

GOOD FRIDAY

Virtual LifeGroup Guide

For the leader, before you begin:

- Have links open and ready to play ([YouTube playlist](#))
- Tell people beforehand they will need bread and wine or a variation of it
- If you're hosting, have a reliable Internet connection and preferably be on a computer
- Be prepared to call on people to read aloud each section
- Ask people to mute their mics if they're not reading out loud

Introduction:

Read aloud:

Good Friday is when the global Church remembers and honors Jesus' sacrifice for sin on the cross two thousand years ago. This is a time where our church family joins with millions of other believers across the world right now to reflect on the weight of our sin and Jesus' crucifixion.

Our time together will be broken into three parts, with each part containing Scripture we read out loud together, corporately praying together, and silently reflecting on Jesus' sacrifice for us.

Scripture Reading:

Take turns having people read each passage out loud:

John 18:15-27

*Simon Peter followed Jesus, and so did another disciple. Since that disciple was known to the high priest, he entered with Jesus into the courtyard of the high priest, **16** but Peter stood outside at the door. So the other disciple, who was known to the high priest, went out and spoke to the servant girl who kept watch at the door, and brought Peter in. **17** The servant girl at the door said to Peter, "You also are not one of this man's disciples, are you?" He said, "I am not." **18** Now the servants and officers had made a charcoal fire, because it was cold, and they were standing and warming themselves. Peter also was with them, standing and warming himself. **19** The high priest then questioned Jesus about his disciples and his teaching. **20** Jesus answered him, "I have spoken openly to the world. I have always taught in synagogues and in the temple, where all Jews come together. I have said nothing in secret. **21** Why do you ask me? Ask those who have heard me what I said to them; they know what I said." **22** When he had said these things, one of the officers standing by struck Jesus with his hand, saying, "Is that how you answer the high priest?" **23** Jesus answered him, "If what I said is wrong, bear witness about the wrong; but if what I said is right, why do you strike me?" **24** Annas then sent him bound to Caiaphas the high priest. **25** Now Simon Peter was standing and warming himself. So they said to him, "You also are not one of his disciples, are you?" He denied it and said, "I am not." **26** One of the servants of the high priest, a relative of the man whose ear Peter had cut off, asked, "Did I not see you in the garden with him?" **27** Peter again denied it, and at once a rooster crowed.*

Isaiah 53:3, 6

*He was despised and rejected by men,
a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief;
and as one from whom men hide their faces
he was despised, and we esteemed him not...*

6 *All we like sheep have gone astray;
we have turned—every one—to his own way;
and the Lord has laid on him
the iniquity of us all.*

Corporate Prayer:

Have one person read out loud, everyone read together the words in bold:

Though we betray you with our selfishness

Lord have mercy on me a sinner

Though we deny you with our words and actions

Lord have mercy on me a sinner

Though we despise you and reject you

Lord have mercy on me a sinner

Though we like sheep have gone astray

Lord have mercy on me a sinner

Reflect:

Have someone read this out loud:

The Bible makes clear that the biggest problem we will ever face is sin. Because of our willful turning from God, we are under the weight of His wrath and deserve eternal separation from Him. This is why Jesus had to die - on the cross He takes on the full weight of our sin.

As we feel the weight of what our sin did to Jesus, take some time to confess your sins to God. During this song, silently reflect on these questions:

- What sin do I need to confess to God?
- Where have I been resisting the Holy Spirit?

[Host play the following song]

Come Ye Sinners by Anathallo

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DdhOHSu79Zc>

Come ye sinners, poor and needy, weak and wounded, sick and sore
Jesus ready stands to save you, full of pity, love, and power

Come ye thirsty, come and welcome, God's free bounty, glorified
True belief and true repentance, every grace that brings you nigh

Come ye weary, heavy laden, lost and ruined by the fall
If you tarry till you're better you will never come at all

Let not conscience make you linger nor of fitness fondly dream
All the fitness He requireth is to fill your need of Him

Scripture:

Take turns having people read each passage out loud:

John 19:1-6

Then Pilate took Jesus and had him flogged. 2 The soldiers twisted together a crown of thorns and put it on his head. They clothed him in a purple robe 3 and went up to him again and again, saying, "Hail, king of the Jews!" And they slapped him in the face.

4 Once more Pilate came out and said to the Jews gathered there, "Look, I am bringing him out to you to let you know that I find no basis for a charge against him." 5 When Jesus came out wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe, Pilate said to them, "Here is the man!"

6 As soon as the chief priests and their officials saw him, they shouted, "Crucify! Crucify!"

John 19:14-20

14 *It was the day of Preparation of the Passover; it was about noon.*

“Here is your king,” Pilate said to the Jews.

15 *But they shouted, “Take him away! Take him away! Crucify him!”*

“Shall I crucify your king?” Pilate asked.

“We have no king but Caesar,” the chief priests answered.

16 *Finally Pilate handed him over to them to be crucified.*

*So the soldiers took charge of Jesus. **17** Carrying his own cross, he went out to the place of the Skull (which in Aramaic is called Golgotha). **18** There they crucified him, and with him two others—one on each side and Jesus in the middle.*

19 *Pilate had a notice prepared and fastened to the cross. It read: jesus of nazareth, the king of the jews. **20** Many of the Jews read this sign, for the place where Jesus was crucified was near the city, and the sign was written in Aramaic, Latin and Greek.*

John 19:28-30

28 *Later, knowing that everything had now been finished, and so that Scripture would be fulfilled, Jesus said, “I am thirsty.” **29** A jar of wine vinegar was there, so they soaked a sponge in it, put the sponge on a stalk of the hyssop plant, and lifted it to Jesus’ lips. **30** When he had received the drink, Jesus said, “It is finished.” With that, he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.*

Corporate Prayer:

Have one person read out loud, everyone read together the words in bold:

If he had forgiven our transgressions and had not loved us,

it would have been enough!

If he had loved us and had not adopted us as sons,

it would have been enough!

If he had adopted us as sons and had not given us an inheritance,

it would have been enough!

If he had given us an inheritance and had not given us the Holy Spirit,

it would have been enough!

If he had given us the Holy Spirit and not blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ,

it would have been enough!

Reflect:

Have someone read this out loud:

The Passion narrative we just read reminds us of the agony Jesus endured to reconcile us to God. Through His suffering on the cross, we are no longer condemned. We now have access to the Father, and with that, He has lavished on us every spiritual blessing. During this song, silently reflect on these prayer prompts:

Think back to how Jesus saved you. Take some time thanking Him for enduring the cross to reconcile you to Himself.

Looking back on all the spiritual blessings made possible through the cross, spend some time in gratitude to God for each of them.

[Host play the following song]

Death Be Not Proud by Audrey Assad

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9ID7dmCiAgw>

Death, be not proud, though the whole world fear you: mighty
and dreadful you may seem

But death, be not proud, for your pride has failed you, you will
not kill me

Though you may dwell in plague and poison, you're a slave to
fate and desperate men

So death, if your sleep be the gates to Heaven, why your
confidence?

When you will be no more

You will be no more

When you will be no more

Even death will die

Even death will die

Death, be not proud

Death, be not proud

Death, be not proud

Cause even death will die

Scripture Reading:

Take turns having people read each passage out loud:

Matthew 26:26-29

Now as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and after blessing it broke it and gave it to the disciples, and said, "Take, eat; this is my body." 27 And he took a cup, and when he had given thanks he gave it to them, saying, "Drink of it, all of you, 28 for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. 29 I tell you I will not drink again of this fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom."

1 Corinthians 11:23-28

*For I received from the Lord what I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took bread, **24** and when he had given thanks, he broke it, and said, "This is my body, which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me." **25** In the same way also he took the cup, after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me." **26** For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.*

***27** Whoever, therefore, eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty concerning the body and blood of the Lord. **28** Let a person examine himself, then, and so eat of the bread and drink of the cup.*

Reflect:

Have someone read this out loud:

Through Jesus' sacrifice on the Cross, not only does He reconcile us to God the Father, He reconciles us to one another. We remember both of these truths through Communion.

As we silently reflect, ask the Lord to bring certain people in our church family to mind:

- Do I have any unresolved conflict or sin or relational breakdown that needs to be restored?
- Who can I biblically encourage?

[Host play the following song]

Lead Us Back by Sojourn Music

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E7vyil9vC2w>

Falling down upon our knees, sharing now in common shame,
We have sought security, not the cross that bears Your name.
Fences guard our hearts and homes -- comfort sings a siren tune.
We're a valley of dry bones; lead us back to life in You.

Lord we fall upon our knees, we have shunned the weak and
poor,
Worshipped beauty, courted kings and the things their gold
affords,
Prayed for those we'd like to know -- favor sings a siren tune.
We've become a talent show; lead us back to life in You.

You have caused the blind to see, we have blinded him again
With our man-made laws and creeds, eager, ready to condemn.
Now we plead before Your throne -- power sings a siren tune.
We've been throwing heavy stones; lead us back to life in You.

We're a valley of dry bones, lead us back to life in You.
We've become a talent show, lead us back to life in You.
We've been throwing heavy stones, lead us back to life in You.

Corporate Prayer & Communion:

Have one person read out loud, everyone read together the words in bold:

Jesus is the Lamb of God
who takes away the sin of the world.
Blessed are those who are called to his supper.

The body of Christ, broken for us.

The blood of Christ, shed for us.

[At this time everyone eats the bread and drinks the cup together.]

Conclusion:

Have someone read this out loud:

Most merciful God,
who by the death and resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ
delivered and saved the world:
grant that by faith in him who suffered on the cross
we may triumph in the power of his victory;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever.
Amen.