

24-7 Spaces

Week: 7

Jesus: Passion

Use this Deeper guide alone, with family or friends or your Church small group.

Contents

1. Reflect: thinking time

2. React: Journaling or discussion

3. Respond: get practical

Materials Needed

- A Bible**
- Film: 'Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows' Parts 1 and 2**
- 'The Drugs Don't Work' by The Verve**
- Nice fabric, a set of dice, crown made of thorns, some large nails, a piece of charcoal, a cup**
- 20 sticky notes**

Reflect:

Use the following Bible passages, song lyrics, materials and quotes for reflection.

Read John 12-21 - (Why not try and break the reading down for each day of Passion week?)

Materials: Nice fabric, some large nails, a crown of thorns, a set of dice, a piece of charcoal.

'The Drugs Don't Work' - The Verve

*"All this talk of getting old
It's getting me down my love
Like a cat in a bag, waiting to drown
This time I'm comin' down*

*And I hope you're thinking of me
As you lay down on your side
Now the drugs don't work
They just make you worse
But I know I'll see your face again*

*Now the drugs don't work
They just make you worse
But I know I'll see your face again"*

"Evil may so shape events that Caesar may occupy a palace and Christ a cross, but one day that same Christ will rise up and split history into AD and BC so that even the life of Caesar must be dated by His name...God is more fundamental than sin or evil. Good Friday must give way to Easter Sunday." - **Martin Luther King Jr**

"It is a grace that was first released when Jesus endured abandonment and death so that Mary Magdalene, and millions since, might receive a living hope that can no longer die"
- **Pete Greig; 'God on Mute'**

"He carried the poisonous hatred that built Auschwitz and the arrogance that invaded Iraq. And the economies that thrive on division; and the poor whose plight is a necessary part of the equation that makes others rich; and the exploitation and degradation, and the corruption of power, he carried it all. The raped child and the bloody horror of the rapist - he carried it... He saw everything that separates me from us, and us from each other, and all or us from God, and he pulled it together and carried it. He picked it all up and he took it to the cross." - **Stephen Cottrell 'The Things He Carried'**

"Meanwhile, where is God? This is one of the most disquieting symptoms. When you are happy, so happy that you have no sense of needing Him, so happy that you are tempted to

feel His claims upon you as an interruption, if you remember yourself and turn to Him with gratitude and praise, you will be — or so it feels — welcomed with open arms. But go to Him when your need is desperate, when all other help is vain, and what do you find? A door slammed in your face, and a sound of bolting and double bolting on the inside. After that, silence. You may as well turn away. The longer you wait, the more emphatic the silence will become. There are no lights in the windows. It might be an empty house. Was it ever inhabited? It seemed so once.” - C.S Lewis - ‘A Grief Observed’

“Jesus himself did not try to convert the two thieves on the cross; he waited until one of them turned to him.” — Dietrich Bonhoeffer, Letters Papers from Prison

React:

(1) Read John 13:1-30 and consider the contrast as we see love portrayed and given so intimately in this meal of friendship and in the washing of the disciples feet and then love betrayed so painfully. "Then Jesus dipped the bread and gave it to Judas, the son of Simon Iscariot." Consider the portrayal and then betrayal of love. What are your experiences of betrayal? So often being loved and loving people risks pain or betrayal. How could you risk more in loving others?

(2) Consider the lyrics from the song, 'The drugs don't work', by The Verve. Reflect on a world in need of a saviour and God's rescue plan in sending Jesus?

(3) Read John 19:16-24. Take some physical items to represent items present at the crucifixion. For example, you could take a piece of nice fabric, some large nails, make a crown of thorns or a set of dice representing how the soldiers cast lots. Consider the physical agony and mental anguish Jesus endured on the cross. Reflect on the pain Jesus felt as soldiers gambled at the foot of the cross and how he was humiliated and shamed? Think of a time you have felt humiliation or shame? Who are those in the world who may feel this way? How can you demonstrate love to them today?

(4) Read John 20:1-10 and reflect on the empty tomb and the quote by C.S Lewis. Where do you feel the silence of 'Holy Saturday' in your life? What are the situations in our world where people are facing silence, unanswered questions and feeling the absence of God?

(5) Read John 20:11-21:8 and reflect on the different ways people recognise Jesus after His resurrection. For Mary it was Jesus' voice, for the disciples Jesus appeared amongst them, Thomas touched Jesus' wounds and Jesus appeared again to the disciples when they were out fishing. Notice how Jesus met them where they were at, with the questions and doubts they were facing. Reflect on those in our world who are struggling to find Jesus. How can our world recognise Jesus today?

(6) Reflect on the quote by Pete Greig. How can we be 'living hope' to a world that doesn't know the resurrected Jesus?

(7) Read John 18:15-27 and John 21:9-19. Take a piece of charcoal and reflect on how Jesus heals Peter's memory of the night of his denial, again beside a charcoal fire. Consider the hope, healing and new life Jesus offers.

Respond:

Personal:

Set a cup in the middle of the table and reflect on 'the cup' that Jesus took. What is the turmoil and struggle in your life? Perhaps it's sickness, the loss of someone close to you or relationship struggles. Write these things down, put them in the cup giving them to God.

Good Friday reminds us of our sin that Jesus carried, both our personal sin and the sins of this world. Reflect on the quote by Stephen Cottrell. Write down the sin in your life and in the world around. Ask for forgiveness and give it to God. He carries it.

Write down some of your hard questions on sticky notes. Take some time of silence and then leave your questions in the silence.

Practical:

Take a walk in your town, city or village. Where do you observe the new life in the world around you?

Play the song 'The drugs don't work' by The Verve as you do share communion with some friends.

Watch the film: 'Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows' Parts 1 and 2 - Reflect on the place of sacrifice and dependance in Harry Potter's journey to meet his foe Voldemort.

Prayerful:

Take a walk and observe how many crosses you see and the context you see them in. What does the cross mean in our society today? allow that to lead you into prayer.

Use this prayer by Alan E Lewis

"Hear our prayer for a world still living an Easter Saturday existence, oppressed and lonely, guilty of godlessness and convinced of godforsakenness. Be still tomorrow the God you are today, and yesterday already were: God with us in the grave, but pulling the sting of death and promising in your final kingdom an even greater victory of abundant grace and life over the magnitude of sin and death.

And for your blessed burial, into which we were baptized, may you be glorified for evermore. Amen."

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