

THE FOLLOW UP

Be sure to get these FOUR devos and the Quiet Time Challenge done



The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, "Look! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!" ~ John 1:29

DEVO #1—Taking Our Punishment

READ: Isaiah 52:13-53:12

Imagine that you've been caught doing something very bad, and a serious grounding is about to be unleashed upon you. But, all of a sudden, a sibling of yours says, "No Dad, ground me instead. I'll take the punishment."

If you are trying to picture your brother or sister doing that for you but can't possibly see it happening, you are not alone! People do not like to be punished, let alone punished for something they didn't do. But, in our Scripture, we find Someone being whipped, wounded, crushed, and killed for the sins of others. That someone is Jesus Christ, who took upon Himself the guilt and sins of us all, so that we could have forgiveness, hope, peace, and the promise of eternal life.

1. Read verses 53:4-10 again. What of yours did Jesus take upon Himself because of His great love for you?
2. Read through verses 10-12 again. Because Jesus willingly took your punishment upon Himself, what can you experience?
3. When you think about the fact that it was your sin that helped nail Jesus to the cross, how do you feel?
4. Knowing that Jesus took your sin upon Himself, and died on the cross in your place, what should your response to Him be?

PRAYER

- ~Thank Jesus that He was willing to take your punishment upon Himself
- ~Thank God for His amazing grace seen in the cross of Christ
- ~Confess your sins to God and receive His forgiveness through Christ
- ~Ask God to help you live in His love and grace
- ~Ask God to help you share "The Easter Message" with others

ADDITIONAL NOTE SPACE

POSSIBLE ACTION STEPS

- ◆ Be praying about who you can share the "Easter Message" with
- ◆ Be sure to make that list of FIVE unsaved friends, relatives, classmates, and/or neighbors, then commit to praying for those people EVERY day
- ◆ If you have not accepted the Jesus as your Savior yet, or have just recently done so, get with your youth pastor, parents, or another Christian mentor to talk about next steps
- ◆ Seek to fulfill the Lord's will for your life

QUIET TIME CHALLENGE

NOTE:

The *Quiet Time Challenge* is NOT a devotional in itself. It is designed for you to do separately apart from your daily devotional time.

HOW IT WORKS:

Find a quiet place with no distractions. Make this between just you and God. Clear your mind then read the Bible verse(s). After doing so, work through the questions. At the end, spend five to ten minutes in "listening mode." Just ask God to speak to you and then be quiet and seek to hear His voice.

PART 1 — READ: John 1:29

PART 2 — QUESTIONS

Explain this verse in your own words:

What does it mean to you that Jesus is the Lamb of God?

PART 3 — LISTEN

Ask God to examine your heart. Ask the Lord to fill your heart with forgiveness and a fresh start. Then seek to hear God's voice speak to your soul. (Feel free to jot down anything you hear.)

DEVO #2 — For Us He Would

READ: Mark 15:16-41

There's a story of a little girl who was dying and in need of a blood transfusion. It was discovered that her six year old brother had her same rare blood type. The doctor asked the young boy, "Would you be willing to give your blood for your sister?"

The boy tensed up for a moment, biting his upper lip. Then, he relaxed and said, "Sure, for my sister I would." A few days later, the boy was prepped and his older sister was wheeled in on a gurney. She looked very pale and thin. The doctor inserted a needle into the young boy's arm. After the initial pain, the boy asked, "Doctor, when do I die?" You see, the boy thought he'd have to give ALL of his blood for his sister. And he was willing!

I can picture God turning to Jesus in heaven and asking, "Will You give Your blood for My fallen creation?" And Jesus, turning back to the Father, said, "Sure, for them I would." Such is His love for us!

1. In verses 16-20, list some of the things Christ endured because of His love for you?
2. Who mocked Jesus as He hung on the cross in verses 29-32?
3. If you were to sin three times a day, (thinking a bad thing, saying a bad thing, doing a bad thing, etc.) over a period of ten years you would have accumulated nearly 11,000 sins! Yet, through Christ's death and resurrection, all of our many sins can be forgiven! Knowing this, what does Christ's sacrifice mean to you?

PRAYER

- ~Thank Jesus for suffering and dying because of your many sins
- ~Confess to God, if necessary, not being totally amazed by Christ's incredible sacrifice for your sins
- ~Ask God to help you live with a sense of continual gratitude for Christ's sacrifice on your behalf
- ~Ask God to help you grow in your understanding of His love

DEVO #4 — In Our Place

DEVO #3 — The Prodigal

READ: Luke 15:11-24

Jesus told the story of "The Prodigal Son" to teach His listeners a lesson about the great love and forgiveness of God. In this story, the younger son showed arrogant disregard toward his father by asking for his inheritance before his father's death. In Jesus' day, for a son to do this would have been unthinkable. But the younger son did so, and then went off to live as he pleased, free from the rules and guidance of his father.

Soon, this young son blew all of his money on wild living. He hit rock bottom when he was forced to take a job feeding pigs (which were animals the Jews considered unclean and therefore refused to touch). Yet, despite all of this, the father was waiting for his son to return. And when he saw his son returning in humility, he ran out to meet him, embraced him, and then threw a party!

1. We have arrogantly lived our own way. We have sinned and sinned greatly, yet our heavenly Father is still ready to receive all who turn to Him in humility and repentance. What does this tell you about God's love and forgiveness?
2. Verse 20 tells us that, "filled with compassion," the father ran out to meet his son. Likewise, our heavenly Father is filled with love and compassion for us. How does the message of Easter show the true range of God's love and compassion?
3. Read John 3:16. Who do you know that needs to hear about this incredible love of God? List FIVE people:

PRAYER

- ~Thank God that He is filled with love and compassion
- ~Thank God that He is always ready to forgive anyone who humbly comes to Him to confess sin
- ~Pray for the FIVE people you listed under #3
- ~Ask God to fill you with love and compassion
- ~Ask God to show you where you can reach out with love and compassion

READ: Luke 23:13-25

Barabbas is one of the most interesting men in the Bible, even though he only shows up once! He was the first to experience, quite literally, what Jesus did for the whole world. Barabbas had sinned terribly and led an awful life. He was guilty of insurrection and murder. There was no question about it. He was set to be justly punished for his crimes, but then a miracle occurred.

This man with no hope and no way to save himself comes face to face with Jesus, and Jesus is chosen to die in Barabbas' place. Barabbas, the murderer, would go free, while Jesus, the sinless One, would die. That is why Barabbas is a living example for us, for we can take Barabbas' name out of that Scripture and put in ours. Doing so would make the Scripture no less true. Jesus died in our places, just as He did for Barabbas.

1. Pause and thank Jesus for willingly taking the punishment for your sins.
2. Jesus died in Barabbas' place, yet we hear nothing more from him. Jesus died in your place as well...what more will people hear from you about this?
3. Because of Jesus' sacrifice, our lives will never be the same. Again, think of those you know who need to hear the message of God's grace and love shown in the cross. How can you share this with them?

PRAYER

- ~Thank Jesus that He took the punishment for your sins
- ~Ask God to give you a deeper appreciation for His sacrifice on your behalf
- ~Pray for the FIVE people you wrote down yesterday
- ~Ask God to use you to share the story of His love