15, 21-30
 - b. Read Luke 22:19,20 again. *Look* closely at our Lord as He shares with the disciples how He is to be remembered. What do you see?
 - (1.) Jesus and His disciples were observing the Jewish Passover on this momentous night. (See Exodus 12:1-7,12,13,23 for a brief history of Passover.) Now lovingly and gratefully record the wondrous declaration of I Corinthians 5:7b.

 - (2.) Luke 22:20 reveals the establishment of *the new testament* (covenant) in Christ's blood. Christ's sacrifice is the foundation of this covenant as seen in Hebrews 9:14,15. How does this increase your appreciation of Jesus Christ and the New Covenant?

3. In what way have the verses in today's lesson increased your desire to remember Jesus through partaking of communion?

In broken bread and the cup that we share, we remember You.

THIRD DAY: Read Luke 22:39-62

1. Walk with Jesus and His disciples from the Upper Room to the Garden of Gethsemane. *Fix your eyes* upon Jesus through the lens of the following verses and summarize what you see:

a. Matthew 26:36-38

b. Matthew 26:39-46

(1.) *Consider* Jesus as you record the depth of His anguish from Luke 22:44.

c. Matthew 26:47-56

(1.) As you *look* at Jesus in these passages, which scene is most offensive or painful to you?

(a.) Why?

2. Watch Jesus as He is led from the Garden of Gethsemane as you read John 18:12-24 and answer the following questions:

a. Who *led Him away* and how was He led? verse 12

b. Where did they take Him? verses 13,15b

c. What did Jesus endure while there? verses 19-23

d. Where did Annas send Him? verse 24

*It was alone the Savior prayed in dark Gethsemane.
Alone He drank the bitter cup and suffered there for me.*

-B. H. Price

FOURTH DAY: Read Isaiah 53:3-7

1. Imagine an accused man on trial in a courtroom. *Consider* Jesus as you record the inhumane way He was treated while on trial before:
 - a. Caiaphas and Jewish leaders Matthew 26:57-68

 - b. Pilate Luke 23:1-7

 - c. Herod Luke 23:8-11

 - d. Pilate Matthew 27:11-32, John 19:4-16

2. List the indignities that were prophesied in Isaiah 50:6 concerning the Messiah.
 - a. *Look* at the picture of Jesus from Isaiah 52:14 after suffering all these brutalities. Write this verse here. *Selah* - pause and think about this.

3. Reflect on all that you have read today about Christ's humiliation and suffering. What affects you the most?
 - a. Why?

The thorns on Your brow, they tell me how You bore so much shame to love me.

- R. Cimino

FIFTH DAY: Read Matthew 27:31-50, Luke 23:26-49, John 19:16-30

1. Our focus today will be on Christ's crucifixion. Fanny Crosby, the blind hymn writer, contemplating Jesus' death, wrote: "Near the cross a Lamb of God, bring its scenes before me; help me walk from day to day, with its shadow o'er me." Read these words again. Ask the Lord to imprint on your heart such a powerful revelation of the crucifixion that it will overshadow your life always. It is so easy to forget the awful cost of our salvation and live as though He had not died for us. Write your prayer here.

2. Reverently gaze upon Jesus as you thankfully and lovingly record details of His crucifixion from the following verses (the verses in parenthesis are to amplify your study):
 - a. Matthew 27:33,34 (Psalm 69:21)

 - b. Matthew 27:35, John 19:23,24

 - c. Matthew 27:37; Mark 15:26; Luke 23:38; John 19:19 (write the complete inscription)

 - d. Add to this any information from John 19:23-37 that enriches your knowledge of the awful cost of our redemption.

3. Continue to *look* at the Son of God on the cross as you carefully read the following passages describing briefly what you see:
 - a. Matthew 27:38-44

 - b. Matthew 27:45,46

 - c. Matthew 27:47-50

 - d. According to Luke 23:45 the *veil of the temple* was *torn in two*. What is the significance of this according to Hebrews 9:3; 10:19,20?

SIXTH DAY: Read Psalm 22:1-21

1. Psalm 22 was written almost a thousand years before Rome used crucifixion as a form of execution. Crucifixion was Rome's punishment for slaves, foreigners, and criminals who were not Roman citizens. It was the most agonizing death a cruel age could devise. Nails were driven through the hands and feet, and the victim was left hanging there in agony, starvation, insufferable thirst, and excruciating convulsions of pain. Record the prophecy from Psalm 22:16b concerning Christ's death.
 - a. Thoughtfully read the sentence above that begins "nails were driven." Now read Psalm 22:14,15. Record one facet of Christ's suffering revealed through these verses.
 - (1.) Why did Jesus *endure the cross*? Hebrews 12:2b
 - (a.) What was the *joy that was set before Him*?
2. Christ identified with our sin that we might become identified with His righteousness. (2 Corinthians 5:21) Thoughtfully consider each phrase of Isaiah 53:5,6 as you write these verses here inserting your name in place of the words *our, we*.
3. View the scene of Jesus' burial through one of the following accounts: Matthew 27:57-61; Mark 15:42-47; Luke 23:50-56; John 19:38-42. Summarize what you see.
4. Share a way you plan to keep remembering His great sacrifice of love throughout this Easter season.

[†] This study is a copy (with minor adaptations) of the Calvary Chapel of Costa Mesa Joyful Life Women's Ministry Easter Lesson 2000