



5 DAY DEVOTIONAL

John 19:1-16

Day 1: The Weight of His Suffering

Reading: John 18:28-40

The prophet Isaiah painted a vivid portrait of the Messiah's suffering centuries before Christ walked the earth. "He was pierced for our transgressions, crushed for our iniquities." These aren't just poetic words—they're a prophecy fulfilled in brutal detail. Jesus endured unimaginable physical and emotional torment, not because He deserved it, but because we did. When we grow too familiar with this story, we lose the shock that should drive us to our knees in gratitude. Today, don't rush past the suffering. Sit with it. Let the reality sink in that the Creator of the universe willingly absorbed the punishment you earned. His wounds purchased your healing. His suffering secured your peace.

Day 2: Receiving the Gift

Reading: 1 John 2:1-12

Shame is a prison many of us build for ourselves. We know Jesus died for sin, yet we struggle to believe His sacrifice covers our particular failures. We carry guilt like a burden we must bear, trying to earn forgiveness through religious performance. But the gospel declares that Jesus is the propitiation—the complete substitute—for your sins. Not just the small ones. All of them. The darkest secrets. The repeated failures. The things that make you feel unworthy. His suffering was sufficient. Stop trying to add to what He finished. Today, open your hands and receive the free gift. You cannot earn it, but you can refuse it by clinging to shame. Let go. Be forgiven.

Day 3: Sharing What You've Received

Reading: Ephesians 4:25-32

"Forgive as God in Christ has forgiven you." This command feels impossible when someone has genuinely wounded us. Yet consider this: while you were still sinning, Christ died for you. He didn't wait for you to deserve it. Withholding forgiveness from others while claiming Christ's forgiveness for ourselves reveals a dangerous disconnect. Forgiveness doesn't mean the offense didn't matter or that trust is automatically restored. It means releasing the debt, choosing not to hold the offense against them anymore. When we

refuse to forgive, we chain ourselves to the person who hurt us. Jesus suffered to break those chains—for you and for them. Unity in the body of Christ depends on our willingness to extend what we've received.

Day 4: The Surrender of Gratitude

Reading: Romans 12:1-8

Paul urges us to present our bodies as "living sacrifices"—not dead offerings, but lives actively surrendered to God. This is our "reasonable" response to His mercy. When we truly grasp what Jesus endured—the flogging, the mocking, the crown of thorns piercing His skull—holding tightly to our time, talents, and treasure seems absurd. Gratitude isn't just a feeling; it's a posture of surrender. It's loosening our grip on the things we think we own and acknowledging that everything belongs to God anyway. We're simply managers for a brief moment. What vice, addiction, or sin pattern needs surrendering today? What gift or resource are you withholding? True gratitude moves us from spectators to participants in God's mission.

Day 5: Walking in New Life

Reading: 2 Corinthians 5:14-21

"If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come." Salvation isn't just a moment of decision—it's a transformed life, a new way of walking. Jesus didn't suffer just to forgive your past; He suffered to give you a future marked by freedom, purpose, and joy. This new life is characterized by walking in forgiveness and gratitude daily. It means waking up each morning aware that you've been given what you don't deserve and responding with humble service. It means seeing others through the lens of grace. The suffering of Jesus demands a response. Not to earn anything, but to express everything. Today, take one concrete step forward in this new life. Serve someone. Extend grace. Use your gifts. Walk worthy of the calling you've received.



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

John 19:1-16

1. How does understanding the brutal physical reality of Jesus' torture and crucifixion change or deepen your appreciation for the sacrifice He made on your behalf?
2. The sermon emphasizes that Jesus was tortured, mocked, and sentenced to death so that believers may walk in forgiveness and gratitude. Which of these two responses - forgiveness or gratitude - is more challenging for you personally, and why?
3. Pilate knew Jesus was innocent, yet still had Him flogged to appease the crowd. In what ways do we sometimes compromise truth or justice to please others, and how can we resist that temptation?
4. The prophecies from Isaiah and Psalms foretold Jesus' suffering in remarkable detail hundreds of years before His birth. How does the fulfillment of Old Testament prophecy strengthen your faith in the reliability of Scripture?
5. The sermon states that many Christians conceptually understand forgiveness but fail to truly walk in it. What does it practically look like to both receive and share the free gift of forgiveness in your daily life?
6. Is there someone in your life from whom you are withholding forgiveness, and what would it take for you to extend that forgiveness in light of what Christ has done for you?
7. Andy suggests that familiarity with the crucifixion story can lead to a lack of gratitude and surrender. How can we prevent ourselves from becoming numb to the magnitude of Christ's sacrifice?
8. What specific area of your life - whether time, talents, or treasure - is God calling you to surrender more fully as a response of gratitude for Jesus' suffering?
9. The sermon mentions that shame often prevents people from receiving God's forgiveness. How can we help others in our community overcome shame and embrace the free gift of grace?
10. If every believer at Dayspring took one step forward in either forgiveness or gratitude this week, what tangible transformation might occur in marriages, relationships, and the broader community?



SMALL GROUP GUIDE

John 19:1-16

Key Takeaways:

1. Jesus was tortured, mocked, and sentenced to death so that those who believe in Him may walk in forgiveness and gratitude.

Discussion Questions:

Understanding the Passage

1. Why does the sermon emphasize not "fast-forwarding" through the difficult parts of Jesus' suffering? What do we lose when we become too familiar with this story?
2. Read Isaiah 53:4-6 together. How do these prophecies written hundreds of years before Christ give you confidence in God's plan? What specific details stand out to you?
3. Pilate knew Jesus was innocent, yet he still condemned Him. What does this tell us about human nature, fear, and the pressure of public opinion?

Going Deeper

1. The sermon mentions that "familiarity leads to a lack of gratitude." Have you experienced this in your own faith journey? How can we keep the reality of Jesus' sacrifice fresh in our hearts?
2. Walking in forgiveness means both receiving AND sharing it. Which is harder for you personally? Why?
3. Shame vs. Forgiveness: The sermon addresses how shame can prevent us from receiving God's free gift of forgiveness. Have you struggled with feeling like you need to "earn" forgiveness through good works? How does understanding Jesus' suffering change that perspective?

Personal Application

1. Gratitude through surrender: The sermon states that "the suffering of Jesus demands a response, and that response is surrender". What does practical surrender look like in daily life? Consider these areas:
 - a. Your time (Monday-Saturday, not just Sunday)
 - b. Your talents and giftedness
 - c. Your treasure (financial resources)
 - d. Your struggles and sin patterns
2. The "ripple effect" challenge: The sermon asks us to imagine if every person took one step forward in forgiveness or gratitude. What would that look like in:
 - a. Your family?
 - b. This small group?
 - c. Our church?