

Personal weekly Bible readings to go deeper into Scripture.

Memory Verse: Matthew 28:6

Day 1 – Chapter 27 of “The Story”

Day 2 – Matthew 26

Day 3 – Mark 16

Day 4 – Luke 24

Day 5 – John 20

Questions to consider while reading the Bible:

Is there an example to follow?

Is there a sin to avoid?

Is there a promise to rely on?

Is there a command to obey?

Is there a challenge in which to respond?



The Story: The Hour of Darkness

March 23-24, 2013

“The Story” Chapter 26; John 19:28-37

Please use this space to take notes during the message today.



Jesus knew that the hour had come for him to leave this world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end. John 13:1

Scan to go to
the message blog or go to
www.gloriadeionline.wordpress.com.

Adult and teen small group discussion points

Please use these discussion questions in your small group or with your teens.

1. Discuss a time when things were going great and then all of a sudden they took a turn for the worse? How did these events play out for good in your lower story? Could see God at work in the upper story? Or are they still playing out?
2. In what ways does Jesus' preparation and celebration of his final Passover meal parallel the original Passover? What does this teach us about the purpose of Jesus' death? (Review Exodus. 12:1-13, 21-27, John 1:29 and 1 Corinthians 5:7-8)
3. What was Jesus trying to teach the disciples when he washed their feet? How does our willingness to serve, reveal Jesus' presence in our life and in the world? What is one unexpected act of service you can offer in the coming week?
4. Review Jeremiah 31:34 and Ezekiel 36:26-28, where the prophets describe the new covenant. What are some of the characteristics of the new covenant listed in these verses? How does Jesus fulfill these promises?
5. Right before his arrest, Jesus took three of His friends and went to a garden to pray (Matthew 26:36-46; "The Story," pp. 372-373). What do you learn about the love and power of God, contrasted with the weakness and need of people?
6. Jesus was betrayed by Judas, turned over to the authorities for trial and eventually was crucified. Peter, one of Jesus' closest friends, vigorously denied three times that he even knew the Lord (Luke 22:54-62; "The Story," p. 375). Both denied Jesus with very different outcomes. What are ways we deny Jesus and act like we don't know him?
7. The Sanhedrin could find no evidence to charge Jesus (pp. 374-375). (Jewish Law, Deut. 17:6, required two witnesses). Three times Pilate declared, "*I find no basis for a charge against him,*" (pp. 376-377). Why is this important? Why was Jesus crucified?
8. What do you learn about the heart of Jesus as he hung on the cross (Luke 23:32-43; John 19:25-27; "The Story," pp. 378-379), interacting with those who crucified him, the thief who reached out to him, and his own mother?
9. One of the briefest, most powerful statements in all of "The Story," is when Jesus said, "It is finished." From a lower story perspective, what must people have thought when Jesus spoke these words? From an upper story spiritual reality, what was Jesus declaring and what does this mean for us?



Close in prayer.

Family's with kids discussion points

Please use these discussion questions with your children.

Memory Verse: "Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God. Trust in me also." John 14:1

If you didn't know how it was going to turn out, this would be the saddest chapter of "The Story." A lot of terrible things happened to Jesus. He was arrested; His friends let Him down, and He was beaten and killed. When Jesus asked His disciples to pray for Him, they fell asleep instead.

- Talk about a time that your friends let you down?
- Why is it so hard to stay awake sometimes when you're praying at night?
- How do you think the disciples could've encouraged each other to stay awake—would pinching each other have worked?
- After all the miracles they'd seen, why did the disciples abandon Jesus?
- Don't you think they would've had more faith?
- Will Jesus ever let you down? Why?

Pray together: Dear Jesus, we give You all the praise and glory for Your suffering and death on our behalf. Words do little to express our deepest love for You. Thank You for defeating sin, death, and the power of the devil. Help us as we look for ways to serve others with the kind of love You have for us. Amen.

