



PALM SUNDAY

Week 4

BREAKING THE ICE

Where did you see God in your life last week?

It was a heavy week for Cross Point with the local Nashville school shooting. Where and how did you find comfort this week in the midst of tragedy?

MAIN CONTENT

With the tragedy in Nashville last week we may find ourselves emotional and wondering how tragedies like this happen.

At the start of Holy Week, we want to take the time to come to Jesus and let Him know what we need from Him. Let's come to Him with honesty and transparency about how we are feeling and ask Him boldly to speak to us, heal our hearts and help us.

1. What do you need from Jesus right now? If you don't know what you need, maybe talk about how you're feeling.

We ask God for what we need and we also have the opportunity to pray and ask God to heal others of their needs. As tragedies happen globally, communally and personally, we may ask why bad things happen. We might even say things like, "This is not how it's supposed to be". God doesn't want these tragedies to happen, but when sin entered the world bad things happen.

The good news is, God moves toward us in our sin, suffering and questions. God sent Jesus to heal us from these things, to heal us from the pain in our hearts.

2. When have you experienced God moving toward you in spite of your sin?
In the scriptures, we see throughout Jesus's life that God moved His Son from triumph (miracles) to tears (His death) back to triumph (His resurrection and promise of eternal life with Him).

The last week of Jesus's life is referred to as "Holy Week". As we entered into Holy Week, we had the opportunity to celebrate Palm Sunday and the triumphal entry of Jesus on the Sunday before He was crucified.

3. What are some things you do to participate in and experience Holy Week?

Read Luke 19:29-40

Jesus was the Messiah that was promised, but not the Messiah that everyone desired. At first, the crowds loved Jesus and wanted Him to be king. But, when He claimed He was King and He didn't meet the expectations of the kind of king the people wanted, the crowd and Pharisees rejected Him.

In the midst of Jesus being rejected, Jesus looked out over the city (Luke 19:41) wept and cried out to God. He knew the people were blind to really know Him and He wanted them to see the love and compassion He had for them. He came to bring them love and His Kingdom. In order to accept Him and His Kingdom, that means they had to surrender their desires and plans to Him. In order to accept Him, we too must surrender our desires and plans to Him.

4. What have you surrendered to Jesus? What are you still trying to hold onto and control? What do you need to surrender to Him?

Just as we weep for understanding, Jesus weeps for us. In Psalm 56:8 we see that God weeps with us and for us, and has not left us. One day, there will be no more tears, no more pain and no more suffering. Until then, we can remember four things when it comes to pain and suffering.

The first thing we remember is that Jesus still rides into cities and situations with generosity and errands (serving). Jesus has us serve and love people to show His kindness and His love.

5. How do you serve others?

The second thing we need to remember is that Jesus is still attracted to praise. He inhabits our praises. When we draw near to Him and express our praise and prayers to Him, He draws near to us. There are moments and circumstances where it is hard to praise. Especially when we are going through things we don't understand. God is communal with us and He wants us to be communal with others, so we can make it through the storms together.

6. Do you praise Jesus in the midst of hardship? Where have you seen Him comfort you when you spend time with Him and praise him despite your circumstances?

The third thing is that Jesus still meets us in His Word. We need His Word to remind us of His Good News. It's in His Word, where we can find His hope to carry us through.

7. What are some scriptures that give you hope?

The fourth thing is that Jesus still longs for people to know Him. There are people we know that still don't know Him. We have the opportunity to share His hope with those who are far from Him.

CLOSING PRAYER

God, thank you for continuing to pursue us. Thank you for drawing near to us in our times of joy and our times of despair. As we head into Easter, please help us remember to show your love and kindness while serving others. Help us praise your name no matter the circumstances we find ourselves in. Help us recall scripture that gives us the hope and strength we so desperately need. Holy Spirit, whisper names in our hearts of our friends, family members and co-workers who need to hear about you. Then, please give us the confidence and the right words to share about your love with them.

ACTION STEP

- + Invite someone who needs to hear about Jesus to an Easter at Cross Point service. You can find all of the Easter service times by going to: <https://crosspoint.tv/easter/>
- + Spend this Holy Week reading and watching our daily devotionals and poems here.
- + What scriptures can you write down and memorize that help remind you of God's goodness and hope for you? Do that this week in remembrance of Jesus's love, compassion and care for you.
- + Serve others around you. Whether it's serving your friends, co-workers, family members or neighbors take time to serve those around you this week. Another great way we can serve as a group is at Serve the City on April 29. Talk to your group and make a plan to serve together and show God's love to our communities.