

Week 1: The King Who Is The Sign

“I Am the Bread of Life” — John 6:31–40

Week’s Theme: God’s provision is not something we collect or control—it is Someone we receive.

In the wilderness, after Israel had been rescued from slavery in Egypt, the people quickly discovered a new problem: they were free, but they were hungry. With no farms, no stored grain, and no clear way forward, fear began to replace gratitude. Each morning, however, God met them with an unexpected gift. When the dew lifted from the ground, a fine, flaky substance appeared—something they had never seen before. They asked one another, “*What is it?*” (which in Hebrew sounds like *manna*). Moses told them it was the bread the Lord had given them to eat.

This bread from heaven came with a lesson. The people were instructed to gather only what they needed for the day—no more, no less. If they tried to store it up, it spoiled by morning. God was teaching them to live by daily trust rather than anxious control. Manna was not just food; it was a sign of God’s faithful presence and care, reminding Israel that life depended not on their own preparation or strength, but on the sustaining provision of the Lord.

By the time of Jesus, this story had become central to Israel’s hope. The manna was remembered as proof that God could be trusted in the wilderness, and many believed that when God acted decisively again, the bread from heaven would return. It is into this longing—and this memory—that Jesus speaks when He declares, “*I am the Bread of Life.*” He is not repeating the old sign; He is revealing its fulfillment. God’s provision has taken on flesh. Life is no longer found in what God gives, but in trusting the One He has given.

In Lent, we learn that hunger can become a gift—because it leads us to Christ and opens us to one another.

Practicing S.O.A.P.

S — Scripture

Read **John 6:31–40**. You may want to read the passage slowly more than once. Pay attention to what stands out rather than trying to notice everything.

👉 Write down one verse or phrase that stands out to you.

O — Observation

Spend a few moments noticing what the passage actually says before moving to application. You might observe:

- Words or phrases Jesus repeats
- What Jesus says about Himself
- What the crowd is seeking—and what Jesus offers instead
- What expectations do the people bring to Jesus?
- How does Jesus redefine “bread” and “life”?
- What does this passage reveal about God’s provision?
- What contrasts do you notice (giving vs. receiving, hunger vs. life)?

👉 Write 1–2 observations without explaining or spiritualizing them yet.

A — Application

Now ask how this passage speaks into your life *today*. Consider:

- Where am I trying to control or store up security instead of trusting God daily?
- What hunger—physical, emotional, spiritual—might Jesus be inviting me to bring to Him?
- What would it look like to receive Jesus rather than simply seek what He can provide?

👉 Write one specific way this passage invites you to trust, release, or receive.

P — Prayer

Respond to God in prayer using what you have noticed. You might pray:

- Gratitude for God's daily provision
- Honesty about fear, hunger, or control
- Trust in Jesus as the Bread of Life

👉 You may use this prayer or write your own: *Jesus, Bread of Life, teach me to trust You one day at a time. Free me from anxious striving, and help me receive You as my true sustenance. Amen.*

Daily Readings (Optional Support for the Week)

Use these passages to continue practicing SOAP throughout the week:

- **Day 1:** John 6:1–13
- **Day 2:** John 6:14–15
- **Day 3:** Exodus 16:1–5, 13–18
- **Day 4:** John 6:26–35
- **Day 5:** John 6:36–40

Memory Verse: “I am the Bread of Life.” (John 6:35)

Truth in Action

Breaking Bread with a Neighbor: Sometime this week, practice hospitality by sharing food with someone outside your household. This could be:

- Inviting a neighbor or friend for a simple meal
- Dropping off a loaf of bread or baked goods
- Sharing coffee and conversation with intentional presence

You might say something simple like: “Our church is observing Lent, and we’re practicing slowing down and sharing life together. I thought of you.” No teaching is required—just presence.

Why this practice matters: Jesus does not give bread only for ourselves. The Bread of Life forms a people who share what they have received. Lent is not only about inward reflection, but outward love.

Week 2: The King Who Is Truth Itself

“I Am the Light of the World” — John 8:12–19

Week Theme: Jesus does not merely point us toward truth—He illuminates reality itself.

Light is one of the most powerful images in Scripture. From the opening words of Genesis—“*Let there be light*”—to the promises of the prophets, light represents God’s life-giving presence, His truth, and His power to bring clarity where there is confusion. Light reveals what is real. It exposes what is hidden. It makes life possible. When Jesus declares, “*I am the light of the world*,” He is not offering a new teaching or moral insight. He is offering Himself. To walk in His light is to allow Him to illuminate every part of our lives—our beliefs, our desires, our habits, and our assumptions. This kind of light is both comforting and unsettling. It shows us where life is growing, and it reveals where healing is still needed.

In Lent, we do not rush past what the light reveals. We learn to remain in it. Sometimes Jesus’ light exposes sin that calls for repentance—not shame, but an honest turning back toward God. Sometimes it reveals gifts and grace we had overlooked, awakening gratitude. At other times, the light invites us into deeper trust and submission, asking us to release control and follow Jesus where we would not choose on our own.

The story of the man born blind in John 9 reminds us that seeing is a journey. Physical sight comes in a moment, but spiritual sight unfolds through obedience, courage, and relationship. Those who refuse the light remain certain but blind. Those who receive it often find themselves changed, misunderstood, and ultimately drawn into worship. To follow Jesus as the Light of the world is not merely to believe the right things—it is to live truthfully, allowing His presence to shape us from the inside out. Lent invites us to step into that light, trusting that whatever Jesus reveals, He also redeems.

In Lent, we do not turn away from the light. We step into it, trusting that what Jesus reveals is for our healing.

Practicing S.O.A.P.

S — Scripture

Read **John 8:12–19**. You may want to read the passage slowly more than once. Pay attention to what stands out rather than trying to notice everything.

👉 Write down one verse or phrase that stands out to you.

O — Observation

Spend a few moments noticing what the passage actually says before moving to application. You might observe:

- What Jesus claims about Himself
- How truth and light are connected
- How others respond to His words
- What does Jesus mean by calling Himself *light*?
- What questions or challenges are raised about His authority?
- What contrast do you see between light and darkness?
- What does this passage reveal about how truth is received—or resisted?

👉 Write 1–2 observations without explaining or spiritualizing them yet.

A — Application

Now ask how this passage speaks into your life today. Consider:

- Where might I be resisting Jesus' light?
- What truth might Jesus be inviting me to face honestly?
- How could walking in His light change how I live or relate to others?

👉 Write one specific way this passage invites you to respond.

P — Prayer

Respond to God in prayer using what you have noticed. You might pray:

- For courage to face what Jesus reveals
- For repentance, gratitude, or trust
- For willingness to live truthfully

👉 You may use this prayer or write your own: *Jesus, Light of the world, help me see clearly. Give me courage to face what You reveal and grace to walk in Your truth. Amen.*

Daily Reading (Optional Support for the Week)

- Day 1 – Light That Gives Life: John 8:12; John 1:4–9
- Day 2 – Truth Under Question: John 8:13–19
- Day 3 – Light That Heals: John 9:1–7
- Day 4 – Resisting the Light: John 9:13–34
- Day 5 – Seeing and Believing: John 9:35–38

Memory Verse: “I once was blind, but now I see.” (John 9:25)

Truth in Action

Practicing Truthful Presence: This week, practice being intentionally present with someone—especially someone whose perspective or experience differs from yours. This could be:

- Listening without correcting or fixing
- Asking honest, gentle questions
- Choosing openness over defensiveness

You might pray beforehand: “Jesus, help me walk in Your light as I listen.”

Why this practice matters: Jesus' light does not shame; it reveals with grace. Practicing truthful presence reflects His way of being with others.

Week 3: The King Who Is a Safe Leader

“I Am the Gate and the Good Shepherd” — John 10:1–18

Week Theme: Jesus does not lead through fear or force—He leads through presence, protection, and self-giving love.

Shepherd imagery runs deep throughout Scripture, shaping how God’s people understood leadership, authority, and care. In the Psalms, the Lord is named as a shepherd who provides, guides, and protects. In times of danger and uncertainty, this image reminded Israel that they were not abandoned or driven forward alone, but watched over by One who knew them and stayed with them.

When Jesus speaks of Himself as the Gate and the Good Shepherd, He draws on this rich history while redefining leadership altogether. He does not describe a distant ruler or a hired hand who leaves when danger comes. Instead, He presents Himself as the One who stands at the entrance, guarding the flock, and the Shepherd who knows His sheep by name and lays down His life for them.

This vision of leadership challenges our assumptions. Safety, in Jesus’ kingdom, is not found in control, certainty, or self-protection. It is found in relationship. To be led by the Good Shepherd is to trust His voice, even when the path leads through valleys we would rather avoid. It is to believe that His presence is enough, even when circumstances remain difficult.

Lent invites us to examine where we seek safety and whose voices we follow. Sometimes Jesus’ leadership calls us to repentance, revealing the ways we have trusted false shepherds or relied on our own strength. At other times, it awakens gratitude as we recognize how faithfully He has guided us. Often, it invites surrender—a willingness to be led rather than to lead ourselves.

Psalm 23 and John 10 together remind us that God’s goodness is not proven by the absence of danger, but by the nearness of the Shepherd. To follow Jesus as a safe leader is not to avoid hardship, but to walk through it with confidence that we are known, protected, and held.

In Lent, we learn again what it means to entrust our lives to the One who leads us in love—and never lets us go.

Practicing S.O.A.P.

S — Scripture

Read **John 10:1–18**. You may want to read the passage slowly more than once. Pay attention to what stands out rather than trying to notice everything.

👉 Write down one verse or phrase that stands out to you.

O — Observation

Spend a few moments noticing what the passage actually says before moving to application. You might observe:

- How Jesus describes His relationship with the sheep
- The contrast between the shepherd and other leaders
- What does Jesus mean by calling Himself the *Gate*?
- How does He describe a good shepherd?
- What contrasts do you see between safety and danger, presence and absence?

👉 Write 1–2 observations without explaining or spiritualizing them yet.

A — Application

Now ask how this passage speaks into your life today. Consider:

- Where do I look for safety apart from Jesus?
- Whose voices most influence my decisions or fears?
- What might it look like to trust Jesus' leadership more fully right now?

👉 Write one specific way this passage invites you to trust, release, or follow.

P — Prayer

Respond to God in prayer using what you have noticed. You might pray:

- For trust in Jesus' leadership
- For courage to follow His voice
- For gratitude for His protection and care

👉 You may use this prayer or write your own: *Jesus, Good Shepherd, help me recognize Your voice and trust Your leading. When I am afraid or uncertain, remind me that I am known, protected, and held by You. Amen.*

Daily Reading

- **Day 1 – Recognizing the Shepherd's Voice: John 10:1–6**
- **Day 2 – Led to Rest: Psalm 23:1–3**
- **Day 3 – Safe Even in the Valley: Psalm 23:4**
- **Day 4 – The Gate Who Protects: John 10:7–13**
- **Day 5 – Known and Kept: John 10:14–18; Psalm 23:6**

Memory Verse: “The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.” (Psalm 23:1)

Truth in Action

Practicing Gentle Leadership: This week, practice gentleness **with someone you have responsibility to**—a spouse, child, employee, coworker, or church family. Gentleness does not mean passivity; it means choosing care over control and patience over pressure.

- Checking in on someone who might feel alone or overlooked
- Slowing your tone when you could raise your voice and listening fully before responding or correcting
- Choosing understanding over being right

You might pray beforehand: *“Jesus, help me care for others with the same gentleness You show me.”*

Why this practice matters: The Good Shepherd's leadership is revealed through self-giving love. Practicing gentle care helps us embody His presence in our shared life.

Week 4: The King Who Is The Source of Life

“I Am the Resurrection and the Life” — John 11:1–44

Week Theme: Jesus does not merely restore life—He is life itself, present even in the face of death.

The story of Lazarus is one of the most personal and emotionally charged moments in the Gospels. It takes place not in a public debate or a crowded festival, but in the home of friends—amid sickness, grief, confusion, and loss. Here, we see Jesus not only as teacher or miracle worker, but as the One who enters fully into human suffering. When Jesus declares, *“I am the resurrection and the life,”* He is not speaking only about the future hope of life after death. He is revealing that life itself—true, enduring, God-given life—is found in Him, even now. Resurrection is not merely an event at the end of time; it is the presence and power of Jesus breaking into places marked by death.

This story challenges our assumptions about God’s timing and ways. Jesus delays, allowing loss to unfold, and yet He remains deeply attentive and compassionate. He weeps with those who grieve, even as He prepares to act. In Lent, we are invited to hold both realities together: the pain of what has been lost and the hope of what God is bringing to life. To follow Jesus as the source of life is to trust Him not only in moments of joy, but in seasons of sorrow and waiting. It is to believe that He can call forth life where we see only endings, and that His voice is stronger than death itself.

As Lent draws us closer to the cross, this week reminds us that the life Jesus offers is costly, contested, and transformative. The One who raises Lazarus will soon lay down His own life—and in doing so, reveal that nothing, not even death, can stand against the life of God.

In Lent, we learn to trust Jesus with our grief and our hope, believing that He brings life even in the face of death.

Practicing S.O.A.P.

S — Scripture

Read **John 11:1–44**. You may want to read the passage slowly more than once. Pay attention to what stands out rather than trying to notice everything.

👉 Write down one verse or phrase that stands out to you.

O — Observation

Spend a few moments noticing what the passage actually says before moving to application. You might observe:

- How Jesus responds to suffering and loss
- What He says about Himself
- How different people respond to Him
- How does Jesus interact with Mary, Martha, and the disciples?
- What do we learn from Jesus’ delay?
- Where do we see both grief and hope in this passage?
- What words or actions reveal Jesus’ authority over death?

👉 Write 1–2 observations without explaining or spiritualizing them yet.

A — Application

Now ask how this passage speaks into your life today. Consider:

- Where am I experiencing grief, loss, or waiting?
- What does it mean to trust Jesus as life *right now*, not only in the future?
- Where might Jesus be calling me out of fear, resignation, or despair?

👉 Write one specific way this passage invites you to trust, hope, or wait.

P — Prayer

Respond to God in prayer using what you have noticed. You might pray:

- For honesty in grief
- For trust in Jesus' presence
- For hope in places that feel lifeless

👉 You may use this prayer or write your own: *Jesus, Resurrection and Life, meet me in my sorrow and waiting. Help me trust You when I cannot see what comes next, and teach me to hope in Your life-giving presence. Amen.*

Daily Reading

- **Day 1 – Delayed, But Not Absent:** John 11:1–16
- **Day 2 – Hope Spoken in the Middle of Grief:** John 11:17–27
- **Day 3 – The God Who Weeps:** John 11:28–37
- **Day 4 – Called Out of the Tomb:** John 11:38–44
- **Day 5 – Life That Divides:** John 11:45–53

Memory Verse “I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live.”
(John 11:25)

Truth in Action

Practicing Presence with the Grieving: This week, intentionally offer presence to someone who may be carrying grief, loss, or weariness. This could look like:

- Listening to someone without trying to fix or explain
- Sending a note or message acknowledging someone's pain.
- Do an act of service for someone who is grieving a recent loss (for example mow their lawn).

You might pray beforehand: “*Jesus, help me reflect Your compassion by being present, patient, and gentle.*”

Why this practice matters: Jesus does not avoid grief—He enters it. Practicing presence mirrors His way of loving others in their most vulnerable moments.

Week 5: The King Who Is Our Home

“I Am the Way, the Truth, and the Life” — John 14:1–11

Week Theme: In Jesus, we find our true home with God.

As Jesus prepares His disciples for His departure, He speaks not about abandonment, but about belonging. His words are offered in a moment of deep anxiety and uncertainty. The disciples sense that something is changing, and fear begins to rise. Into that fear, Jesus does not give them a map or a set of instructions. He gives them Himself.

When Jesus tells them that He is going to prepare a place for them, He is not pointing toward a distant destination, but toward the work He is about to accomplish through the cross. In Jesus, God is no longer encountered in a temple or tied to a particular location. God has come near in a person. To see Jesus is to see the Father, because Jesus is the full and faithful revelation of God’s presence.

Jesus does not show the disciples how to get to God—He reveals that God has already come to them. He Himself is the way. He is the place of belonging, safety, and communion with the Father. Home is no longer somewhere we go; it is Someone we know.

Yet the promise goes even deeper. Later in this same conversation, Jesus explains that the home He prepares is not only a place for us in God, but a place for God in us. Through His death and resurrection, Jesus opens the way for mutual dwelling—God making His home with His people, and His people finding their home in Him. This is not escape from the world, but the gift of abiding presence within it.

To behold the King in this moment is to recognize that Jesus is both the One in whom we rest and the One who chooses to dwell with us. In Him, we discover that home is not something we achieve or earn, but a relationship we are invited to live within.

In Lent, we learn to rest in Jesus as our true home, making room for His presence in our lives.

Practicing S.O.A.P.

S — Scripture

Read **John 14:1–11**. You may want to read the passage slowly more than once. Pay attention to what stands out rather than trying to notice everything.

👉 Write down one verse or phrase that stands out to you.

O — Observation

Spend a few moments noticing what the passage actually says before moving to application. You might observe:

- What troubles the disciples’ hearts
- What Jesus promises about Himself
- How Jesus describes His relationship with the Father
- What does Jesus mean by “a place”?
- How does Jesus redefine the idea of “the way”?
- What does this passage reveal about God’s nearness?
- What contrasts do you notice (fear vs. peace, distance vs. dwelling)?

👉 Write 1–2 observations without explaining or spiritualizing them yet.

A — Application

Now ask how this passage speaks into your life today. Consider:

- Where do I look for a sense of home, security, or belonging?
- What fears or uncertainties does Jesus speak into here?
- What might it look like to rest in Jesus rather than striving for certainty?

👉 Write one specific way this passage invites you to trust, rest, or make room.

P — Prayer

Respond to God in prayer using what you have noticed. You might pray:

- For peace in troubled moments
- For trust in Jesus' presence
- For openness to God dwelling within you

👉 You may use this prayer or write your own: *Jesus, my true home, quiet my troubled heart. Help me trust that You are near and teach me to rest in Your presence. Amen.*

Daily Reading

- **Day 1 – A Troubled Heart: John 14:1**
- **Day 2 – A Place Prepared: John 14:2–3**
- **Day 3 – The Way Revealed: John 14:4–7**
- **Day 4 – Seeing the Father: John 14:8–11**
- **Day 5 – God With Us and In Us: John 14:16–23**

Memory Verse: "I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also." (John 14:3)

Truth in Action

Practicing Hospitality: This week, practice hospitality by welcoming someone into your home—not to impress them, but to share life together. This might include:

- Inviting someone over for coffee or a simple meal
- Asking someone to help with a project in your home (working side-by-side then celebrating the projects completion together). The project could be something that helps to create a more welcoming space in your home and could be as simple as rearranging furniture.
- Creating space for shared conversation while doing something together (for example crafting, baking something for someone in the community, or car repair/maintenance)

Hospitality is not about having everything ready. It is about opening your home as a place where others are welcomed, valued, and able to contribute.

Why this practice matters: Because Christ has welcomed us, we learn to extend that welcome to others.

Week 6: The King Who Is God's Chosen One

“I Am the True Vine” — John 15:1–11

Weekly Theme: God's purposes for His people are fulfilled not in a place or a people alone, but in Jesus Himself—and we share in that calling by abiding in Him.

Throughout Scripture, God's people are described as a vine carefully planted and lovingly tended. Israel was chosen not for privilege, but for purpose—to bear fruit that reflected God's life and character in the world. Yet again and again, the vine struggled to live into its calling. The story of election is marked not only by grace, but by longing—God's desire for a people who would faithfully reflect His life.

When Jesus declares, “*I am the true vine*,” He gathers this entire story into Himself. He does not discard Israel's calling; He fulfills it. Jesus is revealed as God's Chosen One—the faithful vine in whom God's purposes are fully realized. Belonging to God is no longer defined by ancestry, land, or boundary, but by relationship to Christ. To be “in Him” is to share in His chosenness and to participate in the life God has always intended for His people.

This claim reshapes how we understand fruitfulness and faithfulness. Life in God's covenant community flows not from individual achievement, but from shared participation in Jesus' own life. Pruning, then, is not rejection or failure, but the loving work that preserves and deepens this life together. In Christ, God's care is always directed toward sustaining the vine and forming a people who bear fruit that lasts.

To behold the King in this moment is to recognize that Jesus does not merely lead God's chosen people—He is God's Chosen One. And as we abide in Him, we are drawn into God's redemptive purposes, sustained by His life and shaped by His love.

In Lent, we learn to abide in Christ, trusting that our belonging and fruitfulness flow from Him alone.

Practicing S.O.A.P.

S — Scripture

Read **John 15:1–11**. You may want to read the passage slowly more than once. Pay attention to what stands out rather than trying to notice everything.

👉 Write down one verse or phrase that stands out to you.

O — Observation

Spend a few moments noticing what the passage actually says before moving to application. You might observe:

- How Jesus describes the relationship between vine and branches
- What words or ideas are repeated
- What does Jesus mean by calling Himself the *true vine*?
- What role does the Father play in this passage?
- How is fruitfulness described?
- What does pruning seem to accomplish?

👉 Write 1–2 observations without explaining or spiritualizing them yet.

A — Application

Now ask how this passage speaks into your life today. Consider:

- Where am I tempted to measure faithfulness by productivity or results?
- What might it look like to abide rather than strive?
- Where might God be inviting me to trust His pruning work?

👉 Write one specific way this passage invites you to remain, release, or trust.

P — Prayer

Respond to God in prayer using what you have noticed. You might pray:

- For deeper trust in Christ as your source of life
- For patience in seasons of growth or pruning
- For openness to God's shaping work

👉 You may use this prayer or write your own: *Jesus, True Vine, keep me rooted in You. Teach me to trust Your life at work in me, and help me bear fruit that reflects Your love. Amen.*

Daily Reading

- **Day 1 – God's Vine and God's Desire: Isaiah 5:1–7; Psalm 80:8–11**
- **Day 2 – The True Vine: John 15:1–3**
- **Day 3 – Abiding and Bearing Fruit: John 15:4–5**
- **Day 4 – Pruned for Faithfulness: John 15:2, 6**
- **Day 5 – Chosen for Joy: John 15:7–11**

Memory Verse: "I am the vine; you are the branches." (John 15:5)

Truth in Action

Staying Connected: This week, practice staying connected by **choosing intentional presence instead of independence**. Connection does not require constant conversation; it requires faithfulness and attention.

This might look like:

- Adapting one new practice that helps you remain connected to Christ (prayer, Scripture, silence, worship) and keeping it simple and consistent
- Initiating time with your spouse, child, or friend instead of waiting for it to happen
- Checking in with someone you haven't connected with in a while.

You might pray beforehand: *"Jesus, help me remain in You and stay connected to the people You've given me."*

Why this practice matters: Abiding is not passive—it is intentional.

Week 7: The King Who Knows His Hour

Palm Sunday – John 12:12-36

Weekly Theme Jesus receives our praise even when it is incomplete, because He knows His kingship will be revealed through the cross.

As Jesus enters Jerusalem, He is finally named King in public. The crowd welcomes Him with palm branches and shouts of praise, celebrating the king they hope He will be—one who delivers, restores, and reigns according to their expectations. Palm branches, symbols of victory and national hope, fill the streets as the city responds with joy and anticipation.

Yet John tells us something important: even the disciples do not fully understand what is unfolding. Jesus receives the crowd's praise without correcting it, not because it is complete, but because He knows something they do not—*His hour has come*. In John's Gospel, “the hour” is not simply a moment on a timeline; it is the defining revelation of who Jesus is. His kingship will be revealed not through conquest, but through self-giving love.

Immediately after the triumphal entry, Jesus speaks of His coming death. He describes Himself as a grain of wheat that must fall into the earth and die in order to bear much fruit. This is how He understands His reign. Even as He is celebrated, He knows rejection is coming. Even as He is praised, He sees the cross ahead.

To behold the King on Palm Sunday is to encounter One whose identity is not shaped by the crowd's approval or misunderstanding, but by faithful obedience to the Father's will. Jesus is not less than the king they hoped for; He is far greater. His glory will be revealed in His hour—where suffering and glory meet, and where sacrificial love gives life to the world.

In Lent, we bring our praise honestly to Jesus, trusting Him to reveal what kind of King He truly is.

Practicing S.O.A.P.

S — Scripture

Read **John 12:12–36**. You may want to read the passage slowly more than once. Pay attention to what stands out rather than trying to notice everything.

👉 Write down one verse or phrase that stands out to you.

O — Observation

Spend a few moments noticing what the passage actually says before moving to application. You might observe:

- How Jesus is received by the crowd
- What Jesus says about His “hour”
- How praise and suffering are held together
- What expectations does the crowd bring to Jesus?
- How does Jesus respond to praise?
- What images does Jesus use to describe His death?
- What contrasts do you see (glory vs. suffering, praise vs. rejection, light vs. darkness)?

👉 Write 1–2 observations without explaining or spiritualizing them yet.

A — Application

Now ask how this passage speaks into your life today. Consider:

- What kind of King do I hope Jesus will be?
- Where might my praise be sincere but incomplete?
- What does it mean for me to follow Jesus when His way leads through sacrifice?

👉 Write one specific way this passage invites you to trust, surrender, or follow.

P — Prayer

Respond to God in prayer using what you have noticed. You might pray:

- For honesty in worship
- For trust when Jesus' way challenges your expectations
- For courage to follow Him through suffering

👉 You may use this prayer or write your own: *Jesus, my King, I offer You my praise—even when I do not fully understand Your ways. Teach me to trust You in Your hour and to follow You in faithfulness and love. Amen.*

Daily Readings

- **Day 1:** The King Who Comes — John 12:12–15
- **Day 2:** Praise Without Understanding — John 12:16–19
- **Day 3:** The Hour Has Come — John 12:20–23
- **Day 4:** The Way of the Cross — John 12:24–26
- **Day 5:** Light Before the Darkness — John 12:27–36

Memory Verse: “The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified.” (John 12:23)

Truth in Action

Living a Life of Honest Praise: This week, let your praise of Jesus take shape through how you engage others. Practice living in a way that makes space for God's goodness to be seen—not through explanation, but through faithful presence and welcome.

This might look like:

- Overflowing with warmth, joy, and gratitude to those around you
- Doing an anonymous act of kindness for a stranger
- Speaking encouragement or gratitude that lifts others rather than draws attention to yourself

You might pray beforehand: *“Jesus, let my life reflect Your goodness in ways that point others toward You.”*

Why this practice matters: When our lives are marked by hospitality, generosity, and faithful presence, we offer praise that God receives—not because it is perfect, but because it is oriented toward love.

Week 8: The King Who Is Faithful No Matter What

Holy Week: John 12–19 (selected)

Weekly Theme: Jesus' kingship is revealed not through power or escape from suffering, but through faithful love, obedience, and self-giving all the way to the cross.

Holy Week slows us down. After the praise of Palm Sunday, the Gospel narrative does not rush to resurrection. Instead, it walks deliberately through betrayal, confusion, suffering, and death. Jesus enters this week fully aware of what lies ahead. He does not turn away. He does not defend Himself. He does not abandon His calling.

In John's Gospel, the cross is not a tragic interruption—it is the hour toward which Jesus has been moving all along. Here, His glory is revealed not through domination, but through love that gives itself completely. Jesus washes feet, speaks farewell words to His friends, prays in anguish, stands silent before His accusers, and lays down His life willingly.

Holy Week invites us to remain with Jesus in these moments. We resist the urge to skip ahead or resolve the tension too quickly. We sit with sorrow, betrayal, and loss—not as spectators, but as disciples learning what faithfulness looks like when the cost is real. To behold the King during Holy Week is to recognize that love is not abstract. It takes shape in humility, obedience, suffering, and trust. The cross is not the failure of Jesus' mission—it is the clearest revelation of who He is.

In Holy Week, we stay with Jesus on the way of the cross, learning to trust His love even when the way leads through suffering.

Practicing S.O.A.P. (A Different Pace)

This week, practice SOAP slowly and gently. You may choose to focus on three or four verses each day rather than reading everything at once.

S — Scripture

Read **John 12:12–36**. You may want to read the passage slowly more than once. Pay attention to what stands out rather than trying to notice everything.

👉 Write down one verse or phrase that stands out to you.

O — Observation

Spend time noticing what the passage says without rushing to meaning. You might observe:

- Jesus' posture (what He does or does not do)
- His words—or His silence
- Where love is costly
- How Jesus responds to suffering or betrayal
- What kind of power He refuses
- Where faithfulness is quiet rather than dramatic

👉 Write 1–2 observations without explaining or spiritualizing them yet.

A — Application

Holy Week application is not about fixing or improving—it is about **remaining**. Consider:

- Where am I tempted to avoid discomfort or loss?
- What does faithful love look like in my life right now?
- Where might Jesus be inviting me to stay present rather than escape?

👉 Write one simple way you are invited to remain faithful this week.

P — Prayer

Respond to God honestly, without trying to resolve the tension. You might pray:

- For courage to stay with Jesus
- For trust when faith feels costly
- For love shaped by obedience

👉 You may use this prayer or write your own: *Jesus, faithful King, teach me to stay with You when the way is hard and the answers are unclear. Shape my life by Your self-giving love. Amen.*

Daily Readings — Walking Through Holy Week

- **Day 1 (Monday):** The Anointed King — John 12:1–11
- **Day 2 (Tuesday):** The Servant Who Loves — John 13:1–17
- **Day 3 (Wednesday):** Love and Betrayal — John 13:18–30
- **Day 4 (Thursday):** Farewell and Prayer — John 17:1–26
- **Day 5 (Friday):** The Crucified King — John 19:16–30

Truth in Action

Observing Holy Week Together: Holy Week invites us to slow down and remain with Jesus as He walks the way of faithful love. Rather than trying to do everything, you are invited to choose **one or two intentional practices** that help you stay attentive to the story. You might observe Holy Week by:

- **Attending the Good Friday service**, allowing yourself to sit with the cross without rushing toward resolution.
- **Reading the Holy Week passages together** with family, a friend, or your household—slowly, without discussion, letting the story speak for itself.
- **Creating space for quiet and restraint**, such as limiting noise, media, or busyness, as a way of practicing attentiveness.
- **Marking the days intentionally**, perhaps by lighting a candle, offering a brief prayer, or pausing together in silence.

Holy Week is not about doing more for God, but about **remaining with Jesus**. As we stay with Him through suffering and love that does not turn away, we prepare our hearts to receive the gift of resurrection when it comes.

Series Wrap-Up

Waiting for the King Who Lives

Throughout Lent, we have walked slowly through the Gospel of John, listening as Jesus names Himself again and again: the Bread of Life, the Light of the World, the Good Shepherd, the Resurrection and the Life, the Way, the Truth, and the Life, the True Vine. Each declaration has revealed not only who Jesus is, but what kind of King He is—a King who gives Himself rather than grasping for power, who remains present rather than distant, who loves faithfully even when the cost is great.

Holy Week brings us to the edge of the story. We have followed Jesus into Jerusalem with praise, stayed with Him through betrayal and sorrow, and stood at the foot of the cross. Here, Jesus does not explain Himself or escape suffering. He entrusts Himself fully to the Father, revealing a kingship shaped by obedience, humility, and love to the very end.

Lent teaches us that faith is not only about answers, clarity, or triumph. It is about staying with Jesus—learning to trust Him when the way is hard, when the outcome is uncertain, and when love costs more than we expect. At the cross, the full depth of Jesus' identity is revealed: not a king who avoids death, but a King who enters it for the sake of the world.

Now, we wait.

The story is not finished. Death does not have the final word. But before we celebrate what God has done, we honor what Jesus has endured. Easter does not erase the cross—it reveals its meaning.

As we come to Easter Sunday, we will gather not to escape the weight of Holy Week, but to discover what God has been doing all along. The One who was faithful unto death will be revealed as the Living Lord. The King who gave Himself will be shown to be the giver of life.

Come ready to see, to believe, and to rejoice—because the story does not end at the tomb.