



**MOVEMENT**  
BIBLE PLANS



Movement's Rich & Matt invite you to go on a journey together exploring the Easter story through Holy Week. Over the next 5 days in this plan you'll cover the world changing events of 2000 years ago when Jesus went to the cross. Each day is packed with Bible readings that retell the events of the day, a devotional designed to help you to understand what happened, questions to make us think about what Easter really means and a short reflection to end.

## How to use this Bible reading plan

### **Step 1**

Read the day's Bible verses

### **Step 2**

Next up read Matt's Devotional

### **Step 3**

We've created some questions for you to think about or to use in a discussion with a friend or a group.

### **Step 4**

Read Rich's Reflection

### **Step 5**

Pray - this can be done in any way you feel.

## Helpful tips...

Why not do this with a friend? You might want to grab a pen and a notebook to write down your thoughts as you use this Bible reading plan. Finally, if you're struggling with what to pray at the end of each day then why not use our suggested prayer or even the Lords prayer?

"For the word of God is alive and powerful. It is sharper than the sharpest two-edged sword, cutting between soul and spirit, between joint and marrow. It exposes our innermost thoughts and desires."

Hebrews 4:12



DAY 1



## Today's Bible Reading

Mark 11:1-11

### Devotional

So let's set the scene. This man called Jesus was rumoured to be the promised one, the Messiah. The one who was going to free the Jews and overpower the Roman authorities of the day. People had heard about the incredible signs and miracles that he'd performed throughout the land over the past three years, and this was it, he was approaching the holy city of Jerusalem. He was going to restore the Kingdom of God, Hosanna in the highest!



**Matt**

But instead of coming in strength and power, he rocked up on a donkey. Humble and lowly. This didn't meet their expectations, in fact far from it. Yet despite this, the crowds gathered and cried out "Hosanna", a Hebrew word meaning "save".

Perhaps Jesus doesn't always meet our own expectations. Perhaps we're still wrestling with unanswered prayers and the struggles in our own lives. But what would it look like this Easter to lay it all down, like the cloaks and branches on the road, and instead to look to Jesus and cry out "Hosanna", praise God?

### Questions for further thought or discussion with a friend

No.1 Who do you identify with most in today's passage?

No.2 Is Jesus who you expected Him to be?

No.3 What can you lay down before God today?

### Rich's Reflection



**Rich**

"I've often wondered what it would have been like to be there at this moment of seeing Jesus coming into Jerusalem. Would I have been feeling excited, a little bit nervous maybe, in a good way, after all I would have heard of the miracles he had performed locally. Would I be shouting Hosanna at the top of my voice or would I just be standing still in awe of Jesus, taking every moment of seeing Him in with my own eyes. If I'm honest, I think it might be the latter. Because today I know what He has done for you and me, and that leaves me in awe of Him."

### Lets Pray

Jesus, help us to look to you this Easter. We pray that through this Holy Week journey we'll come to know You more and become more like You. Amen



DAY 2



## Today's Bible Reading's

John 13:1-10, Matthew 26:26-30 & Mark 14:32-50

### Devotional

Here we witness the first ever communion. Jesus had gathered his disciples round the dinner table to celebrate the Passover, but in a twist Jesus foreshadows the sacrifice that must come. Without realising it, his closest friends are told that His body must be broken and His blood will be poured out to confirm the covenant. The promise of relationship between God and His people.



After the last supper, Jesus and His closest friends then went out to pray. But whilst Peter, James and John struggled to stay awake, Jesus was wrestling with what was yet to come. He trusted God, and despite the suffering that awaited him upon His betrayal and arrest, he prayed "I want your will to be done, not mine."

Are we always there for our closest friends when things get difficult, or is it much easier to be close when we're celebrating? When Jesus couldn't rely on His friends He knew He could rely on God. In fact it was in this moment that He showed us what to do when times are tough: He showed us to press in and cry out "Abba, Father." But more importantly, He showed us how to trust and pray "Your will be done, not mine."

### Questions for further thought or discussion with a friend

No.1 What does communion mean to you?

No.2 Have you ever betrayed someone?

No.3 Where in your life do you need to pray "Your will be done, not mine"?

### Rich's Reflection



"Have you ever had your feet washed by someone else? I have and it wasn't because my feet were dirty! In fact just for the record, I had pre-washed them before the service, unlike the disciples who had no time to pre-wash theirs. Jesus totally surprised them in doing it and trust me, they would have been smelly after a day out on the dusty roads in just their sandals! I know for me it was a moving experience, I don't mind admitting there was tear running down my face when I had my feet washed by the Bishop who was going to be ordaining me (that's when the church officially makes you a Vicar/Minister) the next morning who I admired, respected and was going to be accountable to as my future boss. But it must have been 1000 times more moving for the disciples having their feet washed by Jesus who they had come to know, love and believe was the Son of God. Here we see Jesus again lowering Himself and showing us the importance of serving others."

### Lets Pray

Jesus, thank you that you came not to be served but to serve others. We pray today that we would remember that you laid down your life for us. May we also learn to pray "Your will be done, not mine". Amen



DAY 3



## Today's Bible Reading's

John 19:16-30 & Luke 23:50-56

### Devotional

“Hail! King of the Jews”, they mocked – quite the contrast to his arrival earlier that week. We see here a blameless and innocent Jesus enduring torture, suffering and insults. When given the opportunity to plead His case to Pilate, He simply submits to God’s authority knowing He must be crucified to bring about redemption for all.



Then they hang him upon that tree and watch as life fades out of Him. Upon the cross Jesus was confronted with the sight of His own mother watching Him die. Yet even in such heartbreaking scenes we see Christ uniting humanity, as the disciple whom he loved takes Mary into his own family.

What appears to be an incredibly hopeless day is now known worldwide as Good Friday. For Christ didn't lose His life, rather He gave it up for others. He chose to bear the cross and did so without complaint. When all appeared lost to those around Him, Jesus continued to trust His Father in heaven.

### Questions for further thought or discussion with a friend

No.1 Have you ever thought about the suffering Jesus endured on the cross?

No.2 Why would Jesus accept the charges if He's innocent?

No.3 Do you trust God, even when things appear hopeless?

### Rich's Reflection



“Good Friday, why would anyone want to call it Good, that an innocent man was put to death? It doesn't make sense to call it Good, until we understand that actually it should have been us on that tree. You see Jesus came to be a living sacrifice in exchange for our sins. Or in simple terms, the bad things we have done in our lives that are stopping us from being connected to God. So when Jesus died on the cross the payment for our sin was paid in full, allowing us to have a fresh start with God. Friends, Good Friday is Good because Jesus made a way for us to be reconnected with God, now and eternally.”

### Lets Pray

Jesus, help us to understand just how far you went for us. That you would be obedient to death on a cross, so that we may have a relationship with you & our Father in heaven. Amen



DAY 4



## Today's Bible Reading

Isaiah 53

### Devotional

Can you imagine the sorrow and hopelessness experienced by all Jesus' followers the day after he was buried. Having witnessed the stone rolled in front of the grave, sealing the tomb and perhaps even their fate. How could they even begin to understand why this had happened, and even less so how this dark day actually would precede one of such celebrations.



Yet in today's reading of Isaiah 53, we can begin to unpack and understand what Jesus' death really means. We can begin to comprehend why He died such an awful death, as a blameless, innocent man, and we begin to recognise God's greater plan. After all, Jesus trusted in the plan all along.

In this prophetic scripture we see God's plan laid out. That Christ would be "led like a lamb to the slaughter" in order to "make it possible for many to be counted righteous". That Christ would die, for sinners like you and I. Something that would be unexplainable if not for God's love.

### Questions for further thought or discussion with a friend

No.1 Can you see Jesus in today's reading?

No.2 Have you ever received a prophetic word?

No.3 Have you ever thought about what following Jesus could mean for you in the future?

### Rich's Reflection



"I'm always amazed at how much of what Jesus was going to do was foretold in the Old Testament, but yet when it happened people were shocked, surprised or in denial. I wonder if there is a challenge for us to be more courageous in our expectations of what Jesus can do in ours and other people's lives today. How many times have we prayed for someone or about a problem half heartedly because we've not had enough faith that Jesus will answer it? Friends, we read in scripture that Jesus is always willing to be at work in our lives, so are you willing to let Him? After all, we read tomorrow He's full of surprises!"

### Lets Pray

Jesus, help us to trust in Your plans and see things from your perspective, even if it means going against the flow of what's going on around us. Amen



DAY 5



## Today's Bible Reading

Matthew 28:1-20

### Devotional

On this final day of the Easter story we truly find out that Jesus was right to trust in God's plan. In an incredible turn of events hope was restored for all who put their faith in Jesus - for He is alive! At the news the woman ran to share it, "filled with joy". But even better still, they met with the risen Jesus.



The disciples went from being discouraged and frightened to worshipping the living God. An incredible transformation that went on to lay the foundations for the early Church. Known as the Great Commission, we see Jesus sending them out in authority to share the Good News, making "disciples of all nations".

But the reading ends with a promise: Jesus will be with us always, "even to the end of the age". As we go out into the world and share the Gospel, the Good News that is the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, we know we'll never have to do it alone. For God is alive and He is with us.

### Questions for further thought or discussion with a friend

No.1 Can you see Jesus in today's reading?

No.2 Have you ever received a prophetic word?

No.3 Have you ever thought about what following Jesus could mean for you in the future?

### Rich's Reflection



"In John's record of events (see John 20:11-18) he lets us know about Mary Magdalene's encounter with Jesus outside the empty tomb. In that moment she's so upset that she mistakes Jesus for the gardener and it's only when Jesus calls her by name, "Mary", that she realises who He is. You see Mary was expecting Jesus to be well, umm how do I put this, dead. Like really dead! After all she had seen him die and the last thing she was expecting to see was Him, alive, standing in front of her, calling her by name. Friends, life isn't always easy and we will all face moments of sadness. But the more I get to know Jesus, the more I realise that He knows me, He cares about me and that He's full of good surprises for my life. Mary goes on to tell the other disciples that she has seen and spoken to Jesus. Friends, I think that's the same for each of us. We are all called to live and tell the story of Jesus being alive and at work in our lives, with those who we love, those who we know, and those who we meet."

### Lets Pray

Jesus, we thank you for the Good News, for the hope that Your life, death and resurrection brings to all of us.

Help us to live out the Great Commission, knowing You are always with us to the very end. Amen



*Prayer is one of the easiest ways for us to speak directly to God*

## Creating your own prayers

Sometimes it can be helpful to pray and ask God to continue to reveal things to us about the verses we read in the Bible. We can also ask Him to show us things that He wants us to work on in our lives. Or we can simply spend time thanking God for the things He's already shown us.

## The Lord's prayer

Sometimes we don't always know what to say in prayer to God, so it can be helpful to use the prayer that Jesus taught us.

Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done,  
on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins  
as we forgive those who sin against us.  
Lead us not into temptation  
but deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power,  
and the glory are yours  
now and for ever.  
Amen.



**MOVEMENT**

We've also created audio recordings for each day available at [wearemovement.net/bibleplans](https://wearemovement.net/bibleplans)