



VERITAS
CHURCH

2021 LENT PRAYER GUIDE

WHAT IS LENT?

Lent is a yearly season in the church's life to prepare our hearts for Easter. It is a special season to reflect on Jesus' journey to the cross and the significance of his death and resurrection for us. The weekly readings are provided to help you meditate on the biblical storyline as it heads towards the cross and stir your heart with a deeper understanding of the significance of what Jesus has done for us. What will be most helpful is to spend some devoted time in reading, meditation, and prayer over these passages each week as we move towards celebrating the cross and resurrection.



WEEK ONE: 2/17 - 2/23

Scripture: Matthew 4:1-11

Reflection: As we begin the season of Lent and spend 40 days reflecting on the cross, it will be helpful to begin by meditating on Jesus' 40-day temptation in the wilderness. Jesus is tempted by the devil with three things, all of which come down to the fundamental question of whether or not he will trust God as his Father. Jesus responds by quoting three times from Deuteronomy 6-8 - chapters focusing on Israel's journey through the wilderness where they repeatedly gave into temptation and did not trust God to provide for them. Israel was called as a nation to be the obedient son of God (Exodus 4:22-23) that God would use to bring blessing to the nations, in the sense that as the nations saw the way the Israelites worshipped God and walked in obedience with him they would be attracted and drawn in. But the Israelites failed in this calling over and over again.

Jesus quotes from this section of Scripture to show that where Israel failed, he will succeed. He is the truly obedient Son of God who will bring life and blessing to the nations, so that anyone who calls on his name will be saved. He is the true Son of God who will always trust his Father and walk in his ways.



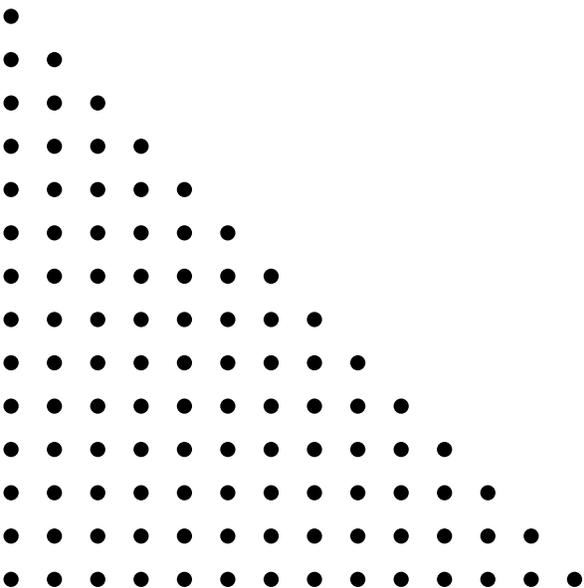
WEEK ONE: 2/17 - 2/23

A few things to guide your meditation on this passage:

1. Repent of ways you have given in to these temptations and failed to trust God as your Father who loves you and promises to always give you what you need.
2. Consider the significance of Jesus defeating Satan's temptations here. What does this mean for us? Why is it good news for us that Jesus was completely obedient here?
3. Consider what this passage reveals about God as our Father. If Jesus is able to defeat the most extreme temptations because of how deeply he is convinced that God is his Father who loves him and will do what is best for him, what does that tell us about God? What confidence does that give us when we think about God being our Father through the work of Jesus?



WEEK ONE - NOTES



WEEK TWO: 2/24 - 3/2

Scripture: Genesis 22

Reflection: Abraham had been waiting decades for the birth of his promised son Isaac. Everything that God had promised to Abraham was wrapped up in his son Isaac, and now God is asking Abraham to sacrifice him. Abraham trusts God and is obedient to do what he says, but instead of actually making him sacrifice Isaac, God provides a ram “instead of” (v.13) Isaac and Isaac’s life is spared.

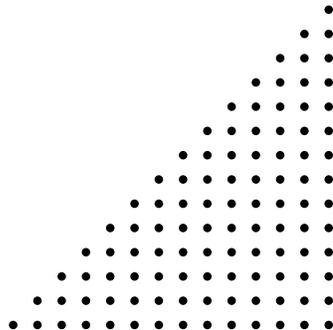
As you reflect on this story and what it means for God to provide a substitute in Isaac’s place, look at John 3:16 and Romans 8:32. Do you hear echoes of Genesis 22 in these verses? What does this tell us about the love of God? How does this help give us a deeper picture of the cross? Spend time this week meditating on the love of God displayed for us at the cross.



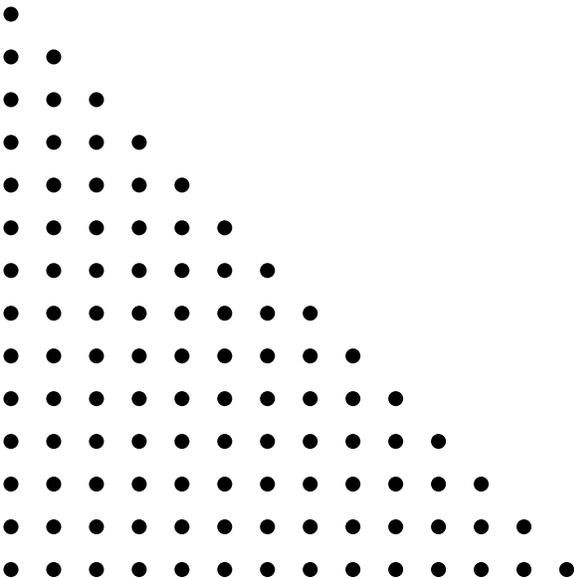
WEEK TWO: 2/24 - 3/2

A few things to guide your meditation on this passage:

1. As you think about what it means for God to provide a substitute in Isaac's place, look at John 3:16 and Romans 8:32. Do you hear echoes of Genesis 22 in these verses? What does this tell us about the love of God? How does this help give us a deeper picture of the cross?
2. Spend time this week meditating on the love of God displayed for us at the cross.



WEEK TWO - NOTES



WEEK THREE: 3/3 - 3/9

Scripture: Exodus 12

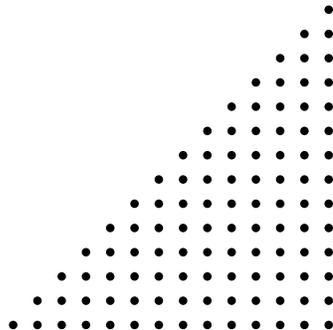
Reflection: When we come to Exodus 12, the Israelites have been enslaved to the Egyptians for hundreds of years. But God was acting on their behalf to deliver them. In chapters 7-11, he begins to bring plagues on the Egyptians. Exodus 12 describes the tenth and final plague, the death of every firstborn in Egypt. Within this plague, God provides both the final push for Pharaoh to let the people go free and a way for every firstborn of the Israelites to be saved. He institutes the Passover, a ceremony where a lamb is sacrificed in place of the firstborn of the family. The lamb's blood is smeared over the doorposts of the house, and the Lord's angel passes over the house and spares the firstborn of the family. Not only is the firstborn saved, with this Passover, the whole nation of Israel is set free from their slavery in Egypt.



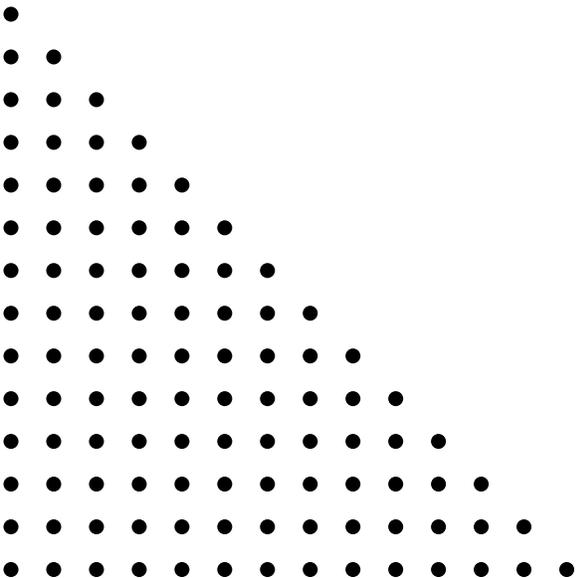
WEEK THREE: 3/3 - 3/9

A few things to guide your meditation on this passage:

1. God says in verse 2 that the Passover ceremony will now mark the new year for the Israelites. What is the significance of re-organizing their calendar around the Passover, so that it is the first thing celebrated each new year?
2. Why is God making such a big point of instituting the Passover feast and making this a ceremony that takes place every year? What is the significance of celebrating and remembering this night of deliverance? What might this show us about the importance of the Lord's Supper?
3. Look at John 19:36. How is Jesus being alluded to as the Passover lamb here? What does that reveal to us about the cross? How does that reveal what the exodus deliverance from Egypt was pointing to?



WEEK THREE - NOTES



WEEK FOUR: 3/10 - 3/16

Scripture: Leviticus 16

Reflection: Leviticus 16 describes the Day of Atonement ceremony, the one time a year the whole nation would gather around the Tabernacle to witness God dealing with their guilt and sin. The high priest would take one goat and sacrifice it as a sin offering, and then he would take another goat, lay his hands on its head, and confess all the sins of the people of Israel, symbolically transferring their sins onto the goat. The goat would then be led out of the camp of Israel into the wilderness, never to be seen again. God was graciously providing a way for sin to be dealt with so that Israel could continue to live with him.



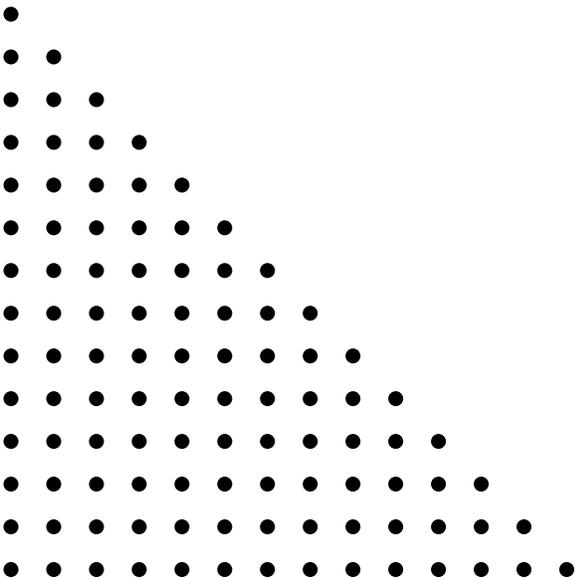
WEEK FOUR: 3/10 - 3/16

A few things to guide your meditation on this passage:

1. Look at Psalm 103:12. How does the picture given here deepen our understanding of what God does in dealing with our sin? How do we see this pictured in the Day of Atonement ceremony?
2. Look at Hebrews 10:1-18. What was the Day of Atonement meant to foreshadow? How does the picture it gives deepen the significance of what Jesus did for us on the cross?



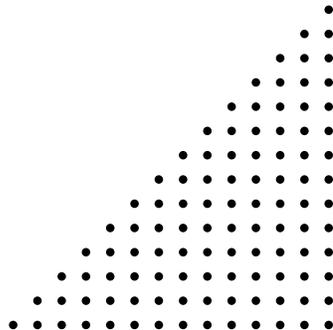
WEEK FOUR - NOTES



WEEK FIVE: 3/17 - 3/23

Scripture: Isaiah 52:13-ch53

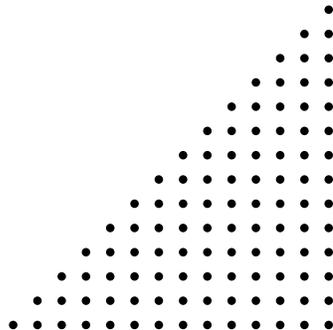
Reflection: Here in Isaiah 53 we get a clear picture and foreshadowing of what Jesus is going to accomplish on the cross. It's almost as if Isaiah is at the foot of the cross, narrating the events taking place, even though he wrote this centuries before the cross. Take time this week to meditate on the work of Jesus described here and how his cross will deliver us from our sins.



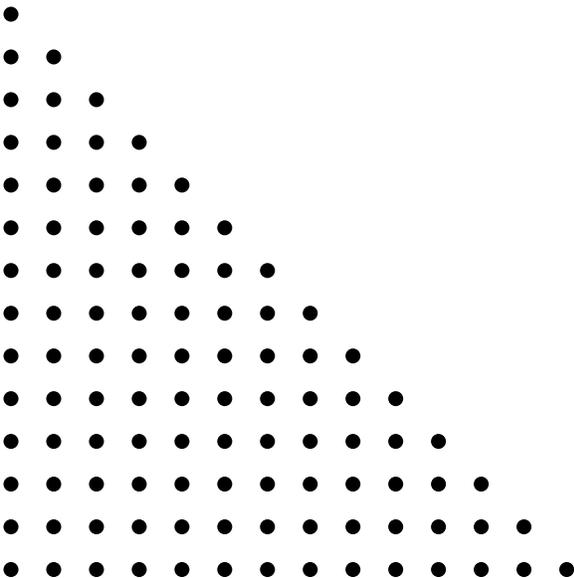
WEEK FIVE: 3/17 - 3/23

A few things to guide your meditation on this passage:

1. Read 1 Peter 2:22-25 and meditate on Jesus' death for our sin in our place.
2. Read Acts 8:26-40 and meditate on how Jesus' death changes peoples' lives.



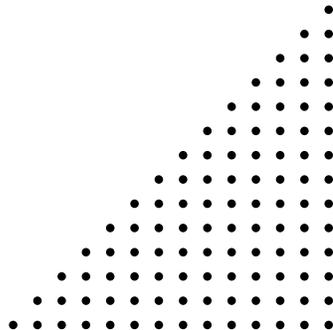
WEEK FIVE - NOTES



WEEK SIX: 3/24 - 4/3

Scripture: John 19:1-42

Reflection: During the final week of Lent, we want to get our eyes and hearts fixed directly on the cross. How do the passages we have looked at in previous weeks deepen our understanding of what Jesus is accomplishing on the cross? What is Jesus accomplishing here? What does John highlight in this story to show us the meaning of the cross? Spend time this week meditating on this passage as we move into Good Friday and Easter Sunday.



WEEK SIX: 3/24 - 4/3

A few things to guide your meditation on this passage:

1. How do the passages we have looked at in previous weeks deepen our understanding of what Jesus is accomplishing on the cross?
2. What is Jesus accomplishing here?
3. What does John highlight in this story to show us the meaning of the cross?
4. Spend time this week meditating on this passage as we move into Good Friday and Easter Sunday.



WEEK SIX - NOTES

