

SpirituallyHungry.com
Presents:



2 Week Challenge

Journey with Jesus to the Cross

Welcome To Spiritually Hungry's 2 Week Journey To The Cross With Jesus Challenge!

What might happen in your relationship with Jesus if you spent the next couple weeks walking with Him to the Cross, reflecting, praying and intently focusing on what His humble journey to sacrifice? What might you glean from Jesus' story for your own spiritual journey?

Hello and welcome!

We are so glad you have signed up for this 2 week Challenge - Journeying with Jesus to the Cross. We know that you are serious about your relationship with Jesus and have tremendous love for Him, and that's why we made this Challenge, which is all about focusing on the sacrifice and rejection Jesus experienced.

But before we get into the Challenge we wanted to introduce ourselves to you, in case your new to us and our Challenges!

A Little Bit About Us

Spiritually Hungry is a family - literally! Our names are Alexis and Aaron Waid, and we have been married for 8 years. Prior to marriage, we were best friends for 7 years, before ever dating. We have been in each other's lives for 16 years and we approach life as a team.

We are both graduates of Denver Seminary, and each hold master's degrees from our wonderful alma mater. In addition, we both have served in various professional ministry positions, even as co-pastors together.

SpirituallyHungry.com is our new venture together, as we share our ministry online. On our site, we focus on making God accessible to people and helping them connect in meaningful, impactful ways. We deeply believe that what Jesus did 2,000 years ago has profound implications for us today. We really are all about Jesus, the fruit of His ministry, and the love God has for us.

About This Challenge

In order to get your mind wrapped about this Challenge, begin by imagining you are a disciple of Jesus, one of His closest followers. It's 2,000 years ago and you are in the Middle East following this man that has given you so much, and you are willing to go wherever He goes.

But in this Challenge, it's the most difficult place that you are specifically asked to accompany Him next - the road to His death. Just imagine that Jesus asks you to walk with Him through His suffering and ultimately to His glory in the Grave.

Our hope for you in this Challenge is that you see:

1.) How much rejection Jesus faced while remaining stable in his identity and mission.

2.) How much Jesus can emphasize with you and your pain and rejection because He experienced so much of the same.

For this Challenge, we will guide you through the Gospel of Matthew starting at chapter 13. Why Chapter 13? It's because this is the turning point of the Gospel, where Jesus' message turns from being directed to large crowds to that His closest followers. And it's in this ministry context that the reader begins to see Jesus' direct road to the Cross. Through His predictions, actions and messages, Jesus prepared His followers for what's was to come, His brutal death.

The Scriptures we chose are the poignant passages that propelled Jesus to the Cross. While you read these Scriptures, keep in mind how the passages furthered Jesus' journey to the Cross. By stepping back and seeing the larger movement of Jesus throughout Matthew, you'll start to see a fuller understanding of the events that led to His death.

We encourage you to prepare your heart for this journey as you take the opportunity to walk with Jesus to the Cross and to the glorious Grave - we're so glad you signed up for this!

So here's a quick look at "**The 2 Week Journey With Jesus Challenge Guidebook**" to give you an idea of what all of this really looks like.

For each day of the Challenge, the Challenge Guidebook will provide you with:

A Daily Scripture

Daily Guiding Questions - To help you really jump into the story

A Daily Worship Song - All of them you can easily listen to for free online

A Daily Prayer

We personally designed this guidebook with these daily features to help you center your mind, heart and actions on the Jesus' path to the Cross.

Each day will provide Scriptures to read. **Before reading the Scripture, we ask you to prepare your heart and mind to enter into the story.** We want you to mentally visualize your presence in the story. This will help you better walk with Jesus to the Cross.

After you finish absorbing the scene from Scripture, you will have some questions for reflection. Spend sometime with these, really contemplating your answers. This again will help you with the overall Challenge.

Once you finish the reflections, you will have the opportunity to turn to God in worship. We provide you a song you can listen to free online. We really encourage you to spend a few minutes worshipping our King.

Finally, after worship you will have the opportunity to turn to Jesus in prayer. While a lot of people are methodical in their prayers (which is totally fine!) by praying only to God or the Father, we purposefully wrote these prayers to Jesus. Since this Challenge is all about connecting with Jesus and His road of suffering, we felt it was imperative we had you talk to Him in prayer. We base our freedom in prayer on Romans 8:26-27 and believe that by communing with Jesus this will help you better connect with Him on the Road.

Additionally, when you finish the 2 Week Challenge, there is an Exit Worksheet that will help you process the previous two weeks.

Thank you for signing up and we wish you a great challenge!

~ Alexis & Aaron@SpirituallyHungry.com

Day 1

Matthew 13:54-58

Jesus Rejected in His Own Hometown

Place yourself in the story while reading

54 Coming to his hometown, he began teaching the people in their synagogue, and they were amazed. “Where did this man get this wisdom and these miraculous powers?” they asked. 55 “Isn’t this the carpenter’s son? Isn’t his mother’s name Mary, and aren’t his brothers James, Joseph, Simon and Judas? 56 Aren’t all his sisters with us? Where then did this man get all these things?” 57 And they took offense at him. But Jesus said to them, “A prophet is not without honor except in his own town and in his own home.” 58 And he did not do many miracles there because of their lack of faith.

Guiding Questions:

How do you think Jesus felt in this passage?

Why do you think Jesus responded in this way?

How do you think this passage brought Jesus closer to the Cross?

What can you glean from this passage that might help you grow closer to God and become more like Jesus?

Worship Song: “Jesus” by Chris Tomlin

Prayer: *Jesus, I can certainly place myself in this story. Rejection is something I too have experienced. I feel alone and isolated when people don't accept me, especially when I'm not doing any thing wrong. It hurts. However, You stand tall in this moment, not faltering. How you stood strong in your identity, your belovedness and purpose. This could have been a real defeating point, being rejected in your own hometown, but look here it is, thousands of years later and your using this rejection for my good. Thank you for showing me what it looks like to stand firm in my identity in You. Amen.*

Day 2

Matthew 14:1-12

The Murder of John the Baptist

Place yourself in the story when reading

At that time Herod the tetrarch heard the reports about Jesus, 2 and he said to his attendants, “This is John the Baptist; he has risen from the dead! That is why miraculous powers are at work in him.” 3 Now Herod had arrested John and bound him and put him in prison because of Herodias, his brother Philip’s wife, 4 for John had been saying to him: “It is not lawful for you to have her.” 5 Herod wanted to kill John, but he was afraid of the people, because they considered John a prophet. 6 On Herod’s birthday the daughter of Herodias danced for the guests and pleased Herod so much 7 that he promised with an oath to give her whatever she asked. 8 Prompted by her mother, she said, “Give me here on a platter the head of John the Baptist.” 9 The king was distressed, but because of his oaths and his dinner guests, he ordered that her request be granted 10 and had John beheaded in the prison. 11 His head was brought in on a platter and given to the girl, who carried it to her mother. 12 John’s disciples came and took his body and buried it. Then they went and told Jesus.

Guiding Questions:

How do you think Jesus felt about his cousin John being murdered?

Why do you think John was murdered?

How do you think this passage led Jesus further down the road to the Cross?

What can you glean from this passage that might help you grow closer to God and become more like Jesus?

Worship Song: “Jesus, Only Jesus” by Phillips, Craig and Dean

Prayer: *Jesus, You know what it's like to lose a loved one, even a family member. Loss is so hard. The pain that accompanies it seems too much for me to ever take in. Sometimes grief is overtaking and incapacitating. Lord, show me the way to You in moments of grief and loss. Guide me into your loving arms and help me rest, amen.*

Day 3

Matthew 16:13-20

Peter's Confession of Who Jesus is

Place yourself in the story as you read the story

13 When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, “Who do people say the Son of Man is?” 14 They replied, “Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, Jeremiah or one of the prophets.” 15 “But what about you?” he asked. “Who do you say I am?” 16 Simon Peter answered, “You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.” 17 Jesus replied, “Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, for this was not revealed to you by flesh and blood, but by my Father in heaven. 18 And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it. 19 I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; whatever you

bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.” 20 Then he ordered his disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

Guiding Questions:

How do you think Jesus felt in this passage?

Why do you think Jesus responded to Peter's confession in this way?

How do you think this passage led Jesus further down the road to the Cross?

What can you glean from this passage that might help you grow closer to God and become more like Jesus?

Worship Song: “Worthy of Your Name” by Passion

Prayer: *Jesus, your disciples finally got it - You are the prophesied Messiah. I can't believe how long it took for them to realize just who You are. But, I have to confess too, that I have also followed You for some time and either forgot or not understood just who You are and what You have offered me. Help me to always recognize the power and love You offer me. You are unbelievable to me and my life would be nothing without You. Amen.*

Day 4

Matthew 16:21-28, 17:22-23, 20:17-19

Jesus Predicts His Death For the First Time

Place yourself in the story as you read the story

21 From that time on Jesus began to explain to his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things at the hands of the elders, the chief priests and the teachers of the law, and that he must be killed and on the third day be raised to life. 22 Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. “Never, Lord!” he said. “This shall never happen to you!” 23 Jesus turned and said to Peter, “Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; you do not have in mind the concerns of God, but merely human concerns.” 24 Then Jesus said to his disciples, “Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. 25 For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will find it. 26 What good will it be for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul? Or what can anyone give in exchange for their soul? 27 For the Son of Man is going to come in his Father’s glory with his angels, and then he will reward each person according to what they have done. 28 “Truly I tell you, some who are standing here will not taste death before they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom.”

Jesus Predicts His Death a Second Time

22 When they came together in Galilee, he said to them, “The Son of Man is going to be delivered into the hands of men. 23 They will kill him, and on the third day he will be raised to life.” And the disciples were filled with grief.

Jesus Predicts His Death a Third Time

17 Now Jesus was going up to Jerusalem. On the way, he took the Twelve aside and said to them, 18 “We are going up to Jerusalem, and the Son of Man will be delivered over to the chief priests and the teachers of the law. They will condemn him to death 19 and will hand him over to the Gentiles to be mocked and flogged and crucified. On the third day he will be raised to life!”

Guiding Questions:

How do you think Jesus felt in these passages?

Why do you think Jesus behaved in this way, by declaring His death three times?

Why do you think Jesus rebuked Peter after what Peter said in the first passage of Matthew 16?

How do you think these passages brought Jesus closer to the road to the Cross?

What can you glean from this passage that might help you grow closer to God and become more like Jesus?

Worship Song: “Sweetly Broken” by Jeremy Riddle

Prayer: *Jesus, I can't even imagine predicting my death, nonetheless predicting such a brutal death and betrayal. The power You must have harnessed is something Lord I need in my life. I know that power comes from You Lord. Help me to turn to You for my strength and stability, because Lord there isn't anything you can't do! Amen.*

Day 5

Matthew 17:1-13

Transfiguration

Place yourself in the story as you read the story

After six days Jesus took with him Peter, James and John the brother of James, and led them up a high mountain by themselves. 2 There he was transfigured before them. His face shone like the sun, and his clothes became as white as the light. 3 Just then there appeared before them Moses and Elijah, talking with Jesus. 4 Peter said to Jesus, “Lord, it is good for us to be here. If you wish, I will put up three shelters—one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah.” 5 While he was still speaking, a bright cloud covered them, and a voice from the cloud said, “This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased. Listen to him!” 6 When the disciples heard this, they fell facedown to the

ground, terrified. 7 But Jesus came and touched them. “Get up,” he said. “Don’t be afraid.” 8 When they looked up, they saw no one except Jesus. 9 As they were coming down the mountain, Jesus instructed them, “Don’t tell anyone what you have seen, until the Son of Man has been raised from the dead.” 10 The disciples asked him, “Why then do the teachers of the law say that Elijah must come first?” 11 Jesus replied, “To be sure, Elijah comes and will restore all things. 12 But I tell you, Elijah has already come, and they did not recognize him, but have done to him everything they wished. In the same way the Son of Man is going to suffer at their hands.” 13 Then the disciples understood that he was talking to them about John the Baptist.

Guiding Questions:

How do you think Jesus felt in this passage?

Why do you think Jesus responded to the disciples in this way?

How do you think this passage led Jesus further down the road to the Cross?

What can you glean from this passage that might help you grow closer to God and become more like Jesus?

Worship Song: “Did You Feel The Mountains Tremble” by Hillsong (older version) or Chris Tomlin (newer version)

Prayer: *Jesus, I have to imagine that peace and bliss of the Transfiguration was difficult to give up on. As a shadow of the future glory you would share with the Father, it must have been so hard to know that the Cross lay between you and that perfect state. Jesus, I know you have great things in store for my own future, but there are many obstacles in the way that I fear. I need help finding the courage to venture through the difficulties that lie in wait. Thank you for your example always. Amen.*

Day 6

Matthew 21:1-11

Jesus Entry Into Jerusalem

Place yourself in the story as you read the story

As they approached Jerusalem and came to Bethphage on the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, 2 saying to them, “Go to the village ahead of you, and at once you will find a donkey tied there, with her colt by her. Untie them and bring them to me. 3 If anyone says anything to you, say that the Lord needs them, and he will send them right away.” 4 This took place to fulfill what was spoken through the prophet:

5 “Say to Daughter Zion,

‘See, your king comes to you,
gentle and riding on a donkey,
and on a colt, the foal of a donkey.’”

6 The disciples went and did as Jesus had instructed them. 7 They brought the donkey and the colt and placed their cloaks on them for Jesus to sit on. 8 A very large crowd

spread their cloaks on the road, while others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. 9 The crowds that went ahead of him and those that followed shouted,

“Hosanna to the Son of David!”

“Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!”

“Hosanna in the highest heaven!”

10 When Jesus entered Jerusalem, the whole city was stirred and asked, “Who is this?”

11 The crowds answered, “This is Jesus, the prophet from Nazareth in Galilee.”

Guiding Questions:

How do you think Jesus felt in this passage?

Why do you think everyone was so excited about Jesus in this passage?

How do you think this passage led Jesus further down the road to the Cross?

What can you glean from this passage that might help you grow closer to God and become more like Jesus?

Worship Song: “Hosanna” by Hillsong

Prayer: *Jesus, It's the day most of us dream of...being recognized and celebrated for who we are. But You knew, You knew this was not a lasting moment and the tides were going to change real quick. You knew that in a few short days they all would turn against You. I wonder how did You carry all that knowledge? What did you think about this day when you were carrying the Cross to your death? Lord, I'm so sorry for what happened to You. Amen.*

Day 7

Matthew 21:12-17

Jesus at the Temple

Place yourself in the story as you read the story

12 Jesus entered the temple courts and drove out all who were buying and selling there. He overturned the tables of the money changers and the benches of those selling doves. 13 “It is written,” he said to them, “‘My house will be called a house of prayer,’ but you are making it ‘a den of robbers.’” 14 The blind and the lame came to him at the temple, and he healed them. 15 But when the chief priests and the teachers of the law saw the wonderful things he did and the children shouting in the temple courts, “Hosanna to the Son of David,” they were indignant. 16 “Do you hear what these children are saying?” they asked him. “Yes,” replied Jesus, “have you never read, ‘From the lips of children and infants you, Lord, have called forth your praise’?” 17 And he left them and went out of the city to Bethany, where he spent the night.

Guiding Questions:

How do you think Jesus felt in this passage?

Why do you think Jesus responded in this way?

How do you think this passage led Jesus further down the road to the Cross?

What can you glean from this passage that might help you grow closer to God and become more like Jesus?

Worship Song: “Mighty To Save” by Hillsong

Prayer: *Jesus, Thank you for showing us what You stand for. As You cleared out those whose interest were in making a profit and not in God, You made room to heal those who were blind and lame. Lord, help me to always recognize what You would want me to do as your representative. Help me to be closely tethered to You so that I will never become lost like the money changers of the Temple courts. I want to honor You with everything I do and the way I succeed in that desire is to keep close to You, so help me stay close to You. Amen.*

Day 8

Matthew 21:23-27

The Authority of Jesus Questioned

Place yourself in the story as you read the story

23 Jesus entered the temple courts, and, while he was teaching, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him. “By what authority are you doing these things?” they asked. “And who gave you this authority?” 24 Jesus replied, “I will also ask you one question. If you answer me, I will tell you by what authority I am doing these things. 25 John’s baptism—where did it come from? Was it from heaven, or of human origin?” They discussed it among themselves and said, “If we say, ‘From heaven,’ he will ask, ‘Then why didn’t you believe him?’ 26 But if we say, ‘Of human origin’—we are afraid of the people, for they all hold that John was a prophet.” 27 So they answered Jesus, “We don’t know.” Then he said, “Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things.

Guiding Questions:

How do you think Jesus felt in this passage?

Why do you think Jesus responded to the chief priests and elders in this way?

How do you think this passage led Jesus further down the road to the Cross?

What can you glean from this passage that might help you grow closer to God and become more like Jesus?

Worship Song: “You Are God Alone” by Phillips, Craig and Dean

Prayer: *Jesus, You were constantly questioned by religious leaders on your authority. They were always after You, fearful You were dishonoring God. They thought they were right. They thought they knew God, but they didn't. I wonder if I do act in this way about who You are. Cleanse my heart God and my motives and help me to stay close to You so that my mind and heart reflects You and not my misunderstanding of You. It's so easy to think I'm doing the right thing, but the only way to truly know is to keep my heart wrapped up in You. So help me to always seek Your presence through each moment of my day. Amen.*

Day 9

Matthew 22:41-46

Who's Son is the Messiah?

Place yourself in the story as you read the story

41 While the Pharisees were gathered together, Jesus asked them, 42 “What do you think about the Messiah? Whose son is he?” “The son of David,” they replied. 43 He said to them, “How is it then that David, speaking by the Spirit, calls him ‘Lord’? For he says,

44 “The Lord said to my Lord:

“Sit at my right hand
until I put your enemies
under your feet.”

45 If then David calls him ‘Lord,’ how can he be his son?” 46 No one could say a word in reply, and from that day on no one dared to ask him any more questions.

Guiding Questions:

How do you think Jesus felt in this passage?

Why do you think Jesus responded to the Pharisees in this way?

How do you think this passage led Jesus further down the road to the Cross?

What can you glean from this passage that might help you grow closer to God and become more like Jesus?

Worship Song: “Jesus Messiah” by Chris Tomlin

Prayer: *Jesus, There are so many that have questions about who you are, and there always has been. Thank you for revealing the truth about yourself to me, and I pray that I can be an example of the truth of your identity to the world. Amen.*

Day 10

Matthew 24:1-35

The Destruction of the Temple

Place yourself in the story as you read the story

Jesus left the temple and was walking away when his disciples came up to him to call his attention to its buildings. 2 “Do you see all these things?” he asked. “Truly I tell you, not one stone here will be left on another; every one will be thrown down.” 3 As Jesus was sitting on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to him privately. “Tell us,” they said, “when will this happen, and what will be the sign of your coming and of the end of the age?” 4 Jesus answered: “Watch out that no one deceives you. 5 For many will come in my name, claiming, ‘I am the Messiah,’ and will deceive many. 6 You will hear of wars and rumors of wars, but see to it that you are not alarmed. Such things must happen, but the end is still to come. 7 Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be famines and earthquakes in various places. 8 All these are the beginning of birth pains. 9 “Then you will be handed over to be persecuted and put to death, and you will be hated by all nations because of me. 10 At that time many will turn away from the faith and will betray and hate each other, 11 and many false prophets will appear and deceive many people. 12 Because of the increase of wickedness, the love of most will grow cold, 13 but the one who stands firm to the end will be saved. 14 And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come. 15 “So when you see standing in the holy place ‘the abomination that causes desolation,’ spoken of through the prophet Daniel—let the reader understand— 16 then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains. 17 Let no one on the housetop go down to take anything out of the house. 18 Let no one in the field go back to get their cloak. 19 How dreadful it will be in those days for pregnant women and nursing mothers! 20 Pray that your flight will not take place in winter or on the Sabbath. 21 For then there will be great distress, unequalled from the beginning of the world until now—and never to be equaled again. 22 “If those days had not been cut short, no one would survive, but for the sake of the elect those days will be shortened. 23 At that time if anyone says to you, ‘Look, here is the Messiah!’ or, ‘There he is!’ do not believe it. 24 For false messiahs and false prophets will appear and perform great signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the elect. 25 See, I have told you ahead of time. 26 “So if anyone tells you, ‘There he is, out in the wilderness,’ do not go out; or, ‘Here he is, in the inner rooms,’ do not believe it. 27 For as lightning that comes from the east is visible even in the west, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. 28 Wherever there is a carcass, there the vultures will gather.

29 “Immediately after the distress of those days

“the sun will be darkened,

and the moon will not give its light;

the stars will fall from the sky,

and the heavenly bodies will be shaken.’

30 “Then will appear the sign of the Son of Man in heaven. And then all the peoples of the earth will mourn when they see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven,

with power and great glory. 31 And he will send his angels with a loud trumpet call, and they will gather his elect from the four winds, from one end of the heavens to the other. 32 “Now learn this lesson from the fig tree: As soon as its twigs get tender and its leaves come out, you know that summer is near. 33 Even so, when you see all these things, you know that it is near, right at the door. 34 Truly I tell you, this generation will certainly not pass away until all these things have happened. 35 Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away.

Guiding Questions:

How do you think Jesus felt in this passage?

Why do you think Jesus shared this prediction?

How do you think this passage led Jesus further down the road to the Cross?

What can you glean from this passage that might help you grow closer to God and become more like Jesus?

Worship Song: “Revelation Song” by Kari Jobe

Prayer: *Jesus, It’s nearly impossible to imagine your return. Although many attempt to describe what it will be like, there is certainly nothing in human history to compare it to. I pray that we can be stewards of the time that we have on this Earth, and trust that you have the future in your hands. Amen.*

Day 11

Matthew 26:1-16

The Plot Against Jesus

Place yourself in the story as you read the story

When Jesus had finished saying all these things, he said to his disciples, 2 “As you know, the Passover is two days away—and the Son of Man will be handed over to be crucified.” 3 Then the chief priests and the elders of the people assembled in the palace of the high priest, whose name was Caiaphas, 4 and they schemed to arrest Jesus secretly and kill him. 5 “But not during the festival,” they said, “or there may be a riot among the people.”

Jesus Anointed at Bethany

6 While Jesus was in Bethany in the home of Simon the Leper, 7 a woman came to him with an alabaster jar of very expensive perfume, which she poured on his head as he was reclining at the table. 8 When the disciples saw this, they were indignant. “Why this waste?” they asked. 9 “This perfume could have been sold at a high price and the money given to the poor.”

10 Aware of this, Jesus said to them, “Why are you bothering this woman? She has done a beautiful thing to me. 11 The poor you will always have with you, but you will not always have me. 12 When she poured this perfume on my body, she did it to prepare

me for burial. 13 Truly I tell you, wherever this gospel is preached throughout the world, what she has done will also be told, in memory of her.”

Judas Agrees to Betray Jesus

14 Then one of the Twelve—the one called Judas Iscariot—went to the chief priests
15 and asked, “What are you willing to give me if I deliver him over to you?” So they counted out for him thirty pieces of silver. 16 From then on Judas watched for an opportunity to hand him over.

Guiding Questions:

How do you think Jesus felt in this passage (in all 3 sections)?

Why do you think Jesus responded to the disciples in this way (when He was Anointed)?

How do you think this passage led Jesus further down the road to the Cross?

What can you glean from this passage that might help you grow closer to God and become more like Jesus?

Worship Song: “Jesus, Son of God” by Passion

Prayer: *Jesus, it's becoming clear, the end is coming. How did You feel? What did You think? Did You carry a sad heart or did You not fully realize what would happen? I can't even imagine the days leading up to this epic event, what was going through your mind? I'm sure I would not have been as composed and peaceful as You were. How did You do it? How could I face trials in the same way You did? There's much to learn from You, so much. Guide me in your ways. Amen.*

Day 12

Matthew 26:17-30

The Last Supper

Place yourself in the story as you read the story

17 On the first day of the Festival of Unleavened Bread, the disciples came to Jesus and asked, “Where do you want us to make preparations for you to eat the Passover?”
18 He replied, “Go into the city to a certain man and tell him, ‘The Teacher says: My appointed time is near. I am going to celebrate the Passover with my disciples at your house.’” 19 So the disciples did as Jesus had directed them and prepared the Passover.
20 When evening came, Jesus was reclining at the table with the Twelve. 21 And while they were eating, he said, “Truly I tell you, one of you will betray me.” 22 They were very sad and began to say to him one after the other, “Surely you don’t mean me, Lord?”
23 Jesus replied, “The one who has dipped his hand into the bowl with me will betray me. 24 The Son of Man will go just as it is written about him. But woe to that man who betrays the Son of Man! It would be better for him if he had not been born.” 25 Then Judas, the one who would betray him, said, “Surely you don’t mean me, Rabbi?”
Jesus answered, “You have said so.”

26 While they were eating, Jesus took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my body."

27 Then he took a cup, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you. 28 This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. 29 I tell you, I will not drink from this fruit of the vine from now on until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom."

30 When they had sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.

Guiding Questions:

How do you think Jesus felt in this passage?

Why do you think Jesus created a new Passover?

How do you think this passage led Jesus further down the road to the Cross?

What can you glean from this passage that might help you grow closer to God and become more like Jesus?

Worship Song: "The Wondrous Cross" by Christy Nockels

Prayer: *Jesus, Thank you for what You did here. You are establishing a new covenant between You and your people, which will be finalized in the coming days when You resurrect from the grave! It all begins here with You and your followers, even the one who will betray You is present. Thank you for sharing your ministry with any and all, even if they are enemies. Your goodness knows no bounds! Amen.*

Day 13

Matthew 26:36-56

Gethsemane

Place yourself in the story as you read the story

36 Then Jesus went with his disciples to a place called Gethsemane, and he said to them, "Sit here while I go over there and pray." 37 He took Peter and the two sons of Zebedee along with him, and he began to be sorrowful and troubled. 38 Then he said to them, "My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death. Stay here and keep watch with me." 39 Going a little farther, he fell with his face to the ground and prayed, "My Father, if it is possible, may this cup be taken from me. Yet not as I will, but as you will." 40 Then he returned to his disciples and found them sleeping. "Couldn't you men keep watch with me for one hour?" he asked Peter. 41 "Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak." 42 He went away a second time and prayed, "My Father, if it is not possible for this cup to be taken away unless I drink it, may your will be done." 43 When he came back, he again found them sleeping, because their eyes were heavy. 44 So he left them and went away once more and prayed the third time, saying the same thing. 45 Then he returned to the disciples

and said to them, “Are you still sleeping and resting? Look, the hour has come, and the Son of Man is delivered into the hands of sinners. 46 Rise! Let us go! Here comes my betrayer!”

Jesus Arrested

47 While he was still speaking, Judas, one of the Twelve, arrived. With him was a large crowd armed with swords and clubs, sent from the chief priests and the elders of the people. 48 Now the betrayer had arranged a signal with them: “The one I kiss is the man; arrest him.” 49 Going at once to Jesus, Judas said, “Greetings, Rabbi!” and kissed him. 50 Jesus replied, “Do what you came for, friend.” Then the men stepped forward, seized Jesus and arrested him. 51 With that, one of Jesus’ companions reached for his sword, drew it out and struck the servant of the high priest, cutting off his ear. 52 “Put your sword back in its place,” Jesus said to him, “for all who draw the sword will die by the sword. 53 Do you think I cannot call on my Father, and he will at once put at my disposal more than twelve legions of angels? 54 But how then would the Scriptures be fulfilled that say it must happen in this way?” 55 In that hour Jesus said to the crowd, “Am I leading a rebellion, that you have come out with swords and clubs to capture me? Every day I sat in the temple courts teaching, and you did not arrest me. 56 But this has all taken place that the writings of the prophets might be fulfilled.” Then all the disciples deserted him and fled.

Guiding Questions:

How do you think Jesus felt in this passage?

Why do you think Jesus responded in the Garden to the disciples in this way?

How do you think this passage led Jesus further down the road to the Cross?

What can you glean from this passage that might help you grow closer to God and become more like Jesus?

Worship Song: “In Christ Alone” by Passion

Prayer: *Jesus, The time has come, You are about to be arrested and out to death. And what You are doing is not only amazing, but an example to all people. You are turning to God before You meet your fate. This is where You show us where your strength and power come from, and it's from turning and depending on God. Lord, help me to follow, Your example not only in trials, but throughout all circumstances. Help me to turn to You for my strength and support. Amen.*

Day 14

Matthew 27:26-44

The Verdict From Pilate

Place yourself in the story as you read the story

26 Then he (Pilate) released Barabbas to them. But he had Jesus flogged, and handed him over to be crucified.

The Soldiers Mock Jesus

27 Then the governor's soldiers took Jesus into the Praetorium and gathered the whole company of soldiers around him. 28 They stripped him and put a scarlet robe on him, 29 and then twisted together a crown of thorns and set it on his head. They put a staff in his right hand. Then they knelt in front of him and mocked him. "Hail, king of the Jews!" they said. 30 They spit on him, and took the staff and struck him on the head again and again. 31 After they had mocked him, they took off the robe and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him away to crucify him.

The Crucifixion of Jesus

32 As they were going out, they met a man from Cyrene, named Simon, and they forced him to carry the cross. 33 They came to a place called Golgotha (which means "the place of the skull"). 34 There they offered Jesus wine to drink, mixed with gall; but after tasting it, he refused to drink it. 35 When they had crucified him, they divided up his clothes by casting lots. 36 And sitting down, they kept watch over him there. 37 Above his head they placed the written charge against him: this is jesus, the king of the jews. 38 Two rebels were crucified with him, one on his right and one on his left. 39 Those who passed by hurled insults at him, shaking their heads 40 and saying, "You who are going to destroy the temple and build it in three days, save yourself! Come down from the cross, if you are the Son of God!" 41 In the same way the chief priests, the teachers of the law and the elders mocked him. 42 "He saved others," they said, "but he can't save himself! He's the king of Israel! Let him come down now from the cross, and we will believe in him. 43 He trusts in God. Let God rescue him now if he wants him, for he said, 'I am the Son of God.'" 44 In the same way the rebels who were crucified with him also heaped insults on him.

Guiding Questions:

How do you think Jesus felt in this passage?

Why do you think Jesus responded (or rather not responded) in this way?

What can you glean from this passage that might help you grow closer to God and become more like Jesus?

Worship Song: "The Wonderful Cross" by Chris Tomlin

Prayer: *Jesus, Oh, the mockery, the humiliation, the shame. You bore it all. You bore it because of love. I can scarcely come up with words for this unbelievable sacrifice. I often find myself not really able to think about the horrific mutilation You endured for the redemption of God's creation, for me. It is a gut-wrenching reality You faced and today I grieve. I grieve for the amazing man You were here on earth. I grieve for what they did to You. I grieve that this was an injustice. But You knew all of that and still took up the Cross and bore all of humanity's sin. How? Why? I may never be able to fully wrap my mind around it other than You are God and I am thankful. Deeply thankful. Amen.*

Day 15

Matthew 27:45-50

The Death of Jesus

Place yourself in the story as you read the story

45 From noon until three in the afternoon darkness came over all the land. 46 About three in the afternoon Jesus cried out in a loud voice, “Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?” (which means “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?”).

47 When some of those standing there heard this, they said, “He’s calling Elijah.”

48 Immediately one of them ran and got a sponge. He filled it with wine vinegar, put it on a staff, and offered it to Jesus to drink. 49 The rest said, “Now leave him alone. Let’s see if Elijah comes to save him.”

50 And when Jesus had cried out again in a loud voice, he gave up his spirit.

Guiding Questions:

How do you think Jesus felt in this passage?

Why do you think Jesus responded to God in this way?

What can you glean from this passage that might help you grow closer to God and become more like Jesus?

Worship Song: “Forgiven” by Crowder

Prayer: *Jesus, Thank you for your forgiveness. You paid it all, and I have nothing I can ever do to equal what you’ve given me through your death and the forgiveness that comes from it. Amen.*

Day 16

Matthew 28:1-10; 16-20

Jesus Has Risen

Place yourself in the story as you read the story

28 After the Sabbath, at dawn on the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to look at the tomb. 2 There was a violent earthquake, for an angel of the Lord came down from heaven and, going to the tomb, rolled back the stone and sat on it. 3 His appearance was like lightning, and his clothes were white as snow. 4 The guards were so afraid of him that they shook and became like dead men. 5 The angel said to the women, “Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. 6 He is not here; he has risen, just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay. 7 Then go quickly and tell his disciples: ‘He has risen from the dead and is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see him.’ Now I have told you.” 8 So the women hurried away from the tomb, afraid yet filled with joy, and ran to tell his disciples. 9 Suddenly Jesus met them. “Greetings,” he said. They came to him, clasped his feet

and worshiped him. 10 Then Jesus said to them, “Do not be afraid. Go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me.”

The Great Commission

16 Then the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go. 17 When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted. 18 Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 19 Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

Guiding Questions:

How do you think Jesus felt in this passage?

Why do you think Jesus responded to the women in this way?

What can you glean from this passage that might help you grow closer to God and become more like Jesus?

Worship Song: “Christ is Risen” by Matt Maher

Christian Hymn: “Jesus Christ Is Risen Today”

Sing friends, from the bottom of your heart today, because Jesus has conquered death and saved your life and all who will follow Him! Praise God!

Prayer: *Jesus, a smile creeps over my face as I join Mary's discovering You are alive! You have conquered the grave and sin. Everything You said was true, everything that you said would happen has happened. Not only are You who You said You are, but You are trustworthy, powerful and the true meaning of love. Lord, let me realize what the grave really means in my life. Help me to live in your resurrection with You. I am so thankful for this Easter morning, for this is the Good News. You are amazing and I love You deeply. Amen.*

Final Prayer:

Jesus, What a journey I have taken with You these past two weeks. I am overwhelmed with emotion, my heart is exploding. It was a honor and a privilege to walk with You to the Cross and to the Grave. You have grown me in ways that are not even detectable yet, but they soon will be as I continue to walk closer and closer to You everyday. Jesus, thank you. Thank you that You are real. Thank you that You change things, that You change me. Allow this experience to shape my life and. My relationship with You. Amen.

And Finally...

Exit Worksheet

What was it like for you to walk with Jesus to the Cross and Grave with such intentionality? What did you feel and think?

What was the most surprising thing revealed to you in this journey?

Do you think your relationship has grown with Jesus because of this Challenge? If so, how?

Final Note

We hope that you had a great two weeks - a time where you experienced and connected to God on a whole new level.

We at Spiritually Hungry have lots of ways to connect to God. We have created a lot of Challenges and you maybe interested in trying another one out. We would love to have you come by again! To check out our current challenges at **spirituallyhungry.com/challenges**.

In addition we have other opportunities for you to grow in your relationship with God.

- **Spiritually Hungry Challenges**

What would it look like if you devoted a period of time to working on a character trait or a discipline with God? Would your life change?

We believe so! By consciously working on attributes with God, we believe that your life will become different. Can you imagine if you took on more of God's character, how different things would be?

Some of our past Challenges include

Cultivating A More Thankful Heart

Living In Joy

Loving Your Spouse Through God's Definition Of Love

You can find all of our Challenges at spirituallyhungry.com/challenges

- **Facebook Challenge Group**

In addition we have a Facebook group, Spiritually Hungry Challenges **www.facebook.com/groups/1051266348352753/**

In our group, we come together and talk about the current Challenge and spiritual development. Being part of this group will also allow you access to bonus content such as devotionals, Christian encouragement and prayers.

- **Workshops**

We are currently developing workshops and anticipate having the first

published on our site before you complete the Lent Challenge. Workshops intended to help you work through the problems you face everyday, and uncover new thought and direction for dealing with them. In addition, each Workshop takes no more than 30 minutes to complete! You can check the status of workshops at [www.spirituallyhungry.com/ christian-workshops](http://www.spirituallyhungry.com/christian-workshops)

• **Spiritually Hungry Take Home Retreats**

We also have other retreats available for you. We are just starting this venture as of 2017 and more will be added throughout the year. But for now, we have 2 take home retreats.

Take Home Retreats: Self-Care

It is crafted for the person who gives, and gives, and gives some more. You need a break and some rest. It's time to take care of yourself with God, spend three days resting, relaxing and refueling with God.

Married Couple's Retreat

Designed for any married couple. The theme is discerning where God is calling your marriage. This retreat is simple and nonthreatening. Designed by both of us, to ensure both genders would feel comfortable doing the retreat. We hope to help you take a small step in God's direction, moving from A to B, not A to Z. The retreat also has time during the weekend for you and your spouse to enjoy doing fun things together, of your choosing!

You can find our retreats at spirituallyhungry.com/retreats

Articles

Spiritually Hungry also has a lot of great posts on spiritual growth and development. We love to help people find ways to grow closer to God and one of those ways is through knowledge and truth.

Some of our top posts are:

How To Be The Light Of The World: <http://spirituallyhungry.com/how-to-be-the-light-of-the-world/>

Why God Wouldn't Let Me Lose Weight: <http://spirituallyhungry.com/weight-loss-with-god/>

20 Worship Songs For The Sad Heart: <http://spirituallyhungry.com/20-worship-songs-for-depression/>

What To Think About Unanswered Prayers: http://spirituallyhungry.com/unanswered_prayers/

Thank you again for participating and we hope we see you over at our website!