



PINELAKE STUDENTS

EASTER WEEK REFLECTION GUIDE



THE GREATEST EVENT EVER

CENTERS AROUND THE GREATEST PERSON EVER

Easter week contains the greatest and most dramatic events in human history. The triumphal entry on Palm Sunday. Jesus flipping over tables at the Temple. The Last Supper. Judas' betrayal. Peter's denials. The trial and torture of Jesus. The cross. And, of course, the resurrection.

To help you appreciate Easter week in a new way, we thought it'd be good to help you reflect on the man who is at the heart of all of these events. The One who is both fully God and fully human. The One whom divides all of human history in two.

Jesus.

The more and better you understand just who Jesus was and is, the more in awe you'll be of all that He did in His final days and the more you'll be filled with love and worship for Him. So we've written up a short devotion on a different aspect of Jesus' character and nature.

We encourage you to spend time in prayer before and after you read the devotions that are on the following pages. Ask God at the beginning to open your eyes to see Jesus in a new way. Then at the end pray that you would love Jesus more because of what you've read. May God change you in the week ahead.

THE PINELAKE STUDENT STAFF

DAY 1



CREATOR

"All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made."

John 1:3

Jesus created all things. Delicate wildflowers, towering mountains, diverse wildlife, intricate humans, immense oceans, burning stars, and staggering galaxies. All things.

Was Jesus just a great teacher or religious philosopher? Was Jesus just a nice guy? Is Jesus just one of many ways to God? Hardly! Jesus is none other than God, God Incarnate, and God the Creator.

To think that this infinite and eternal Creator became a mere man, a wrinkled baby, buckles the knees. What staggering humility.

What are the implications for you that Jesus is your Creator? At least these four things:

- 1. Worship.** We must worship a God so great.
 - 2. Trust.** A God so powerful can intervene in my life and take care of me.
 - 3. Obedience.** Since He created me, I am His and not my own.
 - 4. Gratitude.** To think that my Creator died to save me is amazing.
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DAY 2



THE WORD

"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God."

John 1:3

Jesus is eternal. In the beginning, in eternity past, long before Genesis 1:1, the Son of God, who would take the name 'Jesus' when He was born on earth, already was. Jesus is eternal, and only God is eternal.

Jesus is called the Word because He shows us what God is like. He reveals the unseen, invisible God. Just as words reveal thoughts, Jesus reveals God. John 1:14 tells us that the Word, Jesus, became flesh and dwelt on earth as a human. That's why Jesus would later say, "Anyone who has seen me, has seen the Father" (John 14:9). Simply put, if you want to know God and what He is like, have a relationship with and look at and listen to Jesus. And to do this, you must read God's written Word, the Bible.

God wants you to know Him. He wants to speak to you. Both of these happen through Jesus. Do you have a relationship with Him? Are you learning about Him and hearing from Him through reading the Bible?

What is He saying to you this week?

DAY 3



ALL-POWERFUL

"He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of His nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of His power."

Hebrews 1:3

Right now, the only thing holding the universe together - from the grandest galaxies to the tiniest cells and molecules in your body - is Jesus.

And He's not straining to keep it together. He's not sweating and tired from the heavy load of upholding the universe. He simply says the word and the universe keeps on keeping on, second by second, hour by hour, day by day, and so on.

Jesus is all-powerful. There is nothing that is beyond His ability to accomplish. From your daily needs, to a seemingly impossible miracle, to the forgiveness of your sins, there is never going to be a moment in your life when you will encounter something that will make Jesus nervous because He doesn't know if He's up to the task. He's more than capable.

This truth should keep us from worry, fill us with faith, and lead us to pray big prayers. Where in your life or in the world around you do you need to be reminded that Jesus is all-powerful? What can you pray today now that you have been reminded that there is nothing Jesus cannot do?

DAY 4



FULL OF GRACE AND TRUTH

"The Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen His glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth."
Hebrews 1:3

When we see Jesus, we see the glory of God. We see grace and truth perfectly combined.

See Jesus' grace. See Him comforting hurting people. Touching the untouched leper. Feeding thousands of hungry people. Healing the sick. Loving the undeserving and the guilty. Dying for the sins of the world.

See Jesus' truth. See Him never flinching from the truth, even when it is hard. Calling people to forsake their sin. Challenging the religious and political leaders of His day. Claiming He is the only way to God.

Glory. Grace. And Truth. All in one person: Jesus.

Where in your life do you need grace? Ask for it.
Where in your life are you rejecting the truth? Submit to it.

DAY 5



THE LAMB OF GOD

"The next day He saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, "Behold the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world."

John 1:29

John the Baptist understood who Jesus was. Jesus came as the Lamb of God to die and take away the sin of the world. Including yours.

"Lamb of God" has a rich background in the Bible. In Genesis 22, Isaac asks Abraham, "Where is the lamb for a burnt offering?" Abraham, knowing that Isaac would be sacrificed, simply replies, "God will provide." Little did Abraham know that God would provide a sacrifice to spare Isaac, and that sacrifice would point to the Lamb of God who would die for our sins.

In Exodus 12, we come to the Passover in Egypt, when the blood of lambs was smeared on the doorposts of Israelite homes so that their firstborn children would not die. The blood of these lambs again pointed to the blood shed by the future Lamb of God. If we have faith in Jesus, God passes over our sins because He sees the blood of Jesus shed for us.

Jesus is the fulfillment of all these and many other countless sacrifices for sins we find in the Old Testament. Jesus' death on the cross was not a mistake or an accident; rather it was the whole purpose of His coming. He died as a substitute for you to pay for all of your sins because He loves you. Because of this, if you have faith in Jesus your sins will be forgiven and you can have a relationship with God.

Thank God today for the gift of salvation Jesus bought for you on the cross.

DAY 6



SOVEREIGN

“Indeed Herod & Pontius Pilate met together with the Gentiles & the people of Israel...to conspire against your holy servant Jesus, whom you anointed. They did what your power & will had decided beforehand should happen.”
Acts 4:27-28

“Sovereign” is a big word. It means that someone has supreme power. They are in complete control and nothing can thwart them.

On Saturday, the day after Jesus’ death, it would have been easy to conclude that God was not in control. The very people Jesus had come to save had just put the Son of God to death. Sin and chaos reigned.

Or so it seemed. In reality, God was always in complete control. He orchestrated all that had happened to Jesus in order to provide a way of salvation for the world. God had made His plans from all of eternity, and He executed them flawlessly.

That same God is still in complete control. Even when it seems like things are chaotic and that God has left the building, He’s still there. And He’s not panicking. In heaven, there is no panic; only plans.

What are you anxious or worried about in your life right now? Where does God seem absent? Take these thoughts to God today and ask Him to fill you with the peace that comes from knowing that He is in complete control.

DAY 7



THE RESURRECTION AND THE LIFE

"Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die;"

John 11:25

According to 1 Corinthians 15, our two greatest enemies in life are sin and death. Two days ago we celebrated that Jesus defeated our sin on the cross. Easter is when we celebrate that Jesus defeated death by rising from the grave.

It's hard to overstate how amazing this is! Jesus. Got. Up. This means that even though our earthly bodies will one day die, we can live with the hope and assurance that we will be with God after we die and that God will raise our bodies when Christ comes again. For the Christian, death means that the worst is over and the best gets to finally begin.

Jesus' resurrection also means that we can be raised to life spiritually here and now when we place our faith in Jesus. No matter what we've done, no matter the kind of life we've lived, we can live a new kind of life because of Jesus and what He has done for us. He was raised to life so that we can fully come alive, both now and for forever.

Take some time today and praise God for raising Jesus from the dead, and for giving you new life!
