

GRACE WON



**Holy
Week**

7 DAY DEVOTIONAL

INTRODUCTION

Dear beloved family,

As we embark on this sacred journey through Holy Week, we are excited to introduce this 7-day devotional designed to walk alongside you. We encourage you to carve out a few moments each day for reflection, prayer, and immersion in its content. Let us invite the Holy Spirit to be our guide throughout this journey, seeking His divine wisdom to speak directly to our hearts, unveiling His truths, and preparing us to fully embrace the significance of this time, particularly for those who place their trust in Jesus.

Within this devotional, you will find the following elements offered each day:

-TOPIC OF THE DAY: The Scriptures show us what Jesus experienced in the last week before He died, in this devotional we will explore each day until we reach His resurrection.

-DAILY PRAYER: Surrendering our hearts is essential to experiencing God in our lives, and what better approach than prayer.

-SCRIPTURE FOR S.O.A.P: This is the biblical text that shows us history so that we can better understand what Jesus experienced and what it means for us.

-QUESTION FOR REFLECTION: This is an immediate action step, each question is a space that will help you gain perspective and grow in your relationship with God.

Our hope is that as a community, we can embrace the Holy Week with intentionality, preparing our hearts to fully celebrate the life, death, and resurrection of our Lord Jesus.

HOW TO S.O.A.P

You'll need three items each day:

1. Bible
2. Pen
3. Journal

What verse stood out to you?

S - Scripture

Open your Bible to your reading for the day. Take time reading and allow God to speak to you. When you are done, look for a verse that particularly spoke to you that day, and write it in your journal.

What is God saying to you?

O - Observation

What do you think God is saying to you in this scripture? Ask the Holy Spirit to teach you and reveal Jesus to you.

How can you apply it today?

A - Application

Personalize what you have read, by asking yourself how it applies to your life right now. Perhaps it is instruction, encouragement, a new promise, or corrections for a particular area of your life. Write how this scripture can apply to you today.

Ask God to help you use what you've learned.

P - Prayer

This can be as simple as asking God to help you use this scripture, or even a prayer for a greater insight on what He may be revealing to you. Remember, prayer is a two-way conversation, so be sure to listen to what God has to say! Now, write it out.

CONTENTS:

Monday: "The Cleansing of the Temple"

Tuesday: "The Fig Tree"

Wednesday: "A Plan of Betrayal"

Thursday: "The Communion"

Friday: "The Crucifixion of Jesus"

Saturday: "Silence"

Sunday: "Grace Won"



HOLY MONDAY

"THE CLEANSING OF THE TEMPLE"

In Matthew 21, we encounter Jesus causing a significant disruption in the Temple, overturning tables and chairs, sending dove feathers scattering in the air. This act adds to the tension between Jesus and the religious leaders, as he accuses them of exploiting the poor for their own selfish gain. Matthew, along with Mark and Luke, captures Jesus's passionate outcry for the purity of God's house, quoting Isaiah and Jeremiah to emphasize that the Temple should be a place of prayer, not a den of thieves. As always, Jesus addresses an immediate issue while also conveying a broader message about the Kingdom of God, foreshadowing Paul's later statement that our bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit (1 Corinthians 6:19).

As followers of Jesus, what is our response? Purity...

We are summoned to lives of holiness and purity, denouncing the beliefs, thoughts, and actions endorsed by the world and embracing those aligned with the Kingdom of God. This requires sincere introspection through prayer: What worldly attachments hinder my complete surrender to Christ? As Dietrich Bonhoeffer said: *"Remaining in the old situation and following Christ are mutually exclusive. At first, that was quite visible. The tax collector had to leave his post and Peter his nets to follow Jesus."*

- **Daily Prayer:**

Heavenly Father, as I pause to reflect sincerely, I echo the words of David: "Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me." Grant me clarity to discern the areas of my life that require turning away from or surrendering to You. I am grateful for Your boundless forgiveness, mercy, and grace in my life.



HOLY MONDAY

"THE CLEANSING OF THE TEMPLE"

- **Biblical text to apply the S.O.A.P. method:**

12 And Jesus entered the temple[a] and drove out all who sold and bought in the temple, and he overturned the tables of the money-changers and the seats of those who sold pigeons. 13 He said to them, "It is written, 'My house shall be called a house of prayer,' but you make it a den of robbers." Matthew 21:12-13 (ESV)

- **Question for Reflection:**

1- How can I ensure that my hearts and life are dedicated to worshiping God with reverence and purity, like the temple that Jesus cleansed?



S.O.A.P

S - Scripture:

O - Observation:

A - Application:

P - Prayer:

HOLY TUESDAY

"THE FIG TREE"

After cleansing the Temple, Jesus spent the night in Bethany before returning to Jerusalem the following morning. Feeling hungry along the way, he noticed a fig tree, but upon seeing it had no leaves, he cursed it, and immediately it withered away. Witnessing this, the disciples were astonished and inquired how Jesus had performed such a feat. In response, Jesus instructed them in the prayer of faith (James 5:18), emphasizing that "if you believe, you will receive whatever you ask for in prayer," even the ability to move mountains. This type of prayer requires unwavering trust in God and a continual attitude of dependence on Him. In Jewish symbolism, a mountain (Mark 11:23) signifies something formidable and unyielding, representing obstacles in our path (Zechariah 4:7). Yet, through faith and reliance on God, we can overcome these obstacles.

As followers of Jesus, what is our response? Prayer...

Charles Spurgeon said: *"If you can have everything by asking, and nothing without asking, I pray you see how absolutely vital prayer is, and I pray you abound in it."* As followers of Jesus, it's crucial for us to transition from merely having occasional moments of prayer, perhaps in the morning or at night, to cultivating a lifestyle of prayer where we are constantly connected with God's Spirit (Ephesians 6:18), tapping into the boundless power that He offers us. Let's always keep in mind that prayer is our direct line of communication with the Sovereign of the universe. It's the language of our intimate relationship with God: He desires not only our conversation but also our continuous engagement through prayer, inviting us to ask and seek more from Him.

- **Daily Prayer:**

Heavenly Father, We thank you for the boundless grace that emanates from your heart, revealing your compassionate desire to shower kindness upon us. As followers of Jesus, may our prayers be marked by maturity, rooted in unwavering faith, and overflowing with requests that align with your will and bring joy to your heart. Amen.



HOLY TUESDAY

"THE FIG TREE"

- **Biblical text to apply the S.O.A.P. method:**

20 In the morning, as they went along, they saw the fig tree withered from the roots.21 Peter remembered and said to Jesus, "Rabbi, look! The fig tree you cursed has withered!"

22 "Have faith in God," Jesus answered. 23 "Truly[a] I tell you, if anyone says to this mountain, 'Go, throw yourself into the sea,' and does not doubt in their heart but believes that what they say will happen, it will be done for them. 24 Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours.25 And when you stand praying, if you hold anything against anyone, forgive them, so that your Father in heaven may forgive you your sins." Mark 11:20-25 (NIV)

- **Question for Reflection:**

1- How can I transition from sporadic prayer habits to cultivating a consistent prayer life, one characterized by a continual connection with God's Spirit?



S.O.A.P

S - Scripture:

O - Observation:

A - Application:

P - Prayer:

HOLY WEDNESDAY

"A PLAN OF BETRAYAL"

At this juncture in the story, it becomes evident that Judas was not genuinely committed to the cause: despite being among Jesus' closest followers, his allegiance did not align with the values and faith shared by the other disciples. Judas' treachery against Jesus marked a sorrowful twist in the path toward the cross. This once-loyal disciple acted as a betrayer, negotiating the surrender of his Master to the religious authorities in exchange for personal gain. Despite Jesus' awareness of Judas' true intentions and the impending betrayal, he pressed forward on his journey to Calvary with resolute determination and unwavering love. Judas' betrayal not only culminated in Jesus' crucifixion but also posed a profound test of his humanity, subjecting him to the anguish of betrayal by someone he trusted implicitly.

As followers of Jesus, what is our response? Priority...

While the motives behind Judas' betrayal remain unclear, it's crucial to acknowledge the unwavering commitment of the other disciples to follow Jesus Christ faithfully, even amidst challenging circumstances. Similarly, our foremost priority should always be nurturing an authentic and intimate relationship with God, prioritizing His presence above all else. This deliberate focus on God informs our decisions and behaviors, guiding them with love and devotion, while diminishing the significance of other concerns and distractions in comparison to the paramount importance of walking in the footsteps of our Lord and Savior.

- **Daily pPRAYER:**

Lord, help me always trust You and show through my actions that You are most important in my life. Amen.



HOLY WEDNESDAY

"A PLAN OF BETRAYAL"

- **Biblical text to apply the S.O.A.P. method:**

14 Then one of the Twelve—the one called Judas Iscariot—went to the chief priests¹⁵ 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. Matthew 26:14-16 (NIV)

- **Question for Reflection:**

1- How can I consistently show that Jesus is my priority and my everything?



S.O.A.P

S - Scripture:

O - Observation:

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P - Prayer:

MAUNDY THURSDAY

"THE COMMUNION"

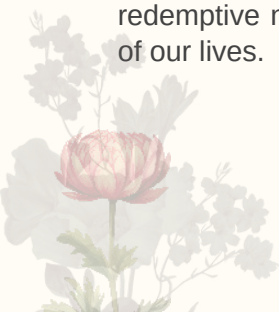
The communion that Jesus shared with His disciples before his crucifixion is a profoundly moving expression of love, intimacy, and sacrifice. In that sacred moment, amidst the anticipation of his imminent suffering, Jesus gathered with His beloved companions to share a meal that would forever symbolize the essence of his redemptive mission. Around the table, bathed in the soft glow of candlelight, Jesus broke bread and poured wine, inviting His disciples to partake in a symbolic act that would bind them together in a covenant of grace and salvation. In this simple yet profound gesture, Jesus unveiled the depth of his love for humanity, offering Himself as the ultimate sacrifice for the forgiveness of sins. The communion experienced in that intimate gathering transcends both time and space, extending an invitation to all believers to partake in the fellowship of Christ's suffering and the hope of his resurrection.

As followers of Jesus, what is our response? Participation...

No doubt the disciples would have reflected on Jesus' words and been overwhelmed by the privilege of being present that night. Theologian John Stott wrote: *John Stott wrote: "...he took and blessed the cup, but then he explained its meaning and gave them to drink. Thus they were not just spectators of this drama of the cross; they were participants in it. They can hardly have failed to get the message. Just as it was not enough for the bread to be broken and the wine to be poured out, so it was not enough for him to die, but they had to appropriate the benefits of his death for him personally."* As followers of Jesus, we too will be overwhelmed by the privilege of participating in God's story of redemption.

- **Daily Prayer:**

Gracious Father, let us never forget that Jesus Christ willingly offered His body and blood for the redemption of the world. May our hearts be deeply moved by the profound privilege of actively participating in this redemptive narrative and of authentically following Jesus in all aspects of our lives.



MAUNDY THURSDAY

"THE COMMUNION"

- **Biblical text to apply the S.O.A.P. method:**

26 As they were eating, Jesus took some bread and blessed it. Then he broke it in pieces and gave it to the disciples, saying, "Take this and eat it, for this is my body." 27 And he took a cup of wine and gave thanks to God for it. He gave it to them and said, "Each of you drink from it, 28 for this is my blood, which confirms the covenant[a]between God and his people. It is poured out as a sacrifice to forgive the sins of many. Matthew 26:26-28 (NLT)

- **Question for Reflection:**

1- How can I live my faith in a more participatory way, recognizing the deep love and sacrifice of Jesus in the communion he shared with his disciples before his crucifixion?



S.O.A.P

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GOOD FRIDAY

"THE CRUCIFIXION OF JESUS"

What does Good Friday teach us? It is a day that signifies Jesus' most profound suffering, both physically exhausting and agonizing. So, what makes Good Friday truly "good"? N.T. Wright presents an intriguing perspective, suggesting that the Cross decisively addresses the pervasive problem of evil in our world. This insight prompts us to contemplate how Good Friday embodies God's profound response to evil, both on a global scale and within our own hearts. It stands as the day when we come face to face with the enormity of our sins upon Jesus, when apparent triumph of evil is met head-on by Christ's redemptive sacrifice. It becomes the moment when the greatest injustice transforms into the supreme demonstration of love, ushering salvation and restoration to the lost. Through His sacrificial love, Jesus illuminates the path back to the loving embrace of the Father. As we observe this Good Friday, let us express gratitude to Jesus for His sacrificial love and unwavering commitment.

As followers of Jesus, what is our response? Pain...

Crucifixion is one of the most horrible forms of death ever devised by man, and Psalm 22 contains some of the language of anguished lamentation that Jesus spoke on the cross. But Jesus had taught that there was a cost to being his follower (Matthew 16:24) and Dietrich Bonhoeffer alluded to this in 1937, in perhaps the most famous theological phrase of the twentieth century: *"When Christ calls a man, he commands him to come and die."*

- **Daily Prayer:**

Lord Jesus, I express my gratitude for your call upon my life. Grant me the strength and wisdom to turn away from selfish pursuits and to discover true fulfillment and purpose in walking as your disciple. Your sacrificial love is a beacon of hope, and I pray that my life may radiate that love, bringing glory solely to you.



GOOD FRIDAY

"THE CRUCIFIXION OF JESUS"

- **Biblical text to apply the S.O.A.P. method:**

50 And Jesus cried out again with a loud voice and yielded up his spirit. 51 And behold, the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. And the earth shook, and the rocks were split. 52 The tombs also were opened. And many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised, 53 and coming out of the tombs after his resurrection they went into the holy city and appeared to many. 54 When the centurion and those who were with him, keeping watch over Jesus, saw the earthquake and what took place, they were filled with awe and said, "Truly this was the Son[a] of God!"
Matthew 27:50-54 (ESV)

- **Question for Reflection:**

1- Considering the intensity of the suffering Jesus experienced on Good Friday, what does this day teach me about God's love and His response to evil in the world?



PSALM 22 (MSG)

1-2 God, God . . . my God! Why did you dump me miles from nowhere? Doubled up with pain, I call to God all the day long. No answer. Nothing. I keep at it all night, tossing and turning. 3-5 And you! Are you indifferent, above it all, leaning back on the cushions of Israel's praise? We know you were there for our parents: they cried for your help and you gave it; they trusted and lived a good life. 6-8 And here I am, a nothing—an earthworm, something to step on, to squash. Everyone pokes fun at me; they make faces at me, they shake their heads: "Let's see how God handles this one; since God likes him so much, let him help him!" 9-11 And to think you were midwife at my birth, setting me at my mother's breasts! When I left the womb you cradled me; since the moment of birth you've been my God. Then you moved far away and trouble moved in next door. I need a neighbor. 12-13 Herds of bulls come at me, the raging bulls stampede, Horns lowered, nostrils flaring, like a herd of buffalo on the move. 14-15 I'm a bucket kicked over and spilled, every joint in my body has been pulled apart. My heart is a blob of melted wax in my gut. I'm dry as a bone, my tongue black and swollen. They have laid me out for burial in the dirt. 16-18 Now packs of wild dogs come at me; thugs gang up on me. They pin me down hand and foot, and lock me in a cage—a bag Of bones in a cage, stared at by every passerby. They take my wallet and the shirt off my back, and then throw dice for my clothes. 19-21 You, God—don't put off my rescue! Hurry and help me! Don't let them cut my throat; don't let those mongrels devour me. If you don't show up soon, I'm done for—gored by the bulls, meat for the lions. 22-24 Here's the story I'll tell my friends when they come to worship, and punctuate it with Hallelujahs: Shout Hallelujah, you God-worshippers; give glory, you sons of Jacob; adore him, you daughters of Israel. He has never let you down, never looked the other way when you were being kicked around. He has never wandered off to do his own thing; he has been right there, listening. 25-26 Here in this great gathering for worship I have discovered this praise-life. And I'll do what I promised right here in front of the God-worshippers. Down-and-outers sit at God's table and eat their fill. Everyone on the hunt for God is here, praising him. "Live it up, from head to toe. Don't ever quit!" 27-28 From the four corners of the earth people are coming to their senses, are running back to God. Long-lost families are falling on their faces before him. God has taken charge; from now on he has the last word. 29 All the power-mongers are before him —worshipping! All the poor and powerless, too —worshipping! Along with those who never got it together —worshipping! 30-31 Our children and their children will get in on this As the word is passed along from parent to child. Babies not yet conceived will hear the good news— that God does what he says.



S.O.A.P

S - Scripture:

O - Observation:

A - Application:

P - Prayer:

**and Saturday...
there was silence.**

EASTER SUNDAY

“GRACE WON”

The resurrection of Jesus stands as the ultimate triumph of grace over sin and death. In this pivotal moment, grace shines in its fullest glory, showcasing the unrivaled power of God to defeat even the most formidable adversaries. Beyond affirming Jesus' identity as the Son of God, His resurrection secures the promise of salvation for all who place their trust in him. Through his triumph over death, Jesus breaks the hold of sin on humanity, extending the priceless gift of eternal life to those who embrace him as their Savior. This awe-inspiring event serves as a testament to the boundless extent of God's grace, highlighting his unyielding love and mercy towards humankind. On that radiant morning of resurrection, grace emerged victorious as Jesus emerged from the tomb, ushering in a new era of reconciliation between God and humanity for all eternity.

As followers of Jesus, what is our response? Witnessing...

Followers of Jesus should be recognized not primarily for their clever arguments, profound teaching, or skillful oratory, but for their love, as Jesus emphasized (John 13:35). Jesus tasked us with the mission to go and make disciples, teaching others about the path to follow Him. In today's information age, it's crucial that our words and actions reflect the life and hope found in Jesus more than ever before. Each of us is called to share the gospel in our neighborhoods and networks, through both our words and deeds. Christ has risen!

- **Daily Prayer:**

Heavenly Father, we come before you with hearts overflowing with gratitude on this day of celebrating our risen Savior. We thank you for the incredible gift of salvation, for making a way for us to have a personal relationship with you and to be recognized as your beloved children. Guide us to radiate your light and love to those around us, that they may experience the same joy and hope found in Jesus. We praise you and thank you for the precious gift of your Son. Amen.



EASTER SUNDAY

“GRACE WON”

- **Biblical text to apply the S.O.A.P. method:**

1 Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene went to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the entrance. 2 So she came running to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one Jesus loved, and said, “They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we don’t know where they have put him!” 3 So Peter and the other disciple started for the tomb. 4 Both were running, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. 5 He bent over and looked in at the strips of linen lying there but did not go in. 6 Then Simon Peter came along behind him and went straight into the tomb. He saw the strips of linen lying there, 7 as well as the cloth that had been wrapped around Jesus’ head. The cloth was still lying in its place, separate from the linen. 8 Finally the other disciple, who had reached the tomb first, also went inside. He saw and believed. 9 (They still did not understand from Scripture that Jesus had to rise from the dead.)

- **Question for Reflection:**

1- How can I be a living witness to the transforming power of God’s grace, especially in a world full of darkness and hopelessness?



**and Sunday,
Grace Won!**

S.O.A.P

S - Scripture:

O - Observation:

A - Application:

P - Prayer:

COMMUNITY CHURCH