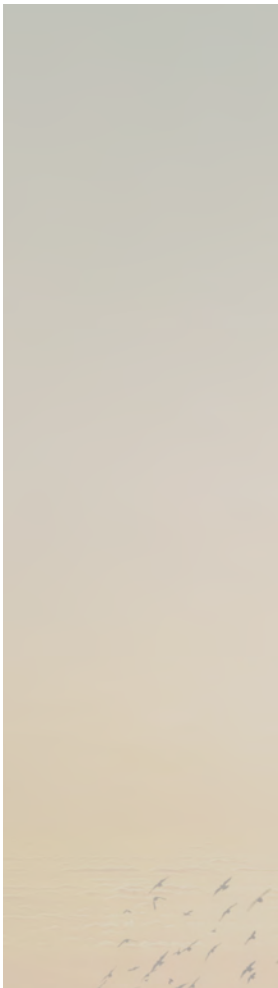
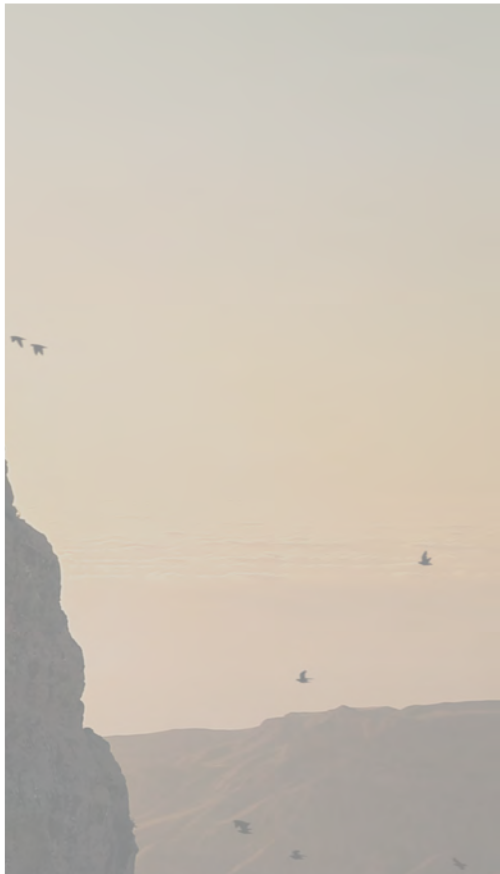




# LAST WORDS.

A SEVEN WEEK JOURNEY THROUGH LENT

GRACE IN THE WORD



**NAME AND CONTACT INFORMATION**

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**WHAT IS YOUR HOPE FOR THIS STUDY IN GOD'S WORD?**

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# Last Words of Jesus

## ABOUT THIS READING PLAN

This reading plan walks you through the last words of Jesus on the cross. This plan will take an in-depth look at each of the seven statements that Jesus made from the cross and dig into the spiritual and practical significance of each of these statements.

### Each day's reading includes:

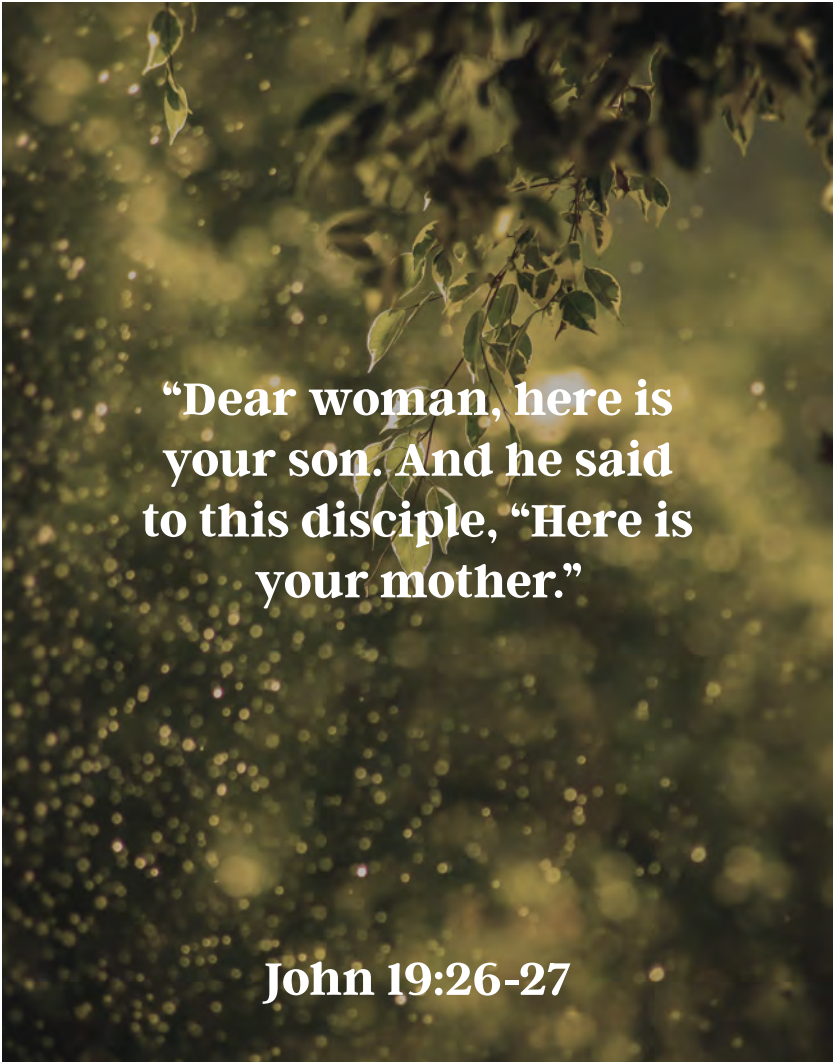
- The statement from Jesus on the cross and other related scripture references throughout the Bible.
- A commentary, devotional, or reflection thought to process the message more intentionally.
- Space for you to write thoughts or questions from that day's corresponding scripture or reflection.

Check out [graceclarksville.com/graceintheword](http://graceclarksville.com/graceintheword) for more resources, and join our Facebook community at [facebook.com/groups/graceintheword](https://facebook.com/groups/graceintheword)

Study material in this guide was adapted from *ESV Study Bible*, *NIV Application Commentary*, *The Encyclopedia of the Bible*, N.T. Wright's *Matthew For Everyone Part 2*, *The Seven Last Words from the Cross* by Fleming Rutledge, *Cross-Shattered Christ* by Stanley Hauerwas, *IVP New Testament Commentary*, *Matthew Henry Commentary*, *The Book of Common Prayer*, *DesiringGod.org*, and *Enduring Word Commentary* by David Guzik.

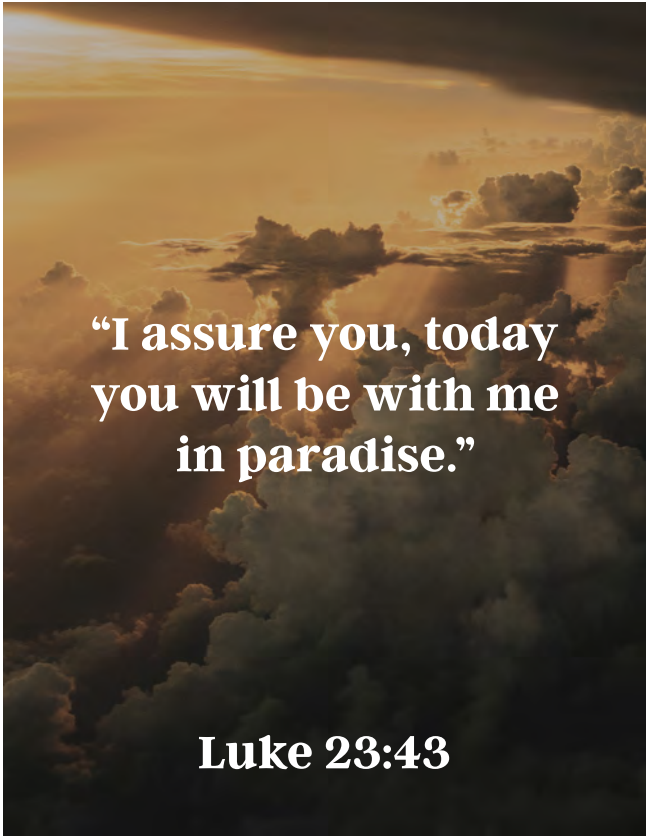
## WHY STUDY THE SEVEN LAST WORDS OF JESUS

Studying Jesus's words in Scripture is always useful as it helps us to know more about Him and His character. Studying Jesus' last words on the cross specifically tell us so much about Jesus as fully God and fully man. The seven statements together reveal the great strength and compassion of His character, and help us understand that Jesus went through both spiritual and physical distress during His time on the cross. There is so much to reflect on in Jesus' last words, but we don't want to simply focus on what these words mean for us and our lives. We hope in our time studying these last words, we can also face the reality of what it means that God sacrificed His only Son for us. Spending time reflecting on these last words will reveal to us how beautiful God's redemption story is, and the power that is made available to us through the death and resurrection of our Savior Jesus Christ. Jesus' last words on the cross, over two thousand years ago, offer hope for us today. They point us to the forgiveness, hope, comfort, and compassion of Christ's words in his final moments on earth.



**“Dear woman, here is your son. And he said to this disciple, “Here is your mother.”**

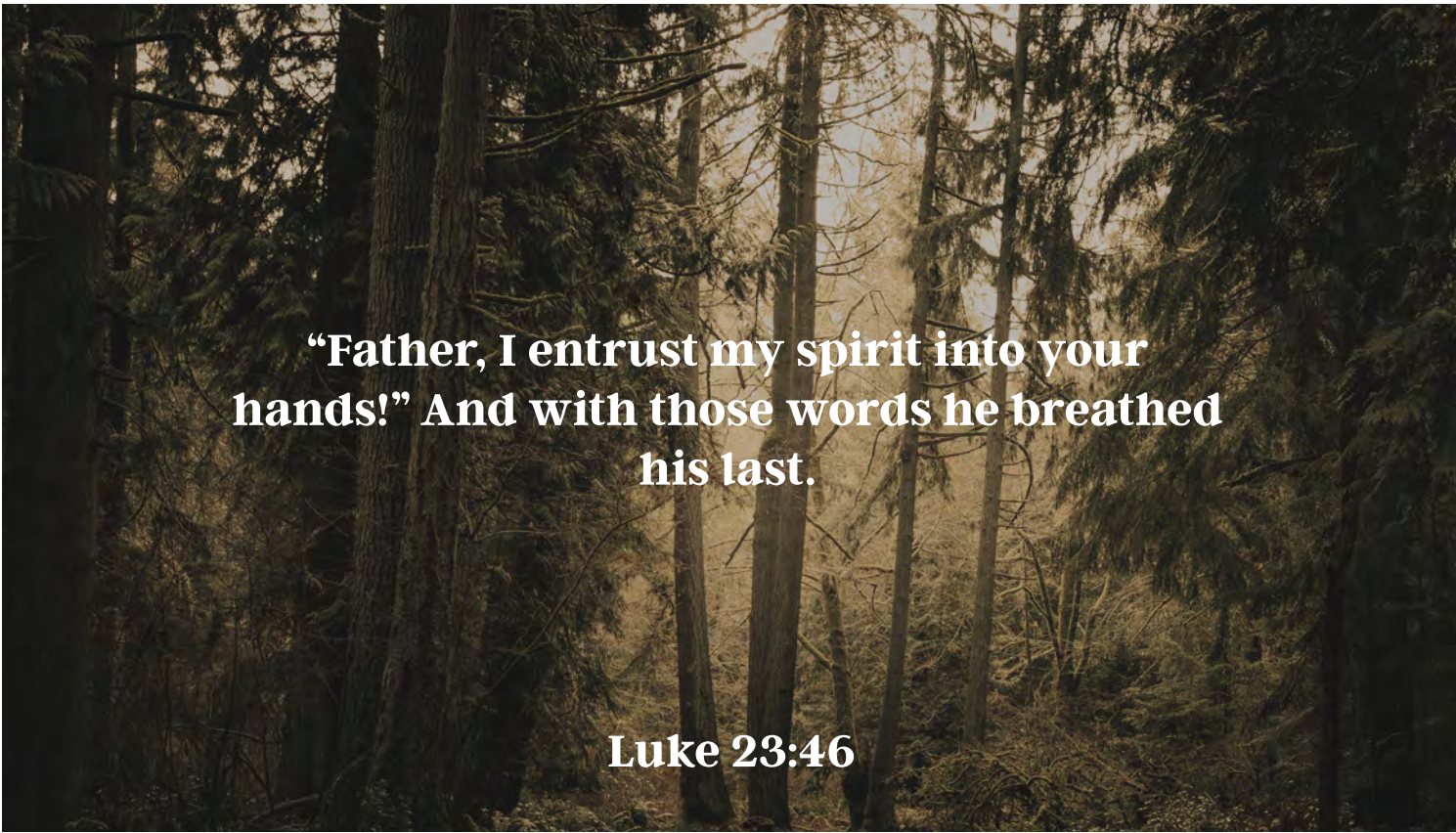
**John 19:26-27**



**“I assure you, today you will be with me in paradise.”**

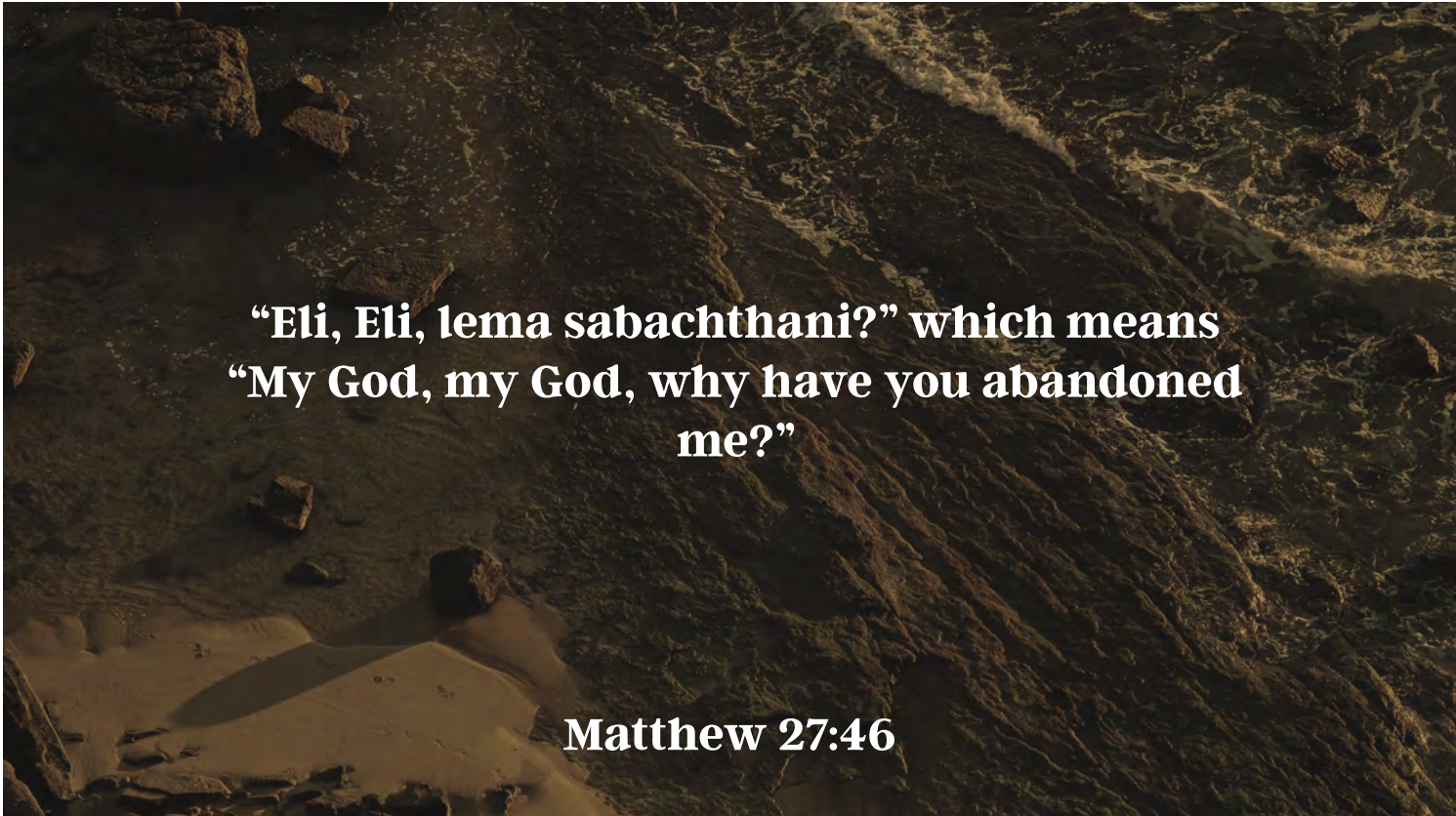
**Luke 23:43**

**LAST**



**“Father, I entrust my spirit into your hands!” And with those words he breathed his last.**


**Luke 23:46**



**“Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?” which means  
“My God, my God, why have you abandoned  
me?”**

**Matthew 27:46**

# WORDS.



**“Father, forgive  
them, for they don’t  
know what they are  
doing.”**

**Luke 23:34**



**“It is finished!”**

**John 19:30**



**“I am thirsty.”**

**John 19:28**

# What is Lent?

Traditionally believers use the season of Lent, which is the 40 days leading up to Resurrection (Easter) Sunday, as a time to remember the life, death and resurrection of our Savior. This is often done through a variety of spiritual disciplines such as prayer, reflecting on Scripture and fasting. Many Christians also use this time for introspection, repentance, and personal growth. The Lenten season serves as a time for believers to renew their faith and draw closer to the core tenets of Christianity.

It has become common for believers to think of Lent as a time to give something up in order to focus on our need for Jesus. This is a small act of self-denial and sacrifice that we can make in our lives as we reflect on the ultimate sacrifice Jesus made for us. If you choose to make that a part of your Lent season, think about choosing something in your life that would truly feel like a sacrifice and something that takes your focus away from the Lord or time with the Lord. Fasting, or abstaining, for certain activities and items in our days can point us in this season to focus more deeply on the life and sacrifice of Jesus. Throughout church history and across various Christian traditions, the Lent season is a time for sober reflection on our shortcomings, our need for salvation, but also a time to consider how merciful, loving, and forgiving our God is. It is a time to reflect on God's beautiful redemption story that culminates in the resurrection of His Son Jesus.

We are called to a life of self-control, that is why the practice of fasting is so important. Fasting historically is choosing to abstain from something good so you can enjoy something even better. It is mentioned all throughout scripture as a practice that people use to draw closer to the Lord. So what might that look like for you to practice self-control in a specific area for the 40 days between Ash Wednesday and Good Friday?

Be prayerful and ask God to show you what is a stronghold for you. Maybe you fast a certain meal each day, maybe a specific food or drink, social media, the news, TV, a certain type of music, book, or movie, or maybe it's unnecessary spending. Ask Him to guide you in this area. Choosing to observe Lent is counter-cultural. It goes against every voice out there telling us what we need, what we should watch, wear, eat, drink, and buy, but instead points us to the voice of the Lord telling us what we really need deep in our souls. It requires us to go against the flow.

G.K. Chesterton says,

*"a dead thing can go with the stream, but only a living thing can go against it."*

We hope spending the next 40 days in God's Word as a church family will be helpful in meditating on God's redemptive work and the significance of Jesus' death and resurrection. To that end, we think the seven words of Jesus from the cross are a perfect lens to center our hearts on what Jesus came to do and who He was as an example for us to follow with our lives. These words provide an excellent roadmap for our hearts and minds as we walk through the weeks leading up to Holy Week and Resurrection Sunday.

# Prayer and Reflection

## **BEFORE YOU READ GOD'S WORD TODAY, SEEK HIS HELP WITH THESE 5 PRAYERS**

1. God, give me wisdom, knowledge, and understanding.
2. God, let any knowledge I gain help me love You and others more and not puff me up.
3. God, help me see something new about You I've never seen before.
4. God, correct any lies I believe about You or anything I misunderstand.
5. God, direct my steps according to Your Word.

**\*\* Prayers from *The Bible Recap Reading Plan* by Tara-Leigh Cobble \*\***

## **TIPS FOR APPROACHING SCRIPTURE**

- Pray before you read (use the prayers above)
- Read the words in proper context, taking into consideration when it was written, to whom it was written, and what was happening when it was written (a good study bible is helpful, we recommend the ESV Study Bible)
- Look for God's character and faithfulness to His people
- Look for themes that point to Jesus
- Look for anything repetitive, unusual, confusing, hopeful, comforting, challenging
- Once you are finished reading, take a few minutes to meditate on what you have read:
  - | Narrow down what you've read to just one or two main thoughts.
  - | What did I learn about God in these passages?
  - | How can I praise God for what this says about him?
  - | What did I learn about the human heart in these passages?
  - | What behavior/emotions come when I forget these things about God?
  - | What is God revealing to me today that I need to listen to?
  - | What sins do I need to confess in light of what God revealed today?
  - | What next step can I take in light of what I have read today?

# Weekly Checklist

## WEEK ONE - FATHER, FORGIVE THEM

- **Day 1-** Luke 23:32-34, Micah 7:18-20, Nehemiah 9, Psalm 86:5-17, Matthew 9:1-8, 1 John 4:8-10
- **Day 2-** Luke 10:23-24; 23:34, Micah 4:12, Acts 3:13-26; 13:26-28; 17:24-30, 1 Corinthians 2:7-16, Ephesians 4:17-24
- **Day 3-** Isaiah 53:11-12, Luke 22:31-32, Hebrews 5:7; 7:25, 1 Timothy 2:5, John 17:9-26, Ephesians 6:18, James 5:16, Romans 8:34-39, 1 John 2:1-2
- **Day 4-** Luke 15:11-32, Ephesians 5:1-2, 1 Peter 1:13-22; 2:21-25, Acts 7:54-60
- **Day 5-** Matthew 5:7-12; 5:43-48; 20:26-28, Luke 6:27-36, John 18:36-37, Philippians 2:3-8
- **Day 6-** Reflection Day
- **Day 7-** Rest Day

## WEEK TWO - YOU WILL BE WITH ME IN PARADISE

- **Day 1-** Luke 23:26-43, Romans 10:9-13, Titus 3:4-7
- **Day 2-** Matthew 11:28-30, Acts 4:11-12, John 14:6, Romans 8:38-39
- **Day 3-** Luke 23:26-43, Revelation 21:1-7, 2 Corinthians 12:1-4
- **Day 4-** Luke 23:39-43, Psalm 77:11-15
- **Day 5-** Luke 23:39-43, Isaiah 40:28-31, Psalm 27:13-14
- **Day 6-** Reflection Day
- **Day 7-** Rest Day

## WEEK THREE: BEHOLD YOUR SON / BEHOLD YOUR MOTHER

- **Day 1-** John 19:25-27; 7:1-9, Matthew 13:55-58, Luke 2:25-35, Isaiah 40:10-11
- **Day 2-** Mark 3:31-35, Acts 1:12-14, Romans 8:16-25, Galatians 3:26-29, Ephesians 2:19-22, Hebrews 2:11-18
- **Day 3-** Romans 3:21-31; 5:20-21, Ephesians 2:1-10, Colossians 1:6-29; 3:10-17
- **Day 4-** Matthew 28:18-20, John 14:15-30; 16:5-15, Acts 1:6-11; 2:22-41, 1 Corinthians 12:12-27
- **Day 5-** Acts 2:42-47, Romans 12:9-18, Ephesians 4:1-4, Philippians 2:1-11, 1 John 4:7-12, John 13:34-35
- **Day 6-** Reflection Day
- **Day 7-** Rest Day



## WEEK FOUR: WHY HAVE YOU FORSAKEN ME?

- **Day 1-** Matthew 27:46, John 1:1-4, Romans 6:16-18
- **Day 2-** Matthew 27:46, Psalm 22:1-8, Isaiah 41:10, Romans 8:38-39, Matthew 28:19-20
- **Day 3-** Matthew 27:46, Psalm 139
- **Day 4-** Hebrews 13:5-6, John 14:15-18, John 16:33
- **Day 5-** Matthew 27:45-49, Matthew 17:10-13
- **Day 6-** Reflection Day
- **Day 7-** Rest Day

## WEEK FIVE: I THIRST

- **Day 1-** John 19:28-29, John 1:9-14; 11:33-35, Matthew 4:1-11, Hebrews 4:15-16
- **Day 2-** Psalm 22:14-15; 69:21, Isaiah 53:10-12, John 10:14-18
- **Day 3-** Exodus 17:1-7, Judges 15:18-20, Psalm 29:3, John 4:7-26; 7:37-38, Revelation 7:14-17
- **Day 4-** John 19:28-30, John 1:29, 36, Exodus 12:22-23, Psalm 51:2-12, Hebrews 9:19-22; 10:19-23
- **Day 5-** Hebrews 1:1-3; 2:17-18; 4:14-16; 5:1-10; 7:15-28; 10:8-12, Luke 1:31-33, Revelation 19:11-16; 21:5-6
- **Day 6-** Reflection Day
- **Day 7-** Rest Day

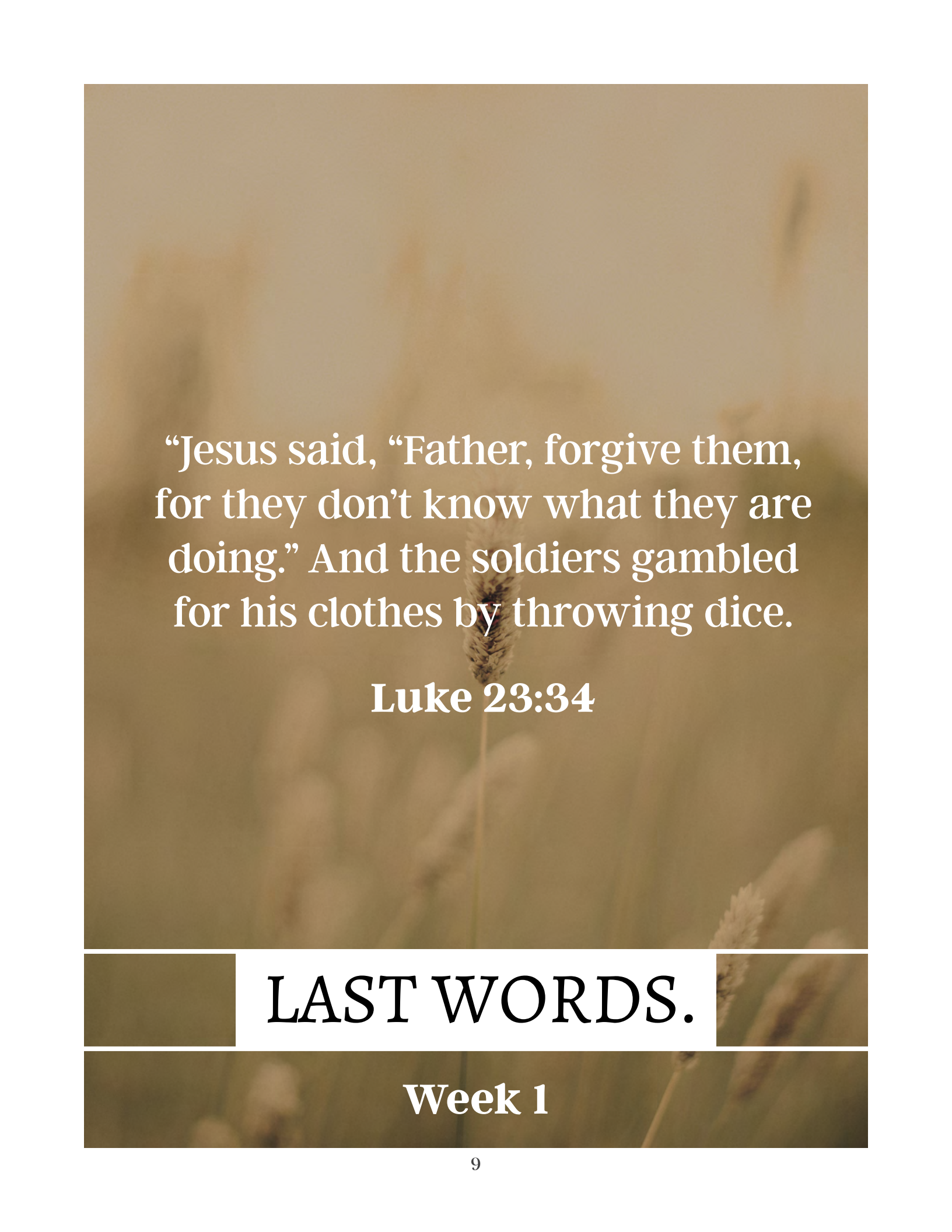
## WEEK SIX: IT IS FINISHED

- **Day 1-** John 19:30, 1 Corinthians 15:54-57
- **Day 2-** John 19:30, John 1:1-5, Genesis 1:31-2:2
- **Day 3-** John 19:30, Colossians 1:24-27, 1 Corinthians 9:24-27, Hebrew 12:1-14
- **Day 4-** John 19:30, John 1:29-36, Hebrews 10:1-4
- **Day 5-** Luke 23:34, Luke 23:43, John 19:26, Matthew 27:46, John 19:28, John 19:30
- **Day 6-** Reflection Day
- **Day 7-** Palm Sunday- Luke 19:28-40

## WEEK SEVEN: INTO YOUR HANDS

- **Day 1-** Monday - Luke 23:44-46
- **Day 2-** Tuesday - Luke 23:46, Luke 2:41-49, Ephesians 4:6, Isaiah 64:8, Matthew 26:36-56
- **Day 3-** Wednesday - Luke 23:46, Genesis 2:7, Romans 12:2, Romans 14:8, Ecclesiastes 12:7, Matthew 26:57-68 and 27:11-26
- **Day 4-** Maundy Thursday - Luke 23:46, Matthew 26:26-29, 26:36-39, Colossians 2:13-15, John 5:30; 8:28-29
- **Day 5-** Good Friday - Choose one gospel account or read them all: Matthew 27, Mark 15, Luke 23, John 19
- **Day 6-** Reflection Day - His Burial - Matthew 27:50-61, Luke 23:44-56
- **Day 7-** Easter Sunday - Luke 24





“Jesus said, “Father, forgive them,  
for they don’t know what they are  
doing.” And the soldiers gambled  
for his clothes by throwing dice.

**Luke 23:34**

**LAST WORDS.**

**Week 1**

Week 1, Day 1

# Monday

Luke 23:32-34, Micah 7:18-20, Nehemiah 9, Psalm 86:5-17,  
Matthew 9:1-8, 1 John 4:8-10

**“Father, forgive them, for they don’t know what they are doing.”**

**Luke 23:34**

## **FATHER, FORGIVE THEM - A PARDON FOR THOSE WHO COME TO HIM**

At the very least, this first statement of Jesus on the cross reminds us of God’s forgiveness of our sins. Our sin often comes from a rebellion against God; whether we are knowingly or unknowingly rebelling, it stems from a place of pride that we know better than God. It’s a problem as old as time, beginning at the fall in Genesis and winding its way through history, and now to us in our rebellions. But “God is love”; therefore, He can’t be anything but love. He does not abandon His people. God knew that the sacrifices of the old law would be insufficient, so He sent His only Son to be the ultimate sacrifice, to hang on a cross and be the representation of His love and forgiveness in the flesh. Jesus offers a pardon for our sins. A pardon is the action of forgiving or being forgiven for an error or offense. Throughout scripture, we see God’s people confess and return to Him. The Israelites in Nehemiah 9 gather to collectively confess their sins after returning from an extended time of exile from their country as a result of their rebellion toward God. We see the Psalmist remembering God’s mercy and pardon towards sin. They all seem to recognize the magnitude of God’s mercy, compassion, and love. They know their sin warrants justice, but God’s love moves him to forgive. We see Jesus in His ministry repeatedly offering forgiveness of sins and telling His disciples during the Last Supper that His blood will be poured out to forgive sin.

As Darrel Bock puts it in the *NIV Application Commentary*:

*The cross is, at its heart, the offer of God’s gracious forgiveness to those who embrace it. To embrace the cross means to renounce our own works as the basis of our salvation. Our relationship with God comes through trusting in Jesus and in his finished work. The cross offers an opportunity of a new life, lived with a clean slate before God. That offer comes by God’s grace, with nothing for us to earn. If we accept his grace, God begins a new walk with us. Our spiritual well-being rests solidly and securely in the hands of a caring heavenly Father.*

As the words of this great hymn remind us: Jesus paid it all. All to Him I owe. Sin had left a crimson stain. He washed it white as snow.



### **REFLECTION**

Meditate on Nehemiah 9. The Israelites were returning from being exiled from their country due to their sin and unfaithfulness to God. This chapter records their recommitment to the LORD. Use these words to remind your heart of our faithful God who forgives. Ask God to remind you of His extravagant offer of forgiveness. Use this as a time to bring your confessions to Him to allow His forgiveness to wash over you. Pray through the words in Psalm 86.

Luke 23:34, Luke 10:23-24, Micah 4:12,  
Acts 3:13-26; 13:26-28, 17:24-30, 1 Corinthians 2:7-16,  
Ephesians 4:17-24

**“Father, forgive them, for they don’t know what they are doing.”**

**Luke 23:34**

## FOR THEY KNOW NOT WHAT THEY DO - SPIRITUAL BLINDNESS

In God’s Word, we see countless examples of religious leaders who truly believed they were following God and doing what was right. Many religious leaders’ “rightness” led Jesus straight to the cross. They were missing the Messiah standing before them because they didn’t heed the warnings and prophecies in Old Testament scriptures. Yet, on the cross, Jesus says, “They know not what they do.” They likely didn’t understand the eternal significance of their current earthly choices. Many of us do the very same thing daily.

The *ESV Global Study Bible* says:

*His death was the basis upon which those who crucified him could be forgiven. “They know not what they do” does not take away the responsibility of the religious or political leaders for Jesus’ death, but it shows that they did not fully understand the horrible evil that they were doing in crucifying the “Holy and Righteous One.”*

How amazing is it that through the death of Jesus on the cross, God was making a way for those who put Him to death to be forgiven and given a second chance. Peter’s preaching later converted many who had a hand in Jesus’ death. In one sense, these men did know that they were brutally killing a man, but they didn’t fully understand that they were killing the Son of God, nor did they fully understand what the consequences of their current actions would be. Yet even from the cross, Jesus modeled the radical nature of the forgiveness He taught. In a biblical sense, ignorance is more of a difference between knowledge and wisdom. One might know God and His commands but lack the wisdom to seek His ways and let His commands transform their actions. In some ways, it is a spiritual blindness that the enemy or our sinfulness can cause. It’s the difference between knowing God and following God with your life. Following our desires and ways can lead to spiritual blindness. As God’s truth is revealed to us, we no longer have the excuse that we did not know. Humanity’s ignorance doesn’t change God’s ultimate plan. As followers of Jesus, Paul states, we have been given “the mind of Christ” to understand and make wiser choices. Even when we “know not what we do,” our sin still has consequences for us and others. We do not sin in a vacuum. God’s forgiveness of sin doesn’t take away the pain that sin might cause, but if we are faithful to confess and repent, God promises to redeem that sin for us to be back in right standing with Him. The key for us as believers is to continue to seek His wisdom to be revealed to us more fully each day. Praise God that our desire to sin is no match for God’s desire to forgive and offer us a new way to live. Let’s live as children of light, no longer in the darkness.



### REFLECTION

Reflect today on what it means to have “the mind of Christ.” How can one seek to fully understand the world better by looking through the eyes of Christ?

Isaiah 53:11-12, Luke 22:31-32, Hebrews 5:7, 7:25, 1 Timothy 2:5, John 17:9-26, Ephesians 6:18, James 5:16, Romans 8:34-39, 1 John 2:1-2

**“Father, forgive them, for they don’t know what they are doing.”**

**Luke 23:34**

## JESUS INTERCEDES ON OUR BEHALF

Prayer was at the center of Jesus’ relationship to His Father. We see prayer as a central rhythm in Jesus’ life. He went away often to pray in the mundane, ordinary days, in the busy seasons, when facing critical moments in His life, and when He was burdened for others. Jesus valued prayer. It allowed Him deep communion with His Father and showed Jesus’ submission to the Father. As the letter to the Hebrews put it, “In the days of Jesus’ life on earth, he offered up prayers and petitions with loud cries and tears...and he was heard because of his reverent submission.” One of the most beautiful examples of Jesus interceding on our behalf is His prayer in John 17. Seeing Jesus’ example of prayer led His disciples to ask Jesus to teach them how to pray. On the cross, we see Jesus intercede on behalf of others; this moment on the cross is prophesied in Isaiah 53, saying, “he will intercede on behalf of rebels.” As far as we know, no one expresses remorse in front of Him, yet Jesus forgives and prays for them. For those familiar with this prophecy, this prayer from the cross would have confirmed His identity as the Messiah. We also see evidence that this intercessory prayer was answered as some of those unbelievers later come to see God’s love through what Jesus did on the cross.

What is intercession? Simply put, it is praying on behalf of another person. This prayer on the cross is one of forgiveness, yes, but also, in a way, it is a prayer for wisdom and understanding, a prayer of salvation and healing. Jesus is interceding like this for us even now. Romans 8 and 1 John 1 tell us He sits on the Father’s right hand pleading for us.

The *Encyclopedia of the Bible* says:

*This intercession is not only for those who sentenced and crucified Jesus, but for all of humanity—a people who have no insight into the profound mystery of God’s salvation. Jesus speaks these words not as a request but with divine authority. The intercession of Christ refers to prayer offered by Christ on behalf of others. It is frequently understood as the activity He exercises in this respect in His exalted glory at the right hand of the Father.*

Jesus tells Simon Peter in Luke 22, once you repent and turn to me again, strengthen your brothers. This prayer can be an example for us as we begin to intercede in prayer for others. We are called to intercede for one another. May we be people who pray to strengthen our brothers and sisters, earnestly crying out to the Father on their behalf of others, just as Jesus did on the cross and continues to do for us even today.



### REFLECTION

Ask God to reveal someone who needs your prayers. Use Jesus’ words in John 17 as a guide to pray for that person.

Luke 15:11-32, Ephesians 5:1-2, 1 Peter 1:13-22; 2:21-25,  
Acts 7:54-60

**“Father, forgive them, for they don’t know what they are doing.”**

**Luke 23:34**

## JESUS SAYS, “FOLLOW MY LEAD”

Jesus knew the vision of God’s redemption plan would require humility, suffering, and radical forgiveness. Jesus is showing the same compassion and forgiveness in His time of suffering that He did throughout His life and ministry. The example He laid out before us is hard to follow, yet we know it is possible. We’ve all heard stories where people are able to practice radical forgiveness, and we often wonder if we would be able to do the same. In situations where a crime has been committed, yet the family can forgive, how? Like Jesus, they likely know that each of us is more than the worst thing we’ve ever done. When we can see people through the eyes of Jesus, realizing that “all fall short of the glory of God” and we are all “made in the image of God,” we can begin to soften to forgiveness. Forgiveness like this seems great in theory but is far more challenging to practice.

Of course, Jesus could do this, but let’s look at the life of Stephen. He was stoned to death for his faith, and looking to Jesus’ example, he died with a similar prayer of forgiveness on his lips. He fell to his knees, shouting, “Lord, don’t charge them with this sin!” Just as Jesus asked His Father to forgive those who crucified Him, so Stephen asked God to give his murderers a chance to repent. God’s grace enables us to do what we could never do alone. Once we grasp the radical forgiveness of Jesus, our only option is to forgive in this same way. This kind of forgiveness frees us from a prison of resentment and anger. This kind of forgiveness often seems impossible, especially if the wrong done to us is severe.

Forgiveness doesn’t mean that we forget the wrong that has been done. It doesn’t discount the hurt and pain caused, but it does release the control that person or their actions have over you and your future. It isn’t always contingent on getting an apology or a reconciliation in a relationship. We can choose to cancel the debt owed by someone else and decide to want good for them. Forgiveness is rarely a one-and-done act. It often takes daily, sometimes even moment-by-moment, choices to forgive. Jesus wants us to live in His freedom, and this kind of forgiveness is the only way. This kind of radical forgiveness is only possible if we rely on the power of the LORD; it is impossible in our strength. He can work with the slightest desire to forgive, ask Him for help, and lean on His strength.



## REFLECTION

Take time to look back at your own story and the story of the Prodigal Son, reflecting on God’s forgiveness along your journey. How does God’s forgiveness impact your ability to forgive others? Are there people in your life to whom you need to offer forgiveness? Are there people from whom you need to seek forgiveness? Think about how forgiveness could free your heart and help you move forward.

Week 1, Day 5

# Friday

Matthew 5:7-12; 5:43-48; 20:26-28, Luke 6:27-36, John 18:36-37,  
Philippians 2:3-8

**“Father, forgive them, for they don’t know what they are doing.”**

**Luke 23:34**

## A CITIZEN OF AN UPSIDE-DOWN KINGDOM

As they put Him to death, they mocked His title, the “King of the Jews.” They didn’t understand this kingdom that Jesus came to establish. Jesus showed mercy even to those who opposed Him. When He is on the cross, He looks at those torturing Him with mercy and has compassion for their ignorance. Everything about Jesus’ life points to an upside-down kingdom. Jesus’ words...“ Bless those who curse you, pray for your enemies, the first shall be last, and the last shall be first, blessed are those who show mercy.” These words would have been counter-cultural at a time when the way of the world was one ruled by power, success, and violence. He was establishing something new that most people at the time didn’t understand. Even His devoted disciples were perplexed at times. Jesus’s ways were radically different. His forgiveness of His enemies and praying for his enemies was unheard of. But these things were the foundation of the new kingdom He was coming to establish, one that seemed upside-down.

In Matthew 20:28, Jesus says, “The Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life as a ransom for many.” This statement reveals the fundamental truth of the upside-down kingdom of God, where the world’s way is turned on its head. A kingdom where the least of these are the most valued, and the most humble are the most powerful. They think Jesus is weak and losing the battle, but in this upside-down kingdom, He is strong, mighty, and powerful in death as it ushers in victory and His seat on the throne. God’s plan would not be thwarted; even His enemies played into fulfilling His plan. In a way, our sin makes us all enemies, yet God, in His graciousness and forgiveness, made a way for us to have new life through the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus. As believers in Christ, we are privileged to live in this upside-down kingdom. We have the power of the Spirit within us, enabling us to love as Jesus loved, serve as Jesus served, and forgive as Jesus forgave. We are to be counter-cultural living as part of this upside-down kingdom that may not make sense to the world.

*My kingdom is not of this world. If my kingdom were of this world, my servants would have been fighting, that I might not be delivered over to the Jews. But my kingdom is not from the world*  
- John 18:36



### REFLECTION

What does it look like to live each day as a citizen of this upside-down kingdom?



Week 1, Day 6

# Saturday

## Reflection Day

### REFLECTION NOTES AND QUESTIONS

This week, we looked at Jesus' last words from Luke 23:34, "*Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do.*" As we wrap up this week's study, go back and read Luke 23:34. Reflect on these words that Jesus spoke. Reflect on what they mean about His character, His work on the cross, and how it should change how we see Him and how we live. Reflect/journal your thoughts on this or these following prompts:

- Write down what you learned about who God is this week.
- What is something you looked at this week that you want to receive from God in greater measure? Why?
- How can you begin to posture your life to receive more from Him?

Week 1, Day 7

# Sunday

## Rest Day

Use today to rest, pray, and catch up on any of this week's readings you may have missed. Use today as a preparation for your heart toward the next week's study of God and His word.