



# EASTER FAMILY DEVOTIONAL

**WEEK 4  
APRIL 3-7**



FIRST BAPTIST SIMPSONVILLE  
**UPSTATE CHURCH**

# WEEK 4, DAY 1

## COREY WATSON

SCRIPTURE: LUKE 22:39-52, JESUS STORYBOOK BIBLE, A DARK NIGHT IN THE GARDEN

### EXPLAIN:

WE ALL HAVE HAD A BAD NIGHT AND WE KNOW WHAT IT IS TO BE IN A TOUGH SITUATION. THESE ARE NORMAL PARTS OF OUR EVERYDAY LIVES, BUT LUKE 22:39-52 POINT US TO THE DARKEST NIGHT OF JESUS' LIFE; SOMETHING FAR MORE DIFFICULT THAN WE HAVE EVER EXPERIENCED OR EVER WILL EXPERIENCE. ON THIS FATEFUL NIGHT IN THE GARDEN, JESUS KNEW THAT THE TIME WAS FAST APPROACHING FOR HIM TO DIE A BRUTAL DEATH ON A ROMAN CROSS. HIS DEATH WAS NEEDED TO PAY THE PRICE FOR THE WORLD TO BE RANSOMED FROM THEIR SIN, AND HIS PERFECT BLOOD WAS THE ONLY THING THAT COULD.

GOD WAS GOING TO POUR INTO JESUS ALL THE SICKNESS AND BROKENNESS OF EVERY MAN FROM EVERY GENERATION SINCE THE BEGINNING OF THE WORLD. JESUS, KNOWING THIS HAD TO HAPPEN, LEANED INTO THE MOMENT, AND ASKED GOD FOR HIS WILL TO BE DONE DESPITE HIS OWN FEAR AND RELUCTANCE. WHILE HE KNEW IT WOULD BRING GREAT SUFFERING, HE ALSO KNEW IT WAS NECESSARY FOR GOD'S PEOPLE TO BE MADE RIGHT WITH THE FATHER. AS HIS TIME IN THE GARDEN CAME TO A CLOSE, JESUS WAS BETRAYED, ARRESTED, AND NAILED TO A CROSS, BUT HIS DEATH WOULD SECURE OUR VICTORY FOREVER.

### APPLY:

FOR FAMILIES WITH YOUNGER KIDS:

WHAT IS AN EXAMPLE OF A MISTAKE THAT YOU MADE RECENTLY? HOW DID YOU FIX IT?  
HOW WOULD YOU FEEL IF SOMEONE SACRIFICED TO HELP CORRECT THAT MISTAKE?  
HOW SHOULD WE RESPOND TO JESUS PAYING FOR ALL THE WRONG THINGS WE HAVE DONE?

FOR OLDER TEENS AND ADULTS:

WHY WAS IT NECESSARY FOR JESUS TO DIE?  
HOW SHOULD WE RESPOND TO JESUS' TIME IN THE GARDEN?  
HOW SHOULD WE VIEW OUR SIN IN LIGHT OF THIS STORY?

### PRAYER:

FATHER, HELP ME UNDERSTAND THE PRICE JESUS PAID FOR ME TO KNOW YOU. HELP ME SEE MY MISTAKES AND THEIR COST AND TO RUN TO YOU INSTEAD OF THEM. PLEASE HELP ME TO FOLLOW YOU EVEN IN THE HARDEST OF TIMES, KNOWING THAT THE SACRIFICES I MAKE ARE FOR YOUR GLORY. AMEN.

# WEEK 4, DAY 2

## HEATHER ROGERS

SCRIPTURE: LUKE 23:26-49, OR THE JESUS STORYBOOK BIBLE, THE SUN STOPS SHINING

### EXPLAIN:

IT'S HARD FOR US TO IMAGINE THE KIND OF AGONY JESUS MUST HAVE EXPERIENCED ON HIS WAY TO THE CROSS - A SYMBOL BOTH OFFENSIVE AND HUMILIATING. WHY WAS THE SON OF GOD, A PERFECT MAN, SUBJECTED TO SUCH CRUELTY? HE WAS REJECTED, BEATEN, SPIT ON, CALLED NAMES, AND SHAMED. WHY WOULD CHRIST ENDURE THIS FOR US?

LUKE 23:26-49 IS AN EXAMPLE OF HOW MUCH GOD TRULY LOVES US THROUGH JESUS' PRAYER. "FORGIVE THEM FATHER FOR THEY KNOW NOT WHAT THEY DO." THIS PRAYER IS FOR THE SOLDIER WHO BEAT HIM, THE QUIET MAN WHO SECRETLY SPIT ON HIM, THE LOUD ONE WHO SHOUTED AND CALLED HIM NAMES, THE SOLDIER WHO STRIPPED HIM OF HIS CLOTHES. JESUS' PRAYER IN THAT MOMENT OF EXCRUCIATING PAIN WAS OUT OF LOVE FOR THOSE WHO SINNED AGAINST HIM, BUT IT WAS ALSO FOR US. WE TOO PUT JESUS ON THE CROSS THAT DAY THROUGH OUR SIN. HE DIED FOR OUR MISTREATMENT OF OTHERS, OUR NAME CALLING OF THOSE WE SHOULD SHOW LOVE TO, AND OUR DISREGARD FOR THE SIN WE STILL HOLD ONTO.

WE MUST RECOGNIZE JESUS FOR WHO HE IS AND WHAT HE DID FOR US JUST AS THE CRIMINAL ON THE CROSS BESIDE HIM DID, AND WE CAN ACCEPT THIS INCREDIBLE GIFT OF MERCY THROUGH CALLING UPON THE NAME OF JESUS AND REPENTANCE.

### APPLY:

FOR FAMILIES WITH YOUNGER KIDS:

THINK OF A TIME WHEN YOU UPSET SOMEONE FOR SOMETHING YOU DID. DID THEY FORGIVE YOU? DO YOU THINK THERE IS EVER ANYTHING YOU CAN DO THAT JESUS WILL NOT FORGIVE YOU FOR?

FOR OLDER TEENS AND ADULTS:

THE WORD TETELESTAI MEANS "IT IS FINISHED". WHY DO YOU THINK JESUS SPOKE THIS LAST? HOW DOES YOUR VIEW OF THE PEOPLE AROUND YOU CHANGE WHEN YOU RECOGNIZE THAT THEY HAVE BEEN OFFERED THE SAME GRACE FROM JESUS?

### PRAYER:

FATHER, WHEN I THINK I AM UNWORTHY, REMIND ME THAT I AM LOVED BY GOD SO MUCH THAT JESUS ENDURED THE PAIN OF THE CROSS FOR ME. THANK YOU FOR THE CROSS AND THE GIFT OF SALVATION THAT WAS PROVIDED THROUGH IT. GIVE ME THE STRENGTH AND COURAGE TO LOVE AND FORGIVE MY ENEMIES EVEN IN THE MIDST OF PERSECUTION AND SUFFERING AS YOUR SON JESUS DID. AMEN.

# WEEK 4, DAY 3

## LEAH ABBOTT

SCRIPTURE: LUKE 24:1-12, 36-49, THE JESUS STORYBOOK BIBLE,  
GOD'S WONDERFUL SURPRISE

### EXPLAIN:

THE LOSS OF A LOVED ONE LEAVES AN EMPTINESS IN OUR HEARTS THAT MIRRORS THE EMPTINESS FELT BY JESUS' DISCIPLES AFTER THEIR LORD WAS KILLED. THE BODY LAID TO REST IN A QUIET TOMB, WE LIKE THEM ARE FORCED TO ACCEPT THE PERSON WE CARED ABOUT SO DEEPLY IS NO LONGER WITH US. THE ONE BIG DIFFERENCE, HOWEVER, IS THAT WHEN WE VISIT A PERSON'S TOMB YOU WILL FIND THEIR BODY LYING THERE. IT WAS NOT SO FOR THE WOMEN WHO VISITED THE TOMB OF THEIR MASTER JESUS THREE DAYS AFTER HIS EXECUTION.

IN LUKE 24:1-12, THE WOMEN VISITED THE TOMB TO FIND THE STONE HAS BEEN ROLLED AWAY AND THE LORD JESUS WAS GONE. IN THEIR CONFUSION, ANGELS CAME TO THEM AND SAID, "HE IS NOT HERE, FOR HE IS RISEN!" IN THEIR EXCITEMENT THE WOMEN RAN FROM THE TOMB TO SHARE THE NEWS, BUT THE OTHER DISCIPLES DID NOT BELIEVE THEM; THEY HAD TO SEE IT FOR THEMSELVES. THE TOMB WAS INDEED EMPTY, AND THIS REALIZATION CHANGED EVERYTHING. JESUS HAD CONQUERED SIN AND DEATH.\

IN LUKE 24: 36-49, JESUS APPEARS TO HIS DISCIPLES AND SAYS TO THEM, "PEACE BE WITH YOU." THEY WERE FRIGHTENED THINKING THEY HAD SEEN A GHOST, BUT AFTER JESUS SHOWED THEM HIS HANDS AND FEET, THEY FINALLY BELIEVED JESUS WAS TRULY ALIVE. NO MATTER WHAT YOU ARE FACING, ALWAYS REMEMBER THE EMPTY TOMB, AND HOW JESUS ROSE FROM THE DEAD TO FORGIVE US OUR SINS AND THROUGH THIS WE HAVE ETERNAL LIFE.

### APPLY:

FOR FAMILIES WITH YOUNGER KIDS:

WHAT IS SOMETHING THAT FRIGHTENS YOU?

WHO IS SOMEONE THAT IS ALWAYS THERE FOR YOU EVEN WHEN YOU ARE AFRAID?

WHAT CAN WE DO WHEN WE ARE AFRAID?

FOR OLDER TEENS AND ADULTS:

HOW DOES JESUS' RESURRECTION IMPACT YOUR DAILY WALK WITH THE LORD?

JESUS DISPLAYED PATIENCE WHEN THE DISCIPLES DIDN'T BELIEVE. IN WHAT AREAS OF YOUR LIFE DOES JESUS DISPLAY PATIENCE WITH YOU?

### PRAYER:

GOD, THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR SENDING YOUR SON JESUS CHRIST TO DIE ON THE CROSS FOR MY SINS SO THAT I CAN HAVE ETERNAL LIFE. PLEASE HAVE PATIENCE WITH ME WHEN I DO NOT UNDERSTAND OR WHEN I DO NOT BELIEVE. HELP ME TO LIVE MY LIFE TO THE FULLEST IN THE LIGHT OF ALL YOU HAVE DONE AND SECURED. IN JESUS NAME. AMEN.

# WEEK 4, DAY 4

## JILL ADAIR

SCRIPTURE: LUKE 24:50-53, THE JESUS STORYBOOK BIBLE, GOING HOME

### EXPLAIN:

WHAT A MOMENT THE ASCENSION OF JESUS MUST HAVE BEEN! IT MUST HAVE BEEN A LOT FOR THE DISCIPLES TO JUST PROCESS THE RESURRECTION OF THEIR FRIEND FROM THE DEAD, BUT NOW, JUST AS THEY ARE BEGINNING TO UNDERSTAND IT, JESUS WAS LEAVING THEM. WHAT NOW THEY MUST HAVE ASKED? IN LUKE 24:50-53, WE FIND JESUS BLESSING THE DISCIPLES ONE FINAL TIME, AND I CAN ONLY IMAGINE THE LOOK ON THEIR FACES. THIS WAS QUITE THE FAREWELL.

WHAT EMOTIONS DID THEY FEEL? WERE THEY STILL CONFUSED, OR DID THEY STAND IN CONFIDENCE KNOWING WHAT THEIR MISSION WAS? WHATEVER THE CASE, WE DO KNOW “THEY WORSHIPED HIM AND RETURNED TO JERUSALEM WITH GREAT JOY AND WERE CONTINUALLY IN THE TEMPLE BLESSING GOD.” NO MATTER OUR CIRCUMSTANCES, THERE IS CLARITY IN WHAT OUR RESPONSE SHOULD BE WHEN WE SEE AND EXPERIENCE JESUS. IT’S WORSHIP, JOY, AND CONTINUALLY PRAISING GOD. THERE WILL BE HARD SEASONS IN OUR LIVES, SEASONS OF LOSS AND UNANSWERED QUESTIONS. THAT’S OKAY. THESE SEASONS ARE OUT OF OUR CONTROL, BUT OUR RESPONSE IS NOT.

THE DISCIPLES WERE TASKED WITH BEING A WITNESS TO THE THINGS THEY HAD SEEN, AND WE TOO ARE TO BE WITNESSES TO THE SAME LOVING AND GRACIOUS GOD THEY KNEW. WE ARE TO WITNESS ABOUT THE SAME JESUS WHO SUFFERED, DIED, AND ROSE AGAIN ON THE THIRD DAY PROCLAIMING THE NEWS OF REPENTANCE AND FORGIVENESS. AND, JUST LIKE THE DISCIPLES HERE IN LUKE, WE SHOULD DO IT ALL WITH JOY AND PRAISE.

### APPLY:

FOR FAMILIES WITH YOUNGER KIDS:

DESCRIBE WHAT YOU THINK IT MAY HAVE BEEN LIKE THAT DAY JESUS WAS CARRIED INTO HEAVEN. HOW WOULD YOU FEEL IF YOU WERE THERE THAT DAY AND SAW THIS HAPPEN? WHY DO YOU THINK THE DISCIPLES WERE HAPPY AND SINGING WHEN JESUS LEFT?

FOR OLDER TEENS AND ADULTS:

WHY DO YOU THINK IT WAS TIME FOR JESUS TO LEAVE FOR HEAVEN RATHER THAN STAY?  
IS IT HARD TO HAVE JOY OR WORSHIP IN CHURCH AFTER EXPERIENCING LOSS?  
WHY DO YOU THINK THE DISCIPLES WERE FILLED WITH GREAT JOY AFTER WITNESSING THE ASCENSION?

### PRAYER:

FATHER, THANK YOU FOR GIVING US JESUS. THANK YOU FOR THE EXAMPLE THE DISCIPLES GAVE US OF HOW TO WALK IN CONFIDENCE, FULL OF JOY BECAUSE WE HAVE EXPERIENCED JESUS AND WHAT HE HAS DONE FOR US. REMIND US WHEN WE EXPERIENCE LOSS OR ARE CONFUSED THAT YOU ARE NEAR AND WE CAN CONTINUE TO FIND OUR JOY THROUGH YOU. AMEN.

# WEEK 4, DAY 5

## PAT GILLEN

SCRIPTURE: JOHN 14:15-16, THE JESUS STORYBOOK BIBLE, GOD SENDS HELP

### EXPLAIN:

IT IS MUCH EASIER TO SAY WE LOVE SOMEONE THAN TO SHOW THEM THAT WE LOVE THEM, BUT OUR ACTIONS CAN PROVE HOW WE REALLY FEEL. TO SAY WE LOVE OUR NEIGHBOR IS ONE THING, BUT TO TRULY SERVE THAT PERSON, EVEN WHEN THEY MAY NOT BE OUR FAVORITE NEIGHBOR, IS AN ENTIRELY DIFFERENT THING.

IN JOHN 14:15-16, JESUS REMINDS HIS DISCIPLES THAT LOVE AND OBEDIENCE GO HAND-IN-HAND. JESUS HAD TOLD THE DISCIPLES HE LOVED THEM, BUT JESUS WANTED TO DISPLAY HIS LOVE FOR THE DISCIPLES BY SERVING THEM (EVEN THOUGH MANY DIDN'T WANT HIM TO). HE REMINDS US HERE THAT WE LEARN TO EXPRESS OUR OWN LOVE TOWARD GOD BY OBEYING WHAT HE HAS COMMANDED US, AND OUR MOTIVATION FOR OBEDIENCE IS BUILT ON OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH HIM. IT'S NOT ENOUGH TO JUST SAY IT; WE SHOULD LIVE IT. WE OBEY GOD NOT SO MUCH OUT OF DUTY BUT OUT OF DELIGHT. WE CAN ONLY DO THIS THROUGH THE POWER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT IN OUR LIVES. WE CAN'T LIVE THE CHRISTIAN LIFE ON OUR OWN; WE NEED HIS HELP TO GIVE US THE POWER TO EXPRESS LOVE TO THE WORLD THE WAY HE HAS THROUGH SENDING JESUS TO THE CROSS FOR US WHILE WE WERE SINNERS.

THIS MEANS THAT WHEN WE SING ABOUT HOW GOOD GOD IS ON SUNDAY, WE SHOULD PUT THAT FAITH INTO ACTION ON MONDAY. JESUS WANTS US TO LOVE NOT JUST WITH WORDS BUT WITH OUR ACTIONS.

### APPLY:

FOR FAMILIES WITH YOUNGER KIDS:

HOW DO YOU SHOW SOMEONE YOU LOVE THEM?

HOW WOULD SOMEONE FEEL IF YOU TOLD THEM YOU LOVED THEM BUT THEN YOU WERE MEAN TO THEM?

HOW CAN WE TELL GOD WE LOVE HIM AND SHOW HIM THAT WE LOVE HIM?

FOR OLDER TEENS AND ADULTS:

WHY DO YOU THINK LOVE AND OBEDIENCE GO TOGETHER?

HOW CAN WE AVOID TURNING OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD INTO A LIST OF THINGS TO DO?

HOW DOES THE SPIRIT EMPOWER US TO LIVE IN OBEDIENCE?

### PRAYER:

FATHER, TEACH ME HOW TO LOVE THROUGH MY OBEDIENCE TO YOU. HELP ME TO SEE THAT THROUGH HOW I LIVE MY LIFE, I AM SHOWING BACK TO YOU THE LOVE THAT YOU FIRST OFFERED TO ME. PLEASE HELP ME TO HAVE THE STRENGTH TO FOLLOW YOU EVEN WHEN I GET TIRED OR WORN OUT. AMEN.