

40 Days to the Cross

The purpose of this journey is to draw closer to God. He says if we seek Him, we'll find Him. (Jeremiah 29:13). Do we have a relationship with Him? Yes. Is there something more? Oh yeah! The more we seek Him in prayer, in His word and all aspects of our lives, the closer we'll draw to Him. Please spend just a few minutes in prayer each day. Read the prayer of the day then open your heart to Him in worship. Ask Him to show you His Glory. Lift your praises and concerns to Him.

Please pray for the pastors and the church **each day**. Lift your burdens, concerns and praises to Him each day. Before you begin each day's prayer, take a moment to confess your sins. **Don't dwell on this, once you confess your sins, they're gone**. This helps to get our mind right to hear that still small voice. God loves you and wants a relationship with you and all His children. I've listed prayers for Monday through Saturday each week. When we come together corporately on Sunday, we'll be worshipping together as a family. The goal is to develop a habit of praying daily. When we seek God in prayer, we'll find Him. If you feel moved by God or need prayer, please let any of the pastoral staff know. - Pastor Jim

Day 1: Wednesday, February 21st

Heavenly Father, as I start this time of prayer today and for each of the next 40 days, help me to remember the sacrifice that Jesus made for me, atoning for my sins on the cross. We remember how you Lord gave Moses the 10 Commandments illustrating how we are to live this life according to your will and your ways. Help me to keep your commandments always so that I may work to avoid sin. Guide me to always love and worship you above all else. Help me to have a heart of compassion and mercy for all your children so I will see them through your eyes. Help me to keep my heart and mind pure in a state of grace, taking each thought captive, so I may resist the temptation to sin. When I do sin, please show me your mercy and forgive me (1 John 1:9). **Your concerns.....**

Day 2: Thursday, February 22nd

Lord, today please help me to remember the value of hard work and to do everything to the best of my God-given ability. Many times I want to take the easier path in life. Lord, please help me to see the easier path is not always the best path. Help me to remember that what is right is not always easy. When times get tough, help me to remember to turn to you with confidence knowing I can overcome all adversities in your strength, not mine. Help me to always give you the praise and not celebrate how I got through whatever it was that was troubling me. May the fruit of my labor bring you glory and honor. **Your concerns....**

Day 3: Friday, February 23rd

Father, today help me remember what it felt like to be a child and to trust unconditionally so that I may worry less about worldly problems that I face each day. Lord, show me how to be humble and to trust you like children trust their parents. Help me to smile and laugh more. Help me to be pure in heart and filled with your goodness and mercy that I may love my neighbors no matter their backgrounds or differences. Help me to see your children as you see them. Lord, thank you for all those who loved me enough to tell me about your love, mercy and saving grace so I could get to know you. Lead me to have that same confidence to share with my family, friends and neighbors. Give me the boldness and courage to go out and tell those I encounter what you have done in my life. **Your concerns....**

Day 4: Saturday, February 24th

Dear Lord, thank you for allowing me to accomplish great things in my life. Whether I get an A on an exam, help a friend to fix his roof, help a neighbor clean up the leaves in his yard or help cure a disease, all my abilities and accomplishments are achieved through the power of the resurrected Christ. If and when I fail, give me the courage to try again and not give up. Thank you for giving me your Holy Spirit to live within me to be my helper, my comfort, and my guide. We are told in your Word that when we pray, we can ask anything in your name, and it will be done if it brings you glory. Help me to see your will in my life. Remind me each day to seek you in your word that I may come to know you more intimately. Help me to take each thought captive so it may glorify you. Lord, thank you that my steps are predestined by you not because I chose you but because you've chosen me and have a plan for my life. Lord, thank you for being with me always and praise you that I get to spend eternity in the glory of your presence because of my faith in Jesus. **Your concerns....**

Day 5: Sunday, February 25th

Father, as we celebrate the Sabbath today and gather with our church family in worship, may your Word come alive in our hearts and minds as we live out our faith.

Day 6: Monday, February 26th

Dear Jesus, thank you for all the friends I have now and have had in the past. Some of these people have impacted my life and influenced me greatly, helping me to learn more about you. Lord, guide me that as you live in me, I will be a beacon of God's light that will influence others that they may see you in me and come to the saving grace of Jesus. As we encounter many people daily, help me treat others with a friendship-like quality. Give me the courage to share what you have done in my life so that they may see your glory. Help me to see the goodness in all people. You love all your children very dearly. Help me learn to love as you do. Lord, I ask that you bless my Red Oak church family and friends. Help us all to see your glory and the friendship you offer us as we grow together. Help me remember to pray for the concerns of my Red Oak family daily as if they were my own. **Your concerns.....**

Day 7: Tuesday, February 27th

Father, help me to resist the devil and his evil schemes that plague us all (Eph 6 10-17). As I put on the Armor of God, help me to stand against the schemes of the evil one. I was born with a sinful spirit, but I don't have to live according to that because I am a child of God. The moment I accepted you as my Lord and Savior, I was sealed with the Holy Spirit. It is no longer I who live but Christ who lives in me. The devil attempts to make us feel worthless and keeps telling us we're not good enough or reminds us of our past sins. You tell us in your word those sins are gone and forgotten. Father, help me to take each thought captive and as those thoughts come into my mind, help me to remember I am a child of God and turn those sinful thoughts over to you. Help me to remember I was bought and paid for at a very steep price, the blood of Christ. Help me to remember I am made in the image of God and live life with a joy that is only found in Christ. **Your concerns....**

Day 8: Wednesday, February 28th

Dear Lord, help me to recognize the good in all people. Help me to be more patient with those who are not. Help me to be a better witness in all situations, being careful in my words and in my actions. I know the people are always watching the way we live life. Help me to display the love of Christ in all I do and say. Lord, help me to do better at showing my gratitude to those around me, saying thank you for the nice things people do for me each day, whether big or small. May your Spirit prompt me to be helpful to others and may others see you in me bringing you glory and honor. My life is part of your overall plan (Eph 2:10, Rom 8:28-30). Lord, help me to be obedient to that plan. We're told in your Word that reaching people and spreading the Gospel is part of that plan. As you bring others into my life, may I be obedient and open to all you want me to do and all those with whom you want me to share your Gospel. **Your concerns....**

Day 9: Thursday, February 29th

Father, from the very first day you created humanity, we had all we would ever need. We are beautifully and wonderfully made in your image. Our bodies are very intricate. You've thought of everything. You gave us bodies that can do great things. We can run marathons, build skyscrapers, create new life and so much more. You have given me the ability to do amazing things. I can love and be loved because you are love. We can even talk directly to you, the creator of the universe because of the sacrifice of the blood of Jesus. You've thought of everything. You could have just created the universe and let nature take its course, but you didn't. You want a relationship with me and sought me out. You have given humanity your instructions through your Word so we could know you more intimately. I ask that your Word would come alive in my heart and mind so I can truly know you better. Help me to always remember my body is the temple of your Holy Spirit. We are to take care of it and strive to be healthy because your Spirit lives within each of us and it is to be used for your glory. **Your concerns....**

Day 10: Friday, March 1st

Father, so many people around the world are hurting and looking for a better way. They may feel hungry, angry, sad or just feel beat up from the world. We know there is a better way and that way is through Jesus Christ. Let others see you in me. Father, may my words and actions always be a testimony that there is a better way. You bring peace, joy and love into our daily lives. Today, help me to reach just one person with a word of encouragement. My hope is that I may have the courage to share the good news of your saving grace with my friends, family and all those I meet today. Father, bring people into my life that need to hear the Gospel and how much you love them. I know it is not through my action's that others get to know you. It is your Spirit that draws them to the cross. Give me the courage to tell others what you have done in my life. We are commanded to share the Good News of Jesus and His saving grace. Help me to be obedient. **Your concerns....**

Day 11: Saturday, March 2nd

Jesus, thank you for today. No matter what I face in life, I know I'm not facing it alone. You are with me. Even if I'm walking through the valley of the shadow of death, you are with me and comfort me. In life we are not promised there would never be hard times, but we are promised that you will be with us as we go through each trial. As I live out each day, help me to rely on you, to trust you and not worry about tomorrow or life's challenges. Even when I feel like everything is out of control, remind me that you know exactly what is happening at all times. You use situations in life for my good and your glory. I know it's Satan's goal to deceive me into thinking you don't care, but it's just the opposite. You love me and have a plan for my life, I'm part of the family of God. Lord, increase my Faith that I may trust you with all my heart and lean not on my own understanding but to trust in you. **Your concerns....**

Day 12: Sunday, March 3rd

Father, as we celebrate the Sabbath today and gather with our church family in worship, may your Word come alive in our hearts and minds as we live out our faith.

Day 13: Monday, March 4th

Dear God, help me to remember the importance of going to church and participating in community worship. Father, we know that worship is a two-part process. We are invited by you, the living God, into worship. We respond in an obedient way opening our hearts and minds to experience you in love, the hearing of your word, music, fellowship, communion, giving, prayer and more. Help me to worship you on a more intimate level getting to know you better each day. When we worship as a family, we care for each other and lift each other's burdens and concerns, serving the church and each other as we grow in Christ. Lord, continue to strengthen the bond I have with my brothers and sisters in Christ. As I grow in my faith, help me to use the gifts that I've been given by you to strengthen the church, bringing us closer to each other and closer to you. May our lives bring you all glory and honor. **Your concerns...**

Day 14: Tuesday, March 5th

Father, I've committed to these 40 days of prayer leading up to Easter because prayer is so important, it's the way we communicate with you. Each year we set aside one day to celebrate and remember you rose from the grave. You live on in our hearts as your Holy Spirit dwells within us because of that resurrection. Help me to remember to speak with you at least once a day. Help me to live my life like you are with me all the time, because you are there through your Spirit. Prayer is much more than just speaking; it's listening for that still small voice of God in our mind. Father, help me to find time to meet you in solitude and quiet, help me hear and feel your will for my life. We're told in your word to pray continually, meaning we should involve you in all we do, being aware of your presence in all situations. When we seek you with all our heart, it's then we'll find you. Help me to be obedient and be a doer of your word, not just a hearer. Help me to seek you as a child seeks the love of a parent. Father, you want to talk with us, you want us to share our lives with you. Help me to remember you in all I do. As I go through each day, may your Spirit guide me, comfort me and care for me as a father cares for his child. **Your concerns....**

Day 15: Wednesday, March 6th

Lord, forgive me for the times I say hurtful things to others and about others. Forgive me for the times I speak words that are not true. Lord, I want to go through life giving you honor and glory. Sometimes I fall short. I know I'm not perfect and as I go through life I am being transformed into the likeness of Jesus. My life should reflect Christ in all situations. Help me to always remember that your Spirit lives within me and that my body is the temple of the Holy Spirit. It is not my own. I was bought at a steep price, the blood of Jesus on the cross. Father, change me and help me to be more like Jesus each day. When I do sin, bring it to my awareness so that I may confess my sin immediately. Sin causes us to be separated from you and I don't want that. Father, help me each day to draw closer to you in truth and in Spirit. May my life be an expression and an example to others of the love and mercy you have for me and for them. **Your concerns....**

Day 16: Thursday, March 7th

Lord, as the season changes from winter to spring and as we look around, there is rebirth and renewal all around us. During these first few weeks of the 40-day journey, I'm beginning to feel a renewal in my heart and in my mind. I want to grow in this lifelong journey of getting to know your word and your character by seeking you through your word and your Spirit that is within me. As I'm being renewed, give me the passion in my heart and the courage to stand firm in my faith through life's challenges knowing you are always with me, guiding me as I grow. Continue to change me to be more like Jesus each day. As I grow, help me to remember to always give you the honor, glory and praise for the life I have in Christ, for we are not saved by the works we do, the class that we teach, the board we sit on or the money we give. We are saved by grace, a free gift from God because of our faith in Jesus, given to all who seek Him. **Your concerns....**

Day 17: Friday, March 8th

Dear God, help me to accept and embrace change in my life. Sometimes change can be good and fun, but sometimes it can be tough and challenging as we grow in Christ. As I face these challenges, I know God will never give me more than I can handle. Sometimes change can be scary because we don't know what to expect or we are comfortable where we are and not sure of our future. We want to be in control. Help me today to accept and embrace change, knowing you are in control of my life and want what's best for me. Change can bring wonderful things in my life if I will only learn to truly trust you. Help me to always remember that your love, faithfulness and constant presence never changes and will never fail me. Please continue guiding and directing my steps as I seek you. Give me the words to encourage others as well when they face challenges in their lives. **Your concerns....**

Day 18: Saturday, March 9th

Father, this world has so much anger and hate. I ask you to pour out your Spirit and your blessing on this nation again, filling us all with love, hope, kindness and Lord, let it begin with me. Help me to embrace the differences in people instead of looking negatively at them. May we all learn from each other even though we have differences. Lord, help me to show my neighbors and those around me love, compassion and patience. Help me to be part of the solution of peace and love. Help me to treat others as I want to be treated. Everyone is worthy of kindness, mercy, forgiveness and respect. Help me to do my part to make this world a better place. Help me to resist the evil one against his schemes and lies that tell me to hate my brother. Help me to be a beacon of light that shines in the darkness. Let the world see you in me. **Your concerns....**

Day 19: Sunday, March 10th

Father, as we celebrate the Sabbath today and gather with our church family in worship, may your Word come alive in our hearts and minds as we live out our faith.

Day 20: Monday, March 11th

Lord, today I think of how blessed we are as a people. Life is not about the things we possess, it's about the Spirit we possess. You tell us in your word that you will provide for our needs. All we need to do is trust you. You tell us we should help those in need, help our neighbor, feed the hungry, visit those in prison and give to your kingdom. We all have spiritual gifts given to us when we first believed in edifying the church body, your people. Father, please show me what my gift is and how to use it for your glory. Father, right now I thank you for all I have and all you have provided. Help me to never think my success is of my own doing, always giving you the honor, glory and praise you deserve for all you do for me. Lord, you have all the money of the world but want me to tithe because that involves faith and trust in you. When I'm faithful in giving, it is providing for my church, blesses others and gives you the glory. We are told to set aside a portion of our income to further your kingdom. Father, help me to trust you more each day, each week and each year so that I may be a good steward of all you provide. **Your concerns....**

Day 21: Tuesday, March 12th

Holy Spirit, help me to always remember the value of honesty and truth in all situations. For various reasons we sometimes find ourselves telling little white lies and thinking it's ok, but it's not. Jesus in his word speaks of truth more than 200 times. When we tell lies of any magnitude, it hinders our connection with you. In fact, sin itself separates us from you. Help me to value honesty, speaking truth in all situations. Lord, also help me remember that truth can sometimes hurt if used inappropriately. Help me to always be aware of others' feelings. Father, when we tell others of your saving grace, we must have the reputation of being sincere and trustworthy. Our actions and words always go before us. Help me to be known as an honest person so that others may see you in me. Father, help me to take every thought captive and choose my words carefully so that they may always honor you. **Your concerns....**

Day 22: Wednesday, March 13th

Dear God, today I pray for the leaders of my church. I lift up our pastors and their families. I ask you to keep them safe and healthy. I ask that you protect them all from the schemes of the evil one. Keep them strong so that they may continue to speak your word boldly. I pray for the those who are deacons that they may serve you and the congregation faithfully. I lift up the trustees, help them to make wise financial decisions for the church, always being honest and worthy of your honor. We pray for those who teach our children and ask for a special blessing upon them. Our children are the next generation to proclaim your gospel. May they seek you with all their heart and teach their own children about you. We ask for your blessing from generation to generation. Father, we all join in praying for each other, our brothers and sisters of Red Oak Church. Help us grow closer to you, seeking you with all our heart, soul, mind and strength and to know you intimately. **Your concerns....**

Day 23: Thursday, March 14th

Father, each day is a gift from you. When I rise up or lie down, you're there. When I come and go, you're there. Your Spirit is within me and guiding me. Help me always to be open to your direction. Too often I get caught up in the business of life and don't take time to talk with you as I should. I sometimes even rush through my prayers, not giving you the respect that a creator deserves. I ask for your forgiveness and for you to make prayer more of a priority in my life, transforming my heart and mind so that prayer would just become second nature. We are told to pray continually, to be God-conscious in all we do and say. We are constantly being molded into being like Jesus. I know it doesn't happen overnight, it's a lifelong journey. Help me to make serving, loving and seeking you a priority. I can't do it in my strength. Help me to trust you more, to rely on you and to seek you more diligently. Father, my life is not my own, it was bought and paid for with the blood of Christ. Help me to always remember this and conduct and live my life accordingly. **Your concerns....**

Day 24: Friday, March 15th

Dear Lord, help me to remember how important the power of prayer is and to never give up. Father, each time I enter a time of prayer, remind me to confess my sins first that I may draw closer to you and hear your Spirit speaking to me. Help me to block out any distractions that get in the way. When I pray, sometimes the answer is yes, sometimes it's no and sometimes it's wait. When I don't get what I've asked for, help me to give you thanks anyway, knowing you have a plan and want what's best for me. When I'm distant from you, you are always with me and will never leave me. Help me to get to a point of praising you in all situations. You never said bad things won't happen, but you did say you'll never leave me when they do. Lord, I place my life in your hands, you know what's best for me. You speak to me through prayer, through music, through worship, through friends, through strangers, through communion and through life itself. The universe proclaims your glory. Lord, I love you. **Your concerns....**

**The next 6 days we'll focus our prayers on the Armor of God
and how to protect us in the Spiritual battle. Eph 6: 10-17**

Day 25: Saturday, March 16th

The Belt of Truth serves as the foundation to support the weapons we need to fight this spiritual battle. It is a reminder that Jesus is the foundation for our spiritual battle. He is the truth that stands against the lies and deception of Satan. Jesus is the way, the truth and the very basis for life. To win our spiritual battles, our fight must be anchored to the truth found only in Christ alone and in His Word. Father, around my waist I put the belt of truth. I commit myself to Jesus as the foundation of my life today. With your strength Lord, I will resist the temptation to stand on any worldly foundation. Jesus, you alone are my foundation for any situation that will arise today (John 14:6). **Your concerns....**

Day 26: Sunday, March 17th

Father, as we celebrate the Sabbath today and gather with our church family in worship, may your Word come alive in our hearts and minds as we live out our faith.

Day 27: Monday, March 18th

The Breastplate of Righteousness. The function of the breastplate was to protect the soldier's vital organs. In close hand-to-hand combat, the breastplate was essential for survival. If we start to believe that our own righteousness, effort or good works can make us worthy of God's protection, the advantage quickly changes to benefit our enemy. We need to get our eyes off ourselves and back on the provision of the cross and the righteousness that is found in a relationship with Jesus. **Lord, on my heart I put the breastplate of righteousness. I can fight any battle today because of the righteousness of Jesus, not my own. Jesus, I declare that you are my righteousness and that through the victory of the cross I can stand victorious against temptation, sin and the attacks of our enemy. (2 Cor 5:12) Your concerns...**

Day 28: Tuesday, March 19th

The Shoes of Readiness and Peace. Jesus is our preparation and peace. Without his sandals, a soldier would not be prepared to fight and could easily be defeated. Paul tells us that our preparation for battle is the gospel (The Good News) of Jesus' life, death and resurrection. The work of Jesus here on earth brought us peace with God. **Lord, on my feet, I put the shoes of the Gospel. Father, prepare me by helping me know Jesus in a deeper way. Let your word become the guiding light for every step I take today and let the knowledge of the good news of Jesus death and resurrection be my source of peace. (Romans 5:1) Your concerns...**

Day 29: Wednesday, March 20th

The Shield of Faith. The only protection against the flaming arrows that rained down from the sky in ancient warfare was the shield. If dropped in battle, it became useless and the soldier's fate rested with himself. We trust in Jesus alone as our shield. We cannot rely on our own abilities in this battle. **Father, in my hand I take up the Shield of Faith. By Faith, connect me to the power of Jesus. My desire is to trust in you and your strength alone. Protect me from the arrows of the enemy today as I rely on your power. Give me faith so I may go forward to do your will (Heb 11:33-34). Your concerns....**

Day 30: Thursday, March 21st

The Helmet of Salvation. Jesus is our righteousness. The helmet was essential for a soldier in battle. In using the word salvation, Paul indicates that the helmet is a source of total deliverance. In Jesus, we can find deliverance in every situation, be it spiritual, emotional or physical. He must be our source, our guide, our way out. We cannot deliver ourselves. **Jesus, on my head, I receive the helmet of salvation. Jesus, you are my salvation. You are my deliverance. Deliver me from all sins and weaknesses – spiritual, physical and emotional. Cover me with your strength, peace and anointing to bring me to complete wholeness in you (1 Thessalonians 5: 8-9). Your concerns....**

Day 31: Friday, March 22nd

The Sword of The Spirit. Jesus is the word of God. When used at close range by a skilled soldier, the sword was a deadly weapon. Paul tells us that the sword represents the word of God, the written picture of Jesus. He is the living version of everything God wanted to say to mankind. God's Word is a powerful weapon against our enemy when it's used under the Spirit's power and direction. **Lord, in my hand I take up the sword of the Spirit, the powerful word of God. Jesus, you are the living version of God's word. May your Word give me wisdom to apply your Holy Scriptures to life's situations and today's troubles (Heb 4:12). Your concerns....**

Day 32: Saturday, March 23rd

Dear Lord, today as we look around at your wonderfully made planet, we are in awe. Your creation is beyond what we can even imagine. You created the stars in the heavens, the sun, the moon and all that we see. You've thought of everything. Love is displayed not only in humans but the animals too. They were so important to you that you had Adam name each of them. You are a God of Love. You not only have taught us how to love, but the animals and all of creation reflects your love as well. Help me to respect your creation, your planet and all the life you put here on the earth. May we all be good stewards of the resources you have provided here on Earth. Father, thank you for loving me and showing me how to love you and all that you've created. Father, you are love. May others see you and your love in me. **Your concerns....**

Day 33: Sunday, March 24th

Father, we remember this day each year as the day Jesus rode into town on the foal of a donkey in the presence of a large crowd. Some of the very people who sang Hosanna in the highest and laid palms on the ground to give the King honor and glory, are some of the same ones who will shout "crucify Him" in five days. Father, help us to always truly love and honor you in all situations. Make our hearts pure as we worship you this day and every day. **Your Concerns....**

Day 34: Monday, March 25th

Father, teach me how to worship you. Paul describes true worship perfectly in Rom 12:1-2. True worship is God-centered worship, not confined to what we do in church or open praise. While praise in church is good and we are told to do it, true worship is the acknowledgement of you Lord. You are all powerful, always present and an all-knowing God who is holy and deserves all honor and glory. Help me to not only know your word, but to be obedient in doing what you command. Lord, reveal yourself to me. Help me to see your Glory. When you invite me into worship, open my heart and mind so that I may be intimately aware of your Spirit. Lord, teach me how to worship you in Spirit and truth (John 4:23). **Your concerns....**

Day 35: Tuesday, March 26th

Lord, teach me how to pray

The first 3 petitions focus on the Glory of God.

Our Father who are in Heaven

Recognize you are addressing a Holy God who sees us as His child and seeks an intimate relationship.

Hallowed be your name

May His name be kept Holy. Begin your prayers with reverence for God and praise for who He is. This enables us to keep our needs and problems in proper perspective.

Thy kingdom come; Thy will be done on Earth as it is in Heaven

Ask God for His will to rule in your life. When we say, "Thy Kingdom come", we're really saying, "my kingdom departs in favor of yours Lord".

The second 3 petitions focus on our personal needs.

Give us this day our daily bread

We're asking for the food we need. God says he will provide for our needs (Phil 4:19).

Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us

Confess your sins to God. If we have unconfessed sin in our life, our prayer life will suffer (Psalm 66:18). Also, the same measure you use to forgive will be measured back to you. (Matt 7:2)

And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil

Don't let us yield to temptation, but rescue us from the evil one. We must recognize our sinful nature to avoid it.

Father, help me to understand the impact of my prayers. May they always honor and glorify you. Your concerns....

Day 36: Wednesday, March 27th

Pray that God will give you compassion for the lost and the unsaved world.

Father, thank you for saving me. You chose me before the foundation of the world was even laid. I have been adopted into your family through grace in Jesus, all in accordance to your will and pleasure (Eph 1:4-5). Father, we are commanded to go out and make disciples. I can't do this on my own. Give me the wisdom and courage I need to speak to those around me including my own family. Please prepare my heart and mind, also prepare the hearts of those who will be receiving your word so that I may do your will and they may come to the knowledge of your saving grace. Help me to learn your word and apply it to my life so I may be a living example of your goodness, mercy and compassion to those around me. I ask that I reflect you Lord Jesus and that you may get all the glory and honor. It's not me who speaks, but the Spirit that lives within me who proclaims Jesus and his saving Grace. **Your concerns....**

Day 37: **Holy Thursday**, Thursday, March 28th

Today in history we celebrate Holy Thursday, the day Jesus had the last supper with His disciples. It was on this day we received the ordinance to celebrate the Lord's Supper proclaiming His death until He comes again. The bread was a symbol of His body, the cup a symbol of His blood that was shed for me. He said, "do this in remembrance of me". It was on this day that we were shown what it was like to serve. He, the God of the universe, washed His disciples' feet. We remember this Holy day and ask you, Lord, to make our hearts right, to serve our neighbors and those around us as Jesus served His disciples.

Dear God, I know as I go through life there will always be challenges. You say in your word you will never leave us nor forsake us. Help me to never forget that even in hard times when it feels like all is going wrong or all are against me. Help me to remember you are always with me, right at my side. May I have the courage to trust that each battle belongs to you. When we were saved, we were grafted into your family and sealed with the promised Holy Spirit. The devil has no hold on me. God and Satan cannot be in the same space. Lord Jesus, fill my heart with your love and help me to always have the confidence that you are with me, you love me and know exactly what is happening in my life in each moment.

Day 37: Holy Thursday prayer (continued)

Father, I know in hard times you will never give me more than I can handle. Sometimes I've felt like I was on the brink of going under, but you always come through. You are always faithful. Help me to learn to trust you with all my heart. Help me to never doubt and to stand firm in my faith. I know in my heart you have a plan for me and want what's best for me. I know you love me. Lord Jesus, mold my life to make it yours. **Your concerns....**

Day 38: Good Friday, March 29th

Dear Lord, we remember today in history that our Lord was crucified for our sins. We grieve that on this day, Jesus was led to the cross. His hands were nailed to the cross by me. His feet were nailed to the cross by me. It was my sin that caused the soldier to pierce his side with a sword. Father, thank you for taking the punishment that was meant for me and having your Son bear my pain. On this day, when Jesus said "It is finished", the curtain of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom. The curtain up to this point, separated God from His people. Now, with the death of Jesus, the veil was torn away and our sin was atoned for, reuniting us to the God of the universe. Father, there are no words to express our love and appreciation for all Jesus did for me and the joy we now have in Christ. **Your concerns....**

Day 39: Saturday, March 30th

Father, yesterday in history our Lord was crucified. Centuries ago, even though Jesus said he would rise, many didn't realize it would only be until tomorrow that all of creation would awaken with a new hope. Tomorrow is Easter, the day we celebrate the resurrection of our Lord and Savior. The day the stone was rolled away and the tomb was empty. Father, we praise you for sending your Son to die for us on the cross. We thank you that Jesus took our place on the cross to pay the penalties of our sin. Because of that sacrifice, I get to spend eternity with you. Lord, thank you for all you do in my life. Help me to remember to speak with you each day and to live a life of caring, love, hope, mercy, helpfulness to those I meet along the way. Help me to be patient with others, but most of all may my life reflect you. Father, I thank you for being with me. You guide me, protect me and most of all, you love me. When life gets busy and I forget to talk with you, remind me. Getting to know you is a lifelong journey. Guide my steps and may this journey always bring you honor and glory. **Your concerns....**

Day 40: Easter Sunday, March 31st

Happy Easter!

He's alive! He rose just like He said He would. Praise God!!