

# FootSteps of Jesus: A Lenten Journey



## Welcome to Scripture Union's all-age Lenten reflections.

**Footsteps of Jesus: A Lenten Journey** includes 40 days of Lenten readings, beginning on Ash Wednesday. The Sunday readings and activities are a bit longer, and will introduce you to the week ahead. The weekday readings include a brief scripture, prayer, and opportunity to track your progress on a specially designed map. There are no readings for Saturday; however, we encourage you to use this day to review the week. We suggest you use the NIRV or a version of the Bible that is easy for all ages to understand.

To make each session special, you will need 6 plastic Easter eggs that can be opened. On each egg you will write one day of the week – Sunday, Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday. The eggs should be prepared at the beginning of each week with the appropriate slip of paper that contains the reading for that day and one set of footprints. To track your progress, a printable map has been designed onto which you will glue or tape one set of footprints each day.

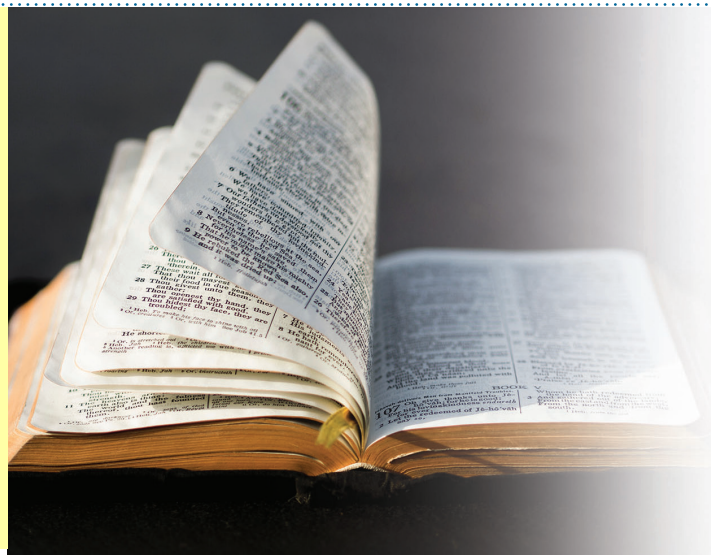
### WHAT YOU WILL NEED:

- A Bible
- Six plastic Easter eggs

### TO PRINT:

- Daily activity slips to put in the eggs
- The journey map
- The page of footprints

We pray that these resources will be helpful to you and your family as we follow the footsteps of Jesus as he sets his face toward Jerusalem and to the Resurrection.



### IN THIS GUIDE YOU WILL FIND:

- The full list of Lenten readings
- Daily readings and activities to print, cut apart and place in the eggs
- A printable Lenten journey map
- A printable sheet of footprints for gluing or taping on the map (We included a few extra just in case.)

# FootSteps of Jesus: A Lenten Journey



MOST BIBLE READINGS ARE TAKEN FROM THE GOSPEL OF MARK OR THE GOSPEL OF LUKE.

## February 17-20 | Preparation for the Journey

|               |             |                 |
|---------------|-------------|-----------------|
| Ash Wednesday | February 17 | Mark 1:1-8      |
| Thursday      | February 18 | Mark 1:9-11     |
| Friday        | February 19 | Luke 4:1-13     |
| Saturday      | February 20 | Review the Week |

## February 21 – 27 | Early Days on the Road

|           |             |                      |
|-----------|-------------|----------------------|
| Sunday    | February 21 | Mark 1:14-20         |
| Monday    | February 22 | Mark 1:29-34         |
| Tuesday   | February 23 | Mark 1:40-45         |
| Wednesday | February 24 | Mark 2:1-12          |
| Thursday  | February 25 | Mark 5:1-13, 18-20   |
| Friday    | February 26 | Mark 5:21-24a, 35-43 |
| Saturday  | February 27 | Review the Week      |

## February 28 – March 6 | Spectacular Events Along the Way

|           |             |                 |
|-----------|-------------|-----------------|
| Sunday    | February 28 | Mark 6:1-6      |
| Monday    | March 1     | Mark 2:13-17    |
| Tuesday   | March 2     | Mark 4:35-41    |
| Wednesday | March 3     | Mark 6:45-52    |
| Thursday  | March 4     | Mark 8:1-13     |
| Friday    | March 5     | Mark 9:18-22    |
| Saturday  | March 6     | Review the Week |

## March 7 – 13 |

### Reactions to Our Guide as He Proceeds

|           |          |                 |
|-----------|----------|-----------------|
| Sunday    | March 7  | Mark 9:2-10     |
| Monday    | March 8  | Mark 9:33-37    |
| Tuesday   | March 9  | Luke 9:51-55    |
| Wednesday | March 10 | Luke 10:38-42   |
| Thursday  | March 11 | Luke 13:10-17   |
| Friday    | March 12 | Luke 13:31-35   |
| Saturday  | March 13 | Review the Week |

## March 14 – 20 | Personal Encounters en Route

|           |          |                 |
|-----------|----------|-----------------|
| Sunday    | March 14 | Mark 10:13-16   |
| Monday    | March 15 | Luke 7:36-50    |
| Tuesday   | March 16 | Luke 17:11-19   |
| Wednesday | March 17 | Luke 18:18-27   |
| Thursday  | March 18 | Luke 19:1-10    |
| Friday    | March 19 | Mark 10:46-52   |
| Saturday  | March 20 | Review the Week |

## March 21 – 27 | Jesus' Words on the Way

|           |          |                  |
|-----------|----------|------------------|
| Sunday    | March 21 | Matthew 13:31-35 |
| Monday    | March 22 | Matthew 13:44-46 |
| Tuesday   | March 23 | Luke 14:16-24    |
| Wednesday | March 24 | Luke 15:3-7      |
| Thursday  | March 25 | Luke 18:9-14     |
| Friday    | March 26 | Luke 18:31-34    |
| Saturday  | March 27 | Review the Week  |

## March 28 – April 4 | Deepest Valley and Highest Mountain

|               |          |                      |
|---------------|----------|----------------------|
| Sunday        | March 28 | Mark 11:1-11         |
| Monday        | March 29 | Mark 11:15-18        |
| Tuesday       | March 30 | Mark 14:16-26        |
| Wednesday     | March 31 | Mark 14:32-36, 43-46 |
| Thursday      | April 1  | Luke 23:13-25        |
| Good Friday   | April 2  | Mark 15:21-39        |
| Saturday      | April 3  | Review the Week      |
| Easter Sunday | April 4  | Luke 24:1-12         |

# Footsteps of Jesus: A Lenten Journey



## PREPARATION FOR THE JOURNEY • FEBRUARY 17-20, 2021



### WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 17

**INTRODUCTION:** Journeys always require preparation, and so it was with Jesus. This week we will look at John the Baptist, the baptism of Jesus, and the testing of Jesus in the wilderness to see how God prepared Jesus for his ministry.

**READ together:** Mark 1:1-8

**SHARE together:** We usually talk about how John prepared the way for Jesus. But who prepared the way for John's ministry? What was the extent and effectiveness of John's ministry? What in the passage tells us that John knows he is not the "main event"?

**WORK together:** Who do you know who isn't ready to receive Jesus? What step could you and your family take to prepare that person to encounter Jesus? Take some time to record the name(s) and ideas.

**PRAY together:** Merciful God, we thank You for the people in Scripture and in our personal lives who have prepared the way for us to know Jesus. (You could mention specific people.) Now help us to prepare the way for (the person you have identified). Like John, in humility may we point people to the greatness of Jesus and never to ourselves. In Jesus' name, Amen.

**ADD Jesus' footsteps** onto your "Footsteps of Jesus: A Lenten Journey" map, using tape or glue, to bring Him closer to the empty tomb that we celebrate at Easter.



### THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 18

1. **READ together:** Mark 1:9-11

2. **PRAY together:** Dear God, thank You for sharing with us the story of Jesus' baptism. Thank You for loving Your son Jesus, and thank You for loving us. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

3. **WALK together in Jesus' footsteps:** When we believe in Jesus Christ, we become children of God, too. (You can read this truth in Galatians 3:26.) Hear God's words to Jesus as though He is speaking them to you: "You are my child, whom I love; with you I am well pleased."

4. **ADD Jesus' footsteps** onto your "Footsteps of Jesus: A Lenten Journey" map, using tape or glue, to bring him closer to the empty tomb that we celebrate at Easter.



### FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 19

1. **READ together:** Luke 4:1-13

2. **PRAY together:** Dear God, we are thankful that Jesus lived a perfect life and said "no" when Satan tried to tempt him to do the wrong things. Help us when we are tempted so that we also can choose to love and obey You. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

3. **WALK together in Jesus' footsteps:** When you have to choose between doing what is right and doing what is wrong, stop and pray for Jesus' strength to choose to do what is right.

4. **ADD Jesus' footsteps** onto your "Footsteps of Jesus: A Lenten Journey" map, using tape or glue, to bring him closer to the empty tomb that we celebrate at Easter.



### SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 20

Review the week • Talk about the journey • Talk about the highlights • What does this teach us about Jesus? • Pray together.

# Footsteps of Jesus: A Lenten Journey

EARLY DAYS ON THE ROAD • FEBRUARY 21-27, 2021



## SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 21

**INTRODUCTION:** The preparation is complete; now it's time to begin the journey. Jesus comes with a proclamation and an invitation. We also see the more specific invitations to some fishermen to be part of what Jesus was doing. During this part of the journey, most people are astonished at his authority and power, and there is only a hint of the opposition to come. Notice how Jesus proclaims the kingdom in word and in actions.

**READ together:** Mark 1:14-20

**SHARE together:** If we think about the things that are going on in our world, how might "the kingdom of God" be "good news"? According to what Jesus says here, what has to happen for us to enter God's kingdom?

Look carefully in verses 18 and 20 and name facts that tell us how much these four men wanted to accept Jesus' invitation.

**WORK together:** Make a simple crown and write "King Jesus" on it. Decorate the crown with "gems," which would be characteristics of Jesus that make him a great king in the best kingdom.

**PRAY together:** Heavenly Father, thank You for sending Jesus to bring us a kingdom of good news. Thank You for the examples of Simon, Andrew, James and John who left their jobs and their families to follow You. Thank You for asking us to "come and follow" You also. In Jesus' name, Amen.

**ADD Jesus' footsteps** onto your "Footsteps of Jesus: A Lenten Journey" map, using tape or glue, to bring Him closer to the empty tomb that we celebrate at Easter.



## MONDAY, FEBRUARY 22

1. **READ together:** Mark 1:29-34

2. **PRAY together:** Dear God, thank You for giving Jesus the power to heal so many sick and hurting people during his ministry on earth. Help us to remember that we can bring our troubles to You, and You will face them with us. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

3. **WALK together in Jesus' footsteps:** When you are feeling sick, weak, alone, afraid, or sad, put your trust in Jesus. We read in 2 Corinthians 12:9 that God's power is strongest when we are at our weakest, so invite God to be with you and strengthen you. You never have to be alone!

4. **ADD Jesus' footsteps** onto your "Footsteps of Jesus: A Lenten Journey" map, using tape or glue, to bring him closer to the empty tomb that we celebrate at Easter.



## TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 23

1. **READ together:** Mark 1:40-45

2. **PRAY together:** Dear God, we are thankful that Jesus was willing to reach out to this man with a skin disease and to heal him, when no one else would dare to touch him. Please touch the parts of us that need your healing, and make us clean. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

3. **WALK together in Jesus' footsteps:** When Jesus saw the man with the skin disease, he was filled with compassion. Compassion is a feeling of wanting to help someone who is hurting or in need. Who do you know that might be hurting or in need? Consider the people in your family, your neighborhood, or your church. How can you reach out like Jesus did and offer help to someone in need?

4. **ADD Jesus' footsteps** onto your "Footsteps of Jesus: A Lenten Journey" map, using tape or glue, to bring him closer to the empty tomb that we celebrate at Easter.

# Footsteps of Jesus: A Lenten Journey



## EARLY DAYS ON THE ROAD • FEBRUARY 21-27, 2021



### WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 24

1. READ together: Mark 2:1-12
2. PRAY together: Dear God, when these men brought their paralyzed friend to Jesus, Jesus first forgave the man's sins and then gave him the power to walk again. We are thankful that You have the power to heal us in both body and spirit. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.
3. WALK together in Jesus' footsteps: These four men went to great lengths to bring a friend in need to Jesus; they even dug a hole in the roof of a house to get their friend inside! How can you bring the needs of your friends to Jesus? Begin by praying for the people you care about, and let them know about Jesus' power to heal.
4. ADD Jesus' footsteps onto your "Footsteps of Jesus: A Lenten Journey" map, using tape or glue, to bring him closer to the empty tomb that we celebrate at Easter.



### THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 25

1. READ together: Mark 5:1-13, 18-20
2. PRAY together: Dear God, things looked pretty hopeless to the people who knew this man controlled by an evil spirit. But when You saw him, Lord, You freed him, healed him, and sent him back to his family. Please help us to accept Your healing and hope. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.
3. WALK together in Jesus' footsteps: You can share hope with others by telling them about times when you and your family have needed God's help, as well as how He has come through for you in your time of need.
4. ADD Jesus' footsteps onto your "Footsteps of Jesus: A Lenten Journey" map, using tape or glue, to bring him closer to the empty tomb that we celebrate at Easter.



### FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 26

1. READ together: Mark 5:21-24, 35-43
2. PRAY together: Dear God, Jesus tells the synagogue ruler, Jairus, "Don't be afraid; just believe," and we hear that message for ourselves today. Take away our fear and help us to trust in You. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.
3. WALK together in Jesus' footsteps: Use God's Word to replace fear with trust. Spend time reading Bible verses that will reassure you that God is in control at all times. Here are some suggestions of faith-boosting scriptures: Deuteronomy 3:22; Joshua 1:9; Psalm 46:1; Isaiah 41:10; and John 14:27.
4. ADD Jesus' footsteps onto your "Footsteps of Jesus: A Lenten Journey" map, using tape or glue, to bring him closer to the empty tomb that we celebrate at Easter.



### SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 27

Review the week • Talk about the journey • Talk about the highlights • What does this teach us about Jesus? • Pray together.



# Footsteps of Jesus: A Lenten Journey



SPECTACULAR EVENTS ON THE WAY • FEBRUARY 28-MARCH 6, 2021



## SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 28

**INTRODUCTION:** During last week's journey, we saw the compassion of Jesus in healing people from diseases and delivering them from evil spirits. This week Jesus' authority is exercised over nature. We see Jesus as Teacher, Healer, Liberator, Provider, and Miracle Worker. How can anybody find fault with this man? Nevertheless, fault-finding is just what we will begin to encounter as we travel on with Jesus.

**READ together:** Mark 6:1-6

**SHARE together:** Imagine the headlines: "Local Hero Raises Dead Girl to Life." How do most communities react when one of their own makes it big? What is the reaction in Jesus' hometown? Name the specifics of what they didn't like. Name the things they thought were the only truth about Jesus.

**WORK together:** Do you ever feel that the people nearest to you are rejecting or judgmental? Take a slip of paper and write down the name of one of these people. Each person should put their slip into an envelope with a prayer for that person. (It's up to you whether people want to share the person and prayer with the family.)

**PRAY together:** Jesus, today we saw that the people who knew You the longest were the ones who did not have faith in You. You did not try to change their minds; You did not argue; You didn't get mad. You did the miracles You could and noted their lack of faith. Jesus, fill us with Your wisdom, humility, and love so that we can respond to people as You would. Amen.

**ADD Jesus' footsteps** onto your "Footsteps of Jesus: A Lenten Journey" map, using tape or glue, to bring Him closer to the empty tomb that we celebrate at Easter.



## MONDAY, MARCH 1

1. **READ together:** Mark 2:13-17
2. **PRAY together:** Dear God, Levi left behind the life he had been living in order to follow Jesus. Help us to make the same choice to put You first in our lives. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.
3. **WALK together in Jesus' footsteps:** As a tax collector, Levi had a job that could have earned him lots of money. But he chose to walk in Jesus' footsteps instead. Make a similar choice today to put Jesus first in your life, becoming one of his followers like Levi, and learning how to share his message with the world.
4. **ADD Jesus' footsteps** onto your "Footsteps of Jesus: A Lenten Journey" map, using tape or glue, to bring him closer to the empty tomb that we celebrate at Easter.



## TUESDAY, MARCH 2

1. **READ together:** Mark 4:35-41
2. **PRAY together:** Dear God, even when we face trouble, like the disciples faced during this storm, help us to remember that You are with us. You are greater than any of our fears! Speak Your peace to us, and calm our souls. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.
3. **WALK together in Jesus' footsteps:** Jesus feels God's peace right in the middle of a furious storm. Spend time in God's presence, being quiet and still no matter what else is going on around you. Draw strength and peace from spending time with God.
4. **ADD Jesus' footsteps** onto your "Footsteps of Jesus: A Lenten Journey" map, using tape or glue, to bring him closer to the empty tomb that we celebrate at Easter.



# Footsteps of Jesus: A Lenten Journey



SPECTACULAR EVENTS ON THE WAY • FEBRUARY 28-MARCH 6, 2021



## WEDNESDAY, MARCH 3

1. READ together: Mark 6:45-52
2. PRAY together: Dear God, Jesus says to his disciples, “Be brave. It is I. Don’t be afraid.” Help us to remember Jesus’ words when our fears threaten to overtake our trust in You. Our Savior is with us; we don’t have to be afraid. In Jesus’ name we pray, Amen.
3. WALK together in Jesus’ footsteps: Jesus calmed his disciples’ fears when they saw him walking on the water, and he calmed the winds that made it hard for them to steer their boat to shore. When you are afraid of something that is happening around you, remember that Jesus is with you and has the power to comfort you.
4. ADD Jesus’ footsteps onto your “Footsteps of Jesus: A Lenten Journey” map, using tape or glue, to bring him closer to the empty tomb that we celebrate at Easter.



## THURSDAY, MARCH 4

1. READ together: Mark 8:1-13
2. PRAY together: Dear God, we thank You for caring about people in need. May we see the people who need our help, and use what we have for their well-being. In Jesus’ name we pray, Amen.
3. WALK together in Jesus’ footsteps: God knows exactly what we need. We can be grateful and say “thank you” for all that He provides. We can also use what we have—food, money, or other belongings—to help others in need.
4. ADD Jesus’ footsteps onto your “Footsteps of Jesus: A Lenten Journey” map, using tape or glue, to bring him closer to the empty tomb that we celebrate at Easter.



## FRIDAY, MARCH 5

1. READ together: Luke 9:18-22
2. PRAY together: Dear God, Peter knew that Jesus was the Savior You had sent to earth before anyone else understood who he was. Thank You for sending Jesus as part of Your great plan to make us part of Your family. In Jesus’ name we pray, Amen.
3. WALK together in Jesus’ footsteps: Ask yourself the same question that Jesus asks his disciples: Who do you say Jesus is? Is he your Savior? Is he the Lord of your life? Express who Jesus is to you, not only with the words that you say, but also by the way you live your life and treat other people.
4. ADD Jesus’ footsteps onto your “Footsteps of Jesus: A Lenten Journey” map, using tape or glue, to bring him closer to the empty tomb that we celebrate at Easter.



## SATURDAY, MARCH 6

Review the week • Talk about the journey • Talk about the highlights • What does this teach us about Jesus? • Pray together

# Footsteps of Jesus: A Lenten Journey



## REACTIONS TO OUR GUIDE AS HE PROCEEDS • MARCH 7-13, 2021



### SUNDAY, MARCH 7

**INTRODUCTION:** This week we will see many different reactions to Jesus, including, praise, anger, delight, humiliation, fear, confusion, and rejection. But it's Jesus' reaction to Jerusalem that stops us in our tracks. Jesus sees centuries of people rejecting God's Word through the prophets, but Jesus' heart is to want them to seek his shelter—but they were not willing.

**READ together:** Mark 9:2-10

**SHARE together:** This event on the mountain is called "the Transfiguration," from verse 2, which states, "There he was transfigured before them." Talk about the "before and after" of this transformation. What does Jesus' brightness mean here?

Re-read the Father's declaration in verse 7. Have we heard those words on our journey? Yes, we heard them at Jesus' baptism (Mark 1:11). What is not the same in today's word from God?

What command is here? Why is this command important at this point in the journey?

**WORK together:** Take several different lights into a windowless space and try them out. Which source of light is the brightest? How do you think this compares with the brightness of Jesus on the mountain?

**PRAY together:** Father, today's story reminds us of the glory that Your Son had before He became a human being. We praise You for identifying Jesus, the man, as your Son; that You love Him; that You are pleased with Him. Give us Your Holy Spirit to listen to Jesus, especially in these days as we prepare for the remembrance of His death and resurrection. In Jesus' name, Amen.

**ADD** Jesus' footsteps onto your "Footsteps of Jesus: A Lenten Journey" map, using tape or glue, to bring Him closer to the empty tomb that we celebrate at Easter.



### MONDAY, MARCH 8

1. **READ together:** Mark 9:33-37
2. **PRAY together:** Dear God, the world teaches us to compete with one another and always try to be number one. Jesus, on the other hand, shows us how to serve others, and how to welcome people that often get left out. Help us to follow the example of Jesus' life. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.
3. **WALK together in Jesus' footsteps:** Rather than trying to be "the first," "the best," or "the most important," start thinking about what it means to serve others and to consider others' needs rather than just your own. Talk with someone in your family about what it means when Jesus says, "Anyone who wants to be first must be the very last."
4. **ADD** Jesus' footsteps onto your "Footsteps of Jesus: A Lenten Journey" map, using tape or glue, to bring him closer to the empty tomb that we celebrate at Easter.



### TUESDAY, MARCH 9

1. **READ together:** Luke 9:51-55
2. **PRAY together:** Dear God, forgive us when we pay more attention to what other people are doing wrong than our own wrongdoing, and for when we think other people should be punished rather than thinking about how we ourselves need to change. Help us to be more like Jesus. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.
3. **WALK together in Jesus' footsteps:** The next time someone is mean to you, instead of speaking or acting out in anger, ask God to help you remain at peace like Jesus. Do not repay unkindness with unkindness. We can show kindness and pray for all people, even those who do not treat us like friends.
4. **ADD** Jesus' footsteps onto your "Footsteps of Jesus: A Lenten Journey" map, using tape or glue, to bring him closer to the empty tomb that we celebrate at Easter.





# Footsteps of Jesus: A Lenten Journey



## REACTIONS TO OUR GUIDE AS HE PROCEEDS • MARCH 7-13, 2021



### WEDNESDAY, MARCH 10

1. READ together: Luke 10:38-42
2. PRAY together: Dear God, help us to remember that there are times when we should work hard and get things done, and there are times when we should sit quietly and just enjoy being with You. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.
3. WALK together in Jesus' footsteps: Spend some time with God today. Don't let yourself get so busy that you don't have any time for God.
4. ADD Jesus' footsteps onto your "Footsteps of Jesus: A Lenten Journey" map, using tape or glue, to bring him closer to the empty tomb that we celebrate at Easter.



### THURSDAY, MARCH 11

1. READ together: Luke 13:10-17
2. PRAY together: Dear God, the leaders made rules against healing people on the Sabbath, but Jesus believed in caring for others no matter what day of the week it was. Help us to be more like Jesus, willing to reach out and help people at all times. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.
3. WALK together in Jesus' footsteps: Talk with the people in your family about what you can do this week that shows someone compassion. This week, how can we love someone in the name of Jesus?
4. ADD Jesus' footsteps onto your "Footsteps of Jesus: A Lenten Journey" map, using tape or glue, to bring him closer to the empty tomb that we celebrate at Easter.



### FRIDAY, MARCH 12

1. READ together: Luke 13:31-35
2. PRAY together: Dear God, thank You for this picture of Jesus holding his people close, like a hen gathering her chicks under her wings. We want to feel Your loving, protecting arms around us. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.
3. WALK together in Jesus' footsteps: Jesus wants to keep helping and healing people even when many leaders are trying to stop him. Don't let anyone stop you from showing the love of God to others.
4. ADD Jesus' footsteps onto your "Footsteps of Jesus: A Lenten Journey" map, using tape or glue, to bring him closer to the empty tomb that we celebrate at Easter.



### SATURDAY, MARCH 13

Review the week • Talk about the journey • Talk about the highlights • What does this teach us about Jesus? • Pray together

# Footsteps of Jesus: A Lenten Journey



PERSONAL ENCOUNTERS EN ROUTE • MARCH 14-20, 2021



## SUNDAY, MARCH 14

**INTRODUCTION:** As we travel on, we see various people seeking Jesus: parents & children, a sinful woman, a Samaritan, a wealthy man, a tax collector, and a blind man. Most of these individuals acknowledged their need and believed Jesus could do the impossible, despite what others around them thought. One man seemed to have it all, but his personal resources blinded him from his own need. As you travel, look at Jesus, helper of the helpless. See how his responses differ from the others around them.

**READ together:** Mark 10:13-16

**SHARE together:** The parents wanted Jesus to place his hands on their children, in other words, to bless them. What do you think that meant?

Read verse 13 again, and hit “pause.” If you were one of the parents, how would you feel at this point?

Jesus says the children must come to him because the kingdom of God belongs to people who are just like little children. If we won’t become like little children, we cannot receive the kingdom of God. How does this requirement make you, as children, feel? How about you as grown-ups?

**WORK together:** Find or draw a picture of a newborn. Put these words on the paper: “You must accept the kingdom of God as if you were a little child.” When you see the sign, you can remember that we can depend on Jesus the way a newborn depends on parents or caregivers.

**PRAY together:** Father, we thank You that just as newborn children cannot meet their own needs, help us recognize that we cannot meet our own spiritual needs. We praise You that we can receive Your kingdom by putting aside everything we think makes us “good enough” and joyfully receive what Your Son Jesus has done for us. It is in Your Son’s name we pray, Amen.

**ADD Jesus’ footsteps** onto your “Footsteps of Jesus: A Lenten Journey” map, using tape or glue, to bring Him closer to the empty tomb that we celebrate at Easter.



## MONDAY, MARCH 15

1. **READ together:** Luke 7:36-50

2. **PRAY together:** Dear God, we thank You that Jesus welcomed this woman to come to him and worship him, even though she was sinful. We thank You that no matter what we have done, You want us to come to You, just as we are. In Jesus’ name we pray, Amen.

3. **WALK together in Jesus’ footsteps:** How can you worship Jesus today? Here are some ideas: You can say a prayer to him. You can sing him a song. You can spend time sitting quietly, listening for him. You can make a list of things you are thankful for, and thank God for each thing. You can be nice to someone who needs a friend. In all of these ways, you worship Jesus!

4. **ADD Jesus’ footsteps** onto your “Footsteps of Jesus: A Lenten Journey” map, using tape or glue, to bring him closer to the empty tomb that we celebrate at Easter.



## TUESDAY, MARCH 16

1. **READ together:** Luke 17:11-19

2. **PRAY together:** Dear God, forgive us for telling You everything we want and need without saying “thank you” for who You are and all You have already done for us. Teach us to have thankful hearts. Thank you. In Jesus’ name we pray, Amen.

3. **WALK together in Jesus’ footsteps:** Don’t forget to say “thank you” when people do nice things for you or help you out! Just as Jesus would have enjoyed hearing “thank you” from more than just one of the ten lepers he healed, the people in your life who work hard for you—your parents and your teachers, for example—deserve a “thank you” for what they do.

4. **ADD Jesus’ footsteps** onto your “Footsteps of Jesus: A Lenten Journey” map, using tape or glue, to bring him closer to the empty tomb that we celebrate at Easter.



# Footsteps of Jesus: A Lenten Journey



## PERSONAL ENCOUNTERS EN ROUTE • MARCH 14-20, 2021



### WEDNESDAY, MARCH 17

1. READ together: Luke 18:18-27
2. PRAY together: Dear God, this rich ruler was willing to follow the rules, but he could not let go of his money in order to follow Jesus. Please help us to let go of everything that keeps us from holding onto You. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.
3. WALK together in Jesus' footsteps: What can you do to remember that your relationship with Jesus is the most important thing? Here are some ideas: Say a prayer at the beginning of the day, asking God to help you do the things He wants you to do today. Write a Bible verse on a piece of paper and tape it to the mirror, where you can see it and read it throughout the day. Look at how you spend your free time during the day and decide to spend some of that time with Jesus, praying, reading the Bible, or sitting in silence with God.
4. ADD Jesus' footsteps onto your "Footsteps of Jesus: A Lenten Journey" map, using tape or glue, to bring him closer to the empty tomb that we celebrate at Easter.



### THURSDAY, MARCH 18

1. READ together: Luke 19:1-10
2. PRAY together: Dear God, even though Zacchaeus was a sinner who cheated people out of their money, You still loved him and wanted to eat dinner with him. Thank You for loving us and giving us a chance to follow You. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.
3. WALK together in Jesus' footsteps: Zacchaeus is too short to see over the crowds of people, so he races up a tree to be able to see Jesus. Think about what keeps you from seeing Jesus: maybe you forget to spend time with him in prayer each day, or you don't pay attention to Bible stories, or you put your own wants and needs ahead of what other people want and need. What is one change you can make today that might help you move closer to Jesus?
4. ADD Jesus' footsteps onto your "Footsteps of Jesus: A Lenten Journey" map, using tape or glue, to bring him closer to the empty tomb that we celebrate at Easter.



### FRIDAY, MARCH 19

1. READ together: Mark 10:46-52
2. PRAY together: Dear God, Jesus heard Bartimaeus calling out to him for help, and he stopped and healed him. We thank You that You hear us when we cry out to You for help. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.
3. WALK together in Jesus' footsteps: When someone in your life calls out to you for help, take the time to stop and ask what they need, and then offer them the help that you are able to give.
4. ADD Jesus' footsteps onto your "Footsteps of Jesus: A Lenten Journey" map, using tape or glue, to bring him closer to the empty tomb that we celebrate at Easter.



### SATURDAY, MARCH 20

Review the week • Talk about the journey • Talk about the highlights • What does this teach us about Jesus? • Pray together

# Footsteps of Jesus: A Lenten Journey



JESUS' WORDS ON THE WAY • MARCH 21-27, 2021



## SUNDAY, MARCH 21

**INTRODUCTION:** So far our journey has highlighted Jesus' ministry in action: healing diseases, driving out demons; and controlling nature. This week we will experience samples from Jesus' teaching ministry. We end our week with Jesus telling his disciples about his upcoming arrest, trial, death and resurrection. His prediction leaves Jesus' followers confused. But thanks be to God, after Jesus rose from the dead and sent his Holy Spirit, these events not only made sense, but they became the core of the gospel that would change the world.

**READ together:** Matthew 13:31-35

**SHARE together:** Jesus told these two parables specifically to show us what the kingdom of heaven is like. He uses mustard seeds and yeast. How are the two things the same? What do they do? What do they affect?

How might we apply this phenomenon to the kingdom of heaven? In what ways might this have encouraged disciples in Jesus' time and for all time?

**WORK together:** Have each person go around the house and look for the smallest thing they can find. Talk about some extremely tiny things we know about today (i.e., bacteria, DNA, and atoms). How do these tiny things affect larger things around them? The 2020-2021 COVID pandemic actually is a powerful example of these processes!

**PRAY together:** Father, we thank You for the promise revealed in these short parables. Your kingdom started with just a few, but it has spread all over the world. Sometimes we look at ourselves as one infinitely small part of history or the world, and we doubt that our lives can make a difference. Help us to trust the power of Your gospel to do its work in our lives, and may we never fail to plant the seeds of Your word. In the name of King Jesus we pray, Amen.

**ADD** Jesus' footsteps onto your "Footsteps of Jesus: A Lenten Journey" map, using tape or glue, to bring Him closer to the empty tomb that we celebrate at Easter.



## MONDAY, MARCH 22

1. **READ together:** Matthew 13:44-46

2. **PRAY together:** Dear God, help us to understand what Jesus means when he talks about the kingdom of heaven. Help us to realize that trusting and obeying You blesses us in a way that is even bigger and better than any treasure we can imagine. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

3. **WALK together in Jesus' footsteps:** Think of something you wish that you owned more than anything else in the world, something you would love to have and would value above all your other belongings. Now think about the fact that Jesus tells us that living in the kingdom of heaven—where we trust and obey God—is **EVEN BETTER** than the treasure you just imagined!

4. **ADD** Jesus' footsteps onto your "Footsteps of Jesus: A Lenten Journey" map, using tape or glue, to bring him closer to the empty tomb that we celebrate at Easter.



## TUESDAY, MARCH 23

1. **READ together:** Luke 14:16-24

2. **PRAY together:** Dear God, just like the man in the story is inviting lots of people to come to a big party, You are also inviting all of us to live our lives with You. We say "yes" to Your invitation! In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

3. **WALK together in Jesus' footsteps:** Imagine that you get an invitation to a party where Jesus will be one of the guests. Who would you like to bring to the party with you? Who would you most like to introduce to Jesus? You have a chance every day to tell the people you know about Jesus!

4. **ADD** Jesus' footsteps onto your "Footsteps of Jesus: A Lenten Journey" map, using tape or glue, to bring him closer to the empty tomb that we celebrate at Easter.

# Footsteps of Jesus: A Lenten Journey



## JESUS' WORDS ON THE WAY • MARCH 21-27, 2021



### WEDNESDAY, MARCH 24

1. READ together: Luke 15:3-7
2. PRAY together: Dear God, we know how good we feel when we find something that we had lost. That helps us to understand how You feel when someone who did not at first believe in You comes to You for forgiveness and life. Thank You for loving every single one of us. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.
3. WALK together in Jesus' footsteps: Think about something you lost, and how sad you felt when you could not find it. Now, if you finally found this lost object, think how happy you felt to have it again! God feels sad when we lose our way and forget to trust him with our lives, and God feels SO happy when He brings us back to safety in His care.
4. ADD Jesus' footsteps onto your "Footsteps of Jesus: A Lenten Journey" map, using tape or glue, to bring him closer to the empty tomb that we celebrate at Easter.



### THURSDAY, MARCH 25

1. READ together: Luke 18:9-14
2. PRAY together: Dear God, help us to be more like the tax collector in this story, who knew how much he needed Your mercy, and less like the Pharisee, who spent his time praising himself for the good things he had done. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.
3. WALK together in Jesus' footsteps: Say this prayer, along with the tax collector in Jesus' story: "God, have mercy on me, a sinner." You are asking God to forgive you instead of punishing you for the things you have done wrong. And you know what? He'll do it!
4. ADD Jesus' footsteps onto your "Footsteps of Jesus: A Lenten Journey" map, using tape or glue, to bring him closer to the empty tomb that we celebrate at Easter.



### FRIDAY, MARCH 26

1. READ together: Luke 18:31-34
2. PRAY together: Dear God, Jesus knew that he would face some scary experiences when he got to the city of Jerusalem. But he also knew that he would overcome them! We thank You that we don't have to face anything scary alone, because Jesus knows what it is like, and he is with us through everything. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.
3. WALK together in Jesus' footsteps: What are some things that you are afraid of? Jesus faced scary things in his life, even death, but he knew that he would rise again. And the Bible tells us that when we believe in Jesus as our Savior and Lord, we also will be raised with him to new life. (You can read that in Romans 6:4.) Knowing what the future brings can help us face our fears in the present!
4. ADD Jesus' footsteps onto your "Footsteps of Jesus: A Lenten Journey" map, using tape or glue, to bring him closer to the empty tomb that we celebrate at Easter.



### SATURDAY, MARCH 27

Review the week • Talk about the journey • Talk about the highlights • What does this teach us about Jesus? • Pray together



# Footsteps of Jesus: A Lenten Journey



DEEPEST VALLEY, HIGHEST MOUNTAIN • MARCH 28-APRIL 4, 2021



## SUNDAY, MARCH 28

**INTRODUCTION:** Having predicted his arrest, beating, death, and resurrection at least 3 times, Jesus has arrived in Jerusalem to fulfill what he predicted. Many of us go from celebrating the triumph of Jesus entering the city on a donkey (Palm Sunday) to the victory of the resurrection (Easter Sunday) with barely any thought of what happened in between. Let's walk with Jesus through the events that brought and bought our salvation.

**READ together:** Mark 11:1-11

**SHARE together:** Have you ever been at an event where the whole crowd starts chanting something over and over, as loud as they can? What words have you heard chanted? What was the purpose of the words?

Every person welcoming Jesus to Jerusalem was filled with celebration and hope. Jesus is worthy of all of this and more, but his way to eternal glory would first lead Him into the valley of death - death that we deserved, but he carried for us on the cross—taking away the sins of the whole world.

**WORK together:** Imagine you were in the crowd. Try repeatedly shouting the words found in verses 9-10. How does it make you feel to shout these powerful words that were used to welcome Jesus, the King?

**PRAY together:** Jesus, we praise You for never wavering from Your journey to the cross. You received the praises of the crowds on Sunday and their curses on Friday. You lived a perfectly righteous life, obeying Your Father in all things. We are so thankful that You took on our sins and so died in our place. And we are thankful for the gift of Your righteousness, which allows us to enter into eternal life. Amen.

**ADD** Jesus' footsteps onto your "Footsteps of Jesus: A Lenten Journey" map, using tape or glue, to bring Him closer to the empty tomb that we celebrate at Easter.



## MONDAY, MARCH 29

1. **READ together:** Mark 11:15-18
2. **PRAY together:** Dear God, Jesus became angry when the temple was turned into a place for buying and selling animals instead of a place for prayer and worship. Teach us to talk with You and worship You with love and respect. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.
3. **WALK together in Jesus' footsteps:** When we visit our friends' homes, we don't walk in with muddy feet, speaking rudely to their parents, and breaking their belongings. Instead, we treat their home and their family with respect. In the same way, we should treat God's house, the church, with respect. We can think about and spend time with God, listen carefully when someone is talking, and participate in prayers and songs.
4. **ADD** Jesus' footsteps onto your "Footsteps of Jesus: A Lenten Journey" map, using tape or glue, to bring him closer to the empty tomb that we celebrate at Easter.



## TUESDAY, MARCH 30

1. **READ together:** Mark 14:16-26
2. **PRAY together:** Dear God, Jesus' prayers at his last supper remind us to give You thanks for our food each time we eat, and to give thanks for the even greater gift of life with You through Jesus. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.
3. **WALK together in Jesus' footsteps:** During his last special meal with his disciples, Jesus compares his body to the bread they are eating. To learn more about why Jesus calls himself "the bread of life," read John 6:28-40, 47-51.
4. **ADD** Jesus' footsteps onto your "Footsteps of Jesus: A Lenten Journey" map, using tape or glue, to bring him closer to the empty tomb that we celebrate at Easter.

# Footsteps of Jesus: A Lenten Journey



DEEPEST VALLEY, HIGHEST MOUNTAIN • MARCH 28-APRIL 4, 2021



## WEDNESDAY, MARCH 31

1. READ together: Mark 14:32-36, 43-46
2. PRAY together: Dear God, help us to learn to pray from Jesus. We know that everything is possible for You and that You have the power to take away our troubles. We also know that You have a perfect plan for our lives, so we pray that Your will be done. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.
3. WALK together in Jesus' footsteps: Even Jesus felt troubled sometimes and prayed to God for help when he was overwhelmed. But no matter what Jesus might have wanted, he prayed, "God, Your will be done." When you pray, you can ask God for things to go the way you want them to, but remember also that He has a greater plan for you than you can imagine. So, be willing to say to God, "Your will be done."
4. ADD Jesus' footsteps onto your "Footsteps of Jesus: A Lenten Journey" map, using tape or glue, to bring him closer to the empty tomb that we celebrate at Easter.



## THURSDAY, APRIL 1

1. READ together: Luke 23:13-25
2. PRAY together: Dear God, it's only fair that we are punished for the things we do wrong, but Jesus got punished when he didn't do anything wrong. Jesus accepted punishment so that we could be forgiven for the things we do wrong. Thank you that Jesus was willing to suffer like this in order to save us. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.
3. WALK together in Jesus' footsteps: God has given us the most amazing gift of forgiveness through Jesus; all we have to do is accept it by believing the truth of what Jesus did for us when he took our punishment as his own. Who else can you tell about God's great gift? Think of someone you know who has not heard the good news that their sins have been forgiven and the price of their sins has already been paid. Then share the good news!
4. ADD Jesus' footsteps onto your "Footsteps of Jesus: A Lenten Journey" map, using tape or glue, to bring him closer to the empty tomb that we celebrate at Easter.



## FRIDAY, APRIL 2

1. READ together: Mark 15:21-39
2. PRAY together: Dear God, today we read the terrible story of Jesus' death. One of the Roman soldiers who saw him die said, "This man was surely the Son of God." As we learn more about Jesus' life and death, we pray that we too will be absolutely certain that Jesus is Your Son. Through his death our sins are forgiven, and through his return to life, we too can enjoy life forever with You. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.
3. WALK together in Jesus' footsteps: You have walked a long journey with Jesus during this Lenten season, from John the Baptist preparing the way for Jesus' teaching and healing, all the way to Jesus' death on the cross. Work with the members of your family to retell as much of the story of Jesus' life as you can remember. At Easter, you will get to hear about the surprise ending of the story!
4. ADD Jesus' footsteps onto your "Footsteps of Jesus: A Lenten Journey" map, using tape or glue, to bring him closer to the empty tomb that we celebrate at Easter.



## SATURDAY, APRIL 3

Review the week • Talk about the journey • Talk about the highlights • What does this teach us about Jesus? • Pray together

# Footsteps of Jesus: A Lenten Journey



RESURRECTION SUNDAY • APRIL 4, 2021



## SUNDAY, APRIL 4

There would be no eternal life for us if Jesus had not been raised! The promised king has defeated enemies much more deadly than any human empire: the enemies of sin, death, and the world. Alleluia!

READ together: Luke 24:1-12

SHARE together: How specifically did (1) the women, (2) the Eleven, and (3) Peter respond to the news that “he is risen”?

Did these responses surprise you in any way?

WORK together: Review the evidence for the resurrection in this passage. Have each person tell the story in their own words knowing that what happened to Jesus is real, true, and trustworthy.

PRAY together: Father, we praise You for raising Jesus from the dead. As we receive all the blessings from Jesus’ victory over death, may we find joy in sharing this news with others, just as those first disciples did! For the glory of our risen Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.

ADD: Tape or glue the last set of footprints on the map and think about the journey that Jesus took to bring us eternal life!



# Footsteps of Jesus: A Lenten Journey



# FootSteps of JeSuS: A Lenten Journey



Cut out the footprints and tape or glue them on the numbers on the map.

