

The Most Important 168 Hours In Human History

This is a prayer guide for Holy Week. We wanted to give you something that would guide you through this week so you would be personally prepared to remember the story of Jesus' resurrection. We also wanted to give you some daily reminders to pray for and invite that one person to Easter. Spend some time each day, reading the selected scriptures, then pray through the bullet points. If you have time, read the additional readings to help give you a more complete picture of the story for that day. Also, be checking in with the daily coaching videos, as they are tied into this focus as well.

Sunday: Triumphal Entry

Luke 19:28 After Jesus had said this, he went on ahead, going up to Jerusalem. **29** As he approached Bethphage and Bethany at the hill called the Mount of Olives, he sent two of his disciples, saying to them, **30** "Go to the village ahead of you, and as you enter it, you will find a colt tied there, which no one has ever ridden. Untie it and bring it here. **31** If anyone asks you, "Why are you untying it?" say, "The Lord needs it."

32 Those who were sent ahead went and found it just as he had told them. **33** As they were untying the colt, its owners asked them, "Why are you untying the colt?"

34 They replied, "The Lord needs it."

35 They brought it to Jesus, threw their cloaks on the colt and put Jesus on it. **36** As he went along, people spread their cloaks on the road.

37 When he came near the place where the road goes down the Mount of Olives, the whole crowd of disciples began joyfully to praise God in loud voices for all the miracles they had seen:

38 "Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord!"

"Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!"

39 Some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to Jesus, "Teacher, rebuke your disciples!"

40 "I tell you," he replied, "if they keep quiet, the stones will cry out."

Prayer Focus

- As we seek the Lord this week and prepare to celebrate the triumph of Christ's resurrection and its great significance for us, pray that we would behold God in the fullness of His power and glory (Psalm 63:2; Isaiah 6:1-4).
- Pray that, having seen the Lord, we would hunger more deeply for Him, that while He satisfies our souls, we would also yearn more intensely to know and experience Him (Psalm 63:1,5; John 6:35; John 7:37-38).
- Ask the Father to help us, by His indwelling Spirit, to understand His love, to grasp that His incomprehensible love is better than life (Ephesians 3:16-19).
- Pray for the person you're inviting by name. Insert their name into this prayer: Heavenly Father, send your Spirit to open the eyes of _____'s heart and mind. Through your Spirit, soften their heart so that it will be open to your truth. In Jesus' name.
- Pray for your fellow brothers and sisters in Christ at SixEight. Pray that they would be faithful in praying for their one person.

Additional Reading:

- Matthew 21:1-11
- Mark 11:1-10
- Luke 19:29-44
- John 12:12-50

Monday: Cleansing of the Temple

Luke 19:45 When Jesus entered the temple courts, he began to drive out those who were selling. **46** "It is written," he said to them, "My house will be a house of prayer";but you have made it 'a den of robbers.'"

Prayer Focus

- Praise God that He dwells in us and, through Christ, we live in Him. That we are now His temple and he resides in us.
- Ask God to reveal anything in you that needs to be thrown out. Ask God to give you the power to dismiss it once and for all.
- Pray that our lives would be defined by abiding in Jesus (Psalm 84:1, 4; Colossians 3:1-3; John 15:5).
- Ask God to perfect our faith and author perfect trust in our hearts and lives (Psalm 84:12; Hebrews 12:1-3).
- Pray that we would be a people on pilgrimage, pursuing God and His glory wholeheartedly and devoted to His kingdom (Psalm 84:5; 1 Chronicles 22:19; Ezra 7:10; Colossians 4:2).
- Ask God to cleanse us of all unrighteousness for his name's sake. (1 John 1:19)
- Pray for the one person you are inviting, continue to pray the prayer you prayed for them yesterday. And also pray: Heavenly Father would you create opportunities for me to invest in my relationship with _____. As I invest in this relationship, please create an opportunity to invite them to hear about you this Sunday.
- Pray for your fellow brothers and sisters in Christ at SixEight, that they too would have the diligence, patience and courage to pray and put this into practice.

Additional Reading:

- Matthew 21:12-13, 17-19
- Mark 11:11-17
- Luke 19:45-46

Tuesday: Testing By Questions

Luke 20:1 - One day as Jesus was teaching the people in the temple courts and proclaiming the good news, the chief priests and the teachers of the law, together with the elders, came up to him. **2** "Tell us by what authority you are doing these things," they said. "Who gave you this authority?"

3 He replied, "I will also ask you a question. Tell me: **4** John's baptism—was it from heaven, or of human origin?"

5 They discussed it among themselves and said, "If we say, 'From heaven,' he will ask, 'Why didn't you believe him?' **6** But if we say, 'Of human origin,' all the people will stone us, because they are persuaded that John was a prophet."

7 So they answered, "We don't know where it was from."

8 Jesus said, "Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things."

Prayer Focus

- Thank the Lord this morning for giving His Son as a sacrifice on our behalf and praise Jesus for coming to serve us our Savior and Servant-King.
- Pray that we would also live in submission to the Father's will, taking the nature of a servant just as Christ did (Philippians 2:5-8; Galatians 2:20).
- Pray earnestly that God's Kingdom would come on earth, that the reign of Christ would advance and that the Name of Jesus would be exalted around the world (Luke 22:29; Philippians 2:10-11; Revelation 11:17)
- Pray for that one person you are inviting. Ask that God would help guide the conversation so that an invitation to SixEight on Easter is a natural progression. Pray that God will help you answer any questions they might have about Jesus and the church.
- Pray for your fellow brothers and sisters in Christ at SixEight. Ask God to prompt their hearts, minds and spirits with thoughts and ideas that naturally lead their conversation to be focused on Godly things.

Additional Reading:

- Matthew 21:23 - 23:39
- Mark 11:27-12:44
- Luke 20:1-21:4

Wednesday: Quiet Meditation/Judas agrees to betray Jesus

Luke 22:1 - Now the Festival of Unleavened Bread, called the Passover, was approaching, **2** and the chief priests and the teachers of the law were looking for some way to get rid of Jesus, for they were afraid of the people. **3** Then Satan entered Judas, called Iscariot, one of the Twelve. **4** And Judas went to the chief priests and the officers of the temple guard and discussed with them how he might betray Jesus. **5** They were delighted and agreed to give him money. **6** He consented, and watched for an opportunity to hand Jesus over to them when no crowd was present.

Prayer Focus

- Spend time praising Him for the sheer reality that He alone deserves worship and honor (Psalm 147:1, 5, 12; Revelation 4:11).
- Pray that we would have courage to acknowledge Christ in an unbelieving world and that we would boldly live and proclaim the Gospel, regardless of the cost (Matthew 10:32- 33; Ephesians 6:18-20; Revelation 3:5).
- Ask God to enable us, by His Spirit, to invest our hope fully into His unfailing and steadfast love, that we would stand firm on the living hope that is ours in Christ (Psalm 147:11; 1 Peter 1:3-9)
- Pray that God will give you the ability to live out your faith in front of those who don't believe. Ask that God gives you opportunities to let your life speak the hope of the gospel.
- Pray for your fellow brothers and sisters in Christ at SixEight. Ask that God will give them the chance to live out their faith in front of those who don't yet believe as well.

Additional Reading:

- Matthew 24:25
- Mark 13
- Luke 21:5-36
- Matt 26:3-5
- Mark 14:12
- Luke 22:2
- Matthew 26:14-16
- Mark 14:10-11
- Luke 22:3-6

Thursday: Jesus Prays In The Garden

Matthew 26:39 Going a little farther, he fell with his face to the ground and prayed, "My Father, if it is possible, may this cup be taken from me. Yet not as I will, but as you will."

40 Then he returned to his disciples and found them sleeping. "Couldn't you men keep watch with me for one hour?" he asked Peter. **41** "Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak."

42 He went away a second time and prayed, "My Father, if it is not possible for this cup to be taken away unless I drink it, may your will be done."

43 When he came back, he again found them sleeping, because their eyes were heavy.

44 So he left them and went away once more and prayed the third time, saying the same thing.

45 Then he returned to the disciples and said to them, "Are you still sleeping and resting? Look, the hour has come, and the Son of Man is delivered into the hands of sinners.

46 Rise! Let us go! Here comes my betrayer!"

Prayer Focus

- Jesus chose to follow God's plan, knowing what it was going to cost and what it would cost if He didn't. Pray that God would give us the same resolve to follow his plan. Ask God to give you a perspective on your life that allows you to see every day and opportunity as a chance to build His Kingdom.
- Pray that God would show you just how much you are needed to be on mission for His Kingdom.
- Join Jesus in His prayer that we would know God, that He would reveal Himself to us and we would believe Him with simple, childlike faith (John 17:3, 6, 26; Matthew 18:2-3).
- Ask the Holy Spirit to help us recognize temptation, to resist it and to ruthlessly stand firm on God's Word (John 17:15; James 4:7).
- Pray that we would be sanctified by the Truth of Christ, by the power of His living word to teach, rebuke, correct and train us in righteousness (John 17:17; 2 Timothy 2:16-17).
- Pray for the person you're inviting, that as you make the invitation today or tomorrow they will be ready to respond with a yes.
- Pray for your fellow brothers and sisters in Christ at SixEight that the people they are inviting would also be ready to respond with a yes.

Additional Reading:

- Prepare the Upper Room
 - Matthew 26:17-19
 - Mark 14:12-16
 - Luke 22:7-13
- The Last Supper
 - Matthew 26:20-35
 - Mark 14:17-31
 - Luke 22:14-38
 - John 13-17
 - 1 Cor. 11:23-25
- Judas Leaves
 - John 13:30

Friday: Crucifixion

Mark 15:21 A certain man from Cyrene, Simon, the father of Alexander and Rufus, was passing by on his way in from the country, and they forced him to carry the cross.**22** They brought Jesus to the place called Golgotha (which means “the place of the skull”). **23** Then they offered him wine mixed with myrrh, but he did not take it.**24** And they crucified him. Dividing up his clothes, they cast lots to see what each would get.

25 It was nine in the morning when they crucified him. **26** The written notice of the charge against him read: THE KING OF THE JEWS.

27 They crucified two rebels with him, one on his right and one on his left. **29** Those who passed by hurled insults at him, shaking their heads and saying, “So! You who are going to destroy the temple and build it in three days, **30** come down from the cross and save yourself!” **31** In the same way the chief priests and the teachers of the law mocked him among themselves. “He saved others,” they said, “but he can’t save himself! **32** Let this Messiah, this king of Israel, come down now from the cross, that we may see and believe.” Those crucified with him also heaped insults on him.

33 At noon, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. **34** And at three in the afternoon Jesus cried out in a loud voice, “*Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?*” (which means “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?”).

35 When some of those standing near heard this, they said, “Listen, he’s calling Elijah.”

36 Someone ran, filled a sponge with wine vinegar, put it on a staff, and offered it to Jesus to drink. “Now leave him alone. Let’s see if Elijah comes to take him down,” he said.

37 With a loud cry, Jesus breathed his last.

38 The curtain of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom. **39** And when the centurion, who stood there in front of Jesus, saw how he died,^[c] he said, “Surely this man was the Son of God!”

Prayer Focus

- As we focus on Christ’s crucifixion, take time to repent and express your sorrow to God over your sin and guilt that required the cross (Psalm 32:3-5; Lamentations 1:20; 2:11, 18; 3:19-20).
- Thank God for not abandoning us to our sin and its wages.
- Praise Jesus for being forsaken in our place so that we could have the hope of God’s eternal grace (Psalm 32:1-2; Lamentations 3:21-24).
- Worship Jesus for becoming sin for us and enduring the fullness of God’s wrath so that we would not have to (Romans 5:8-10; 2 Corinthians 5:21).
- Pray for the person you are inviting. Pray that they would be aware of their need for a savior. Ask God to help them see the weight of their own sin and the need for grace. Pray that God will give you the opportunity to tell them just how much they are worth in God’s eyes. Pray for the opportunity to talk about Good Friday with them.
- Pray for your brothers and sisters in Christ at SixEight, that they too would have the chance to share with those they are inviting about the significance of Good Friday.

Additional Reading:

- Gethsemane
 - Matthew 26:47-56
 - Mark 14:43-49

- Luke 22:47-53
 - John 18:1-12
- Three Jewish Trials
 - Matthew 26:57-27:1
 - Mark 14:53-15:1
 - Luke 22:54-70
 - John 18:12-24
- Disciples Flee
 - Matthew 26:56
 - Mark 14:50-52
- Rooster Crows
 - Matthew 26:69-75
 - Mark 14:66-77
 - Luke 22:56-62
 - John 18:25-27
- Three Roman Trials
 - Matthew 27:1-30
 - Mark 15:1-20
 - Luke 23:1-25
 - John 18:28-19:16
- Crucifixion
 - Matthew 27:33-56
 - Mark 15:22-41
 - Luke 23:32-49
 - John 19:17-37
- Burial
 - Matthew 27:57-61
 - Mark 15:42-47
 - Luke 23:50-56
 - John 19:38-42

Saturday: Sabbath/death

- Death
- Waiting
- Fasting

Luke 23:50 Now there was a man named Joseph, a member of the Council, a good and upright man, **51** who had not consented to their decision and action. He came from the Judean town of Arimathea, and he himself was waiting for the kingdom of God. **52** Going to Pilate, he asked for Jesus' body. **53** Then he took it down, wrapped it in linen cloth and placed it in a tomb cut in the rock, one in which no one had yet been laid. **54** It was Preparation Day, and the Sabbath was about to begin.

55 The women who had come with Jesus from Galilee followed Joseph and saw the tomb and how his body was laid in it. **56** Then they went home and prepared spices and perfumes. But they rested on the Sabbath in obedience to the commandment.

Matthew 27:62 The next day, the one after Preparation Day, the chief priests and the Pharisees went to Pilate. **63** "Sir," they said, "we remember that while he was still alive that deceiver said, 'After three days I will rise again.' **64** So give the order for the tomb to be made secure until the third day. Otherwise, his disciples may come and steal the body and tell the people that he has been raised from the dead. This last deception will be worse than the first."

65 "Take a guard," Pilate answered. "Go, make the tomb as secure as you know how." **66** So they went and made the tomb secure by putting a seal on the stone and posting the guard.

Prayer Focus

- Pray that, as we wait for Sunday, we would be patient in all areas of our lives that God is at work. Ask God to show you how to rest.
- Praise God for His goodness and forgiveness (Psalm 86:8-10; Hebrews 10:12-14).
- Pray that we would draw near to God & be devoted to Him, that we would know His ways and walk in His truth (Psalm 86:11-12; Hebrews 10:16, 22).
- Ask God, through the Holy Spirit to enable us to hold unswervingly to the hope we have in Christ, an eternal hope based on His victory (Hebrews 10:23).
- Pray for the person you invited this week. Pray for them by name the same prayer you prayed on Monday & Tuesday. Pray that nothing would "come up" today that would keep them from coming to church tomorrow. Pray that the curiosity of Easter would begin to weigh heavily on their heart and mind.
- Pray for your brothers and Sisters in Christ to feel prompted to pray for the person they invited this week.

Sunday: Resurrection

Matthew 28:1-10 - **1** Now after the Sabbath, toward the dawn of the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. **2** And behold, there was a great earthquake, for an angel of the Lord descended from heaven and came and rolled back the stone and sat on it. **3** His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing white as snow. **4** And for fear of him the guards trembled and became like dead men. **5** But the angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified. **6** He is not here, for he has risen, as he said. Come, see the place where he[a] lay. **7** Then go quickly and tell his disciples that he has risen from the dead, and behold, he is going before you to Galilee; there you will see him. See, I have told you." **8** So they departed quickly from the tomb with fear and great joy, and ran to tell his disciples. **9** And behold, Jesus met them and said, "Greetings!" And they came up and took hold of his feet and worshiped him. **10** Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee, and there they will see me."

Prayer Focus

- Rejoice in the truth that Jesus is risen, He is alive, just as He said; spend time placing yourself at the empty tomb, hearing the words of God's mighty messenger proclaiming the wondrous good news of Jesus' resurrection (Matthew 28:1-8).
- Thank God for the redemption of His image in you.
- Pray that we would experience the fullness of the Spirit's resurrection power, which He exerted when He raised Christ from the dead and which now dwells within us (Ephesians 1:17-23; Romans 8:10- 11).
- Intercede on behalf of transformation in our lives and in our city, that the reality of Christ's resurrection would have its full effect on our hearts (Romans 12:2; Galatians 2:20; 1 Peter 1:9).
- Pray for the person you invited to come to church today. Pray that they would experience the love of Christ in our SixEight community. Pray that they would hear just how highly valuable they are to God, and they would be drawn to the Resurrection's message of hope.
- Pray for your fellow brothers and sisters in Christ at SixEight that they would have meaningful interactions with the person they invited, as well as meaningful interactions with all the people that all of us SixEighthers have invited.
- Pray for all the ministry teams serving at SixEight this morning. Pray for the children's volunteers, the welcome team, the coffee team, the worship team, the prayer team, the offering team. Pray during the service, that things flow smoothly. Pray that sharing communion would draw people into the story and help them see the price that was paid for them.

Additional Reading:

- Resurrection
 - Matthew 28:1-8
 - Mark 16:1-8
 - Luke 24:1-11
 - John 20:1-2
- Peter & John Run to the Tomb
 - Luke 24:12
 - John 20:3-10
- Jesus Appears To Mary Magdalen

- John 20:11-18
- Road To Emmaus
 - Luke 24:13-35
- Jesus Appears To Disciples
 - Luke 24:36-39
 - John 20:19-24

(Some of the prayer focuses were taken from a holy week prayer guide put out by restorationcitydc.com. Scripture quotes are taken from the ESV.)