

FAITH ALLIANCE CHURCH

FOCUS: A ONE-YEAR JOURNEY THROUGH THE BIBLE

SESSION 3, WEEK 3 - APRIL 11 - APRIL 16

What to Watch For

This section starts with the death of John the Baptist, which is one of the components that mark the start of Jesus' earthly ministry. Jesus walks on water, feeds thousands of people with a few small fish, and he shares an amazing and life transforming experience with his inner circle (James, John, and Peter) on top of a mountain (Chapter 17)! There is loads of teaching straight from the mouth of Jesus - if you're wondering what Jesus was like, this is a great section to sit and listen to the words of The Master. Jesus rebukes the Pharisees in their pride and he weeps over the city of Jerusalem that has fallen so far from what God had in mind. One of Jesus' disciples, Judas, turns Jesus in to the authorities or a little bit of money; his greed plays a role in causing the death of Jesus. We'll read about the death of Jesus and then, finally, in the last Chapter (Chapter 28) we'll see with great clarity that Jesus is no ordinary man! How has the life of this man with a divine nature who submitted to death only to turn around and conquer it three days later affected the way you think, live, and understand reality? The revelation of God through the life of Jesus changes everything.

And don't forget about the Psalms. There are some amazing Psalms this week that carry with them a fountain of inspiration and promise for anyone who may be in a place of desperately needing the presence and comfort of God! Read them slowly, read them more than once, take time in the quiet of your day to pause and to regain focus on the person of Jesus.

THEME OF THE WEEK

FEATURED FORUM - SUNDAY APRIL 17

JESUS DIED TO SAVE US

No Featured Forum

NEXT SUNDAY'S SERMON:

Praise His Holy Name, Jesus is Alive!
Matthew 14-28 and Psalm 60-68

READING PLAN

- Monday
Matthew 14-16
Psalm 64
- Tuesday
Matthew 17-19
Psalm 65
- Wednesday
Matthew 20-22
Psalm 66
- Thursday
Matthew 23-25
Psalm 67
- Friday
Matthew 26-28
Psalm 68
- Saturday
No Additional Reading

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Growing Our Love for God Through a Better Understanding of Scripture

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Use these for personal reflection, family devotional time, or in any other group discussion setting.

1. Read Psalm 62. Think of a time you were in a difficult season of life. Do you remember what you most desired during that time of life? Do you remember where you went mentally, emotionally, or physically to find and fulfill that desire?
 - a. Jesus isn't here physically to sit down and share his thoughts with us. If he is the source of life, how can you find him in your day to day life? What are you doing to meet with Jesus in a way that is meaningful and life-giving? Do you trust he will point the way forward and show you the next right step? If so, what will you do this week as an expression of that faith in Jesus?
2. It's Holy Week, the week we remember the crucifixion and celebrate the resurrection. Read Matthew 21-28 in one sitting, if possible read it twice. Take time to reflect on all that Jesus went through during the original Holy Week that led him to the cross.
 - a. What verses or parts of the narrative jump out at you?
 - b. Would you share something you learned or something that impacted you in your reading with someone else this week? Use it as an opportunity to express love to God or love to another. Let's be bold and unashamed in the amazing grace and mercy of God as we reference scripture with those around us.
3. Read Matthew 28:16-20 (The Great Commission). If you are a disciple of Jesus, how are you participating in this Great Commissioning from God?
 - a. If you're hesitant or uncertain about your ability, what in this reading could be a source of assurance for you to depend on?
 - b. Who is someone in your life that you could disciple (love them, lead them towards Jesus, teach about God's ways, and pray for them or with them)?

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