

“Impressed!”

A Personal or Small Group Experience

As we go through this Holy Week I encourage you to participate in the corporate worship of our church as much as possible. If you still meet as a group or if you do this study on your own I encourage you in the art of being “IMPRESSED”! We are very vulnerable in this area. It seems that it is harder and harder to be impressed these days— or to impress others. Perhaps technology has moved us to the point that we are so inundated with communication at all levels that we find that there is nothing new or impressive about anything anymore. I am kind of a movie buff and I find that when I stop by Redbox there is often nothing there that “impresses” me— that I haven’t seen before.

Maybe this is telling! Maybe we have confused being impressed with being entertained. We are definitely hooked on being entertained. The story of Jesus' passion death and resurrection is impressive—maybe! Perhaps we have to work at it a little—not treat it like a movie as much as treat it like a family story of a hero in our family history who made an amazing unbelievable feat of rescue that we still benefit dramatically from today! Those kinds of personalized “war stories “ are very powerful and never get boring.

As you contemplate the passion of Jesus this week— personally or in a group - let yourself be impressed with Jesus! Even if you know the story or have heard it before, ask God to help you “be humbled” by who (Jesus) you encounter in this story. I have included several of my favorite texts from passion week. Ask God to help you be impressed with the love, strength, courage and intentionality of Jesus.

John 13:1-38

Mark 14:32-51

John 18:28-40

Mark 15:21-41

“Who Does He Think HE Is?”

“Connecting With God” Weekly Guide

This booklet is a resource to help you “Connect with God” this week. He deeply desires ongoing personal connection with you. You are that important to Him.

This Page has some scripture verses for you to meditate on each day this week. Notice the helpful hints section – these are great things to consider when personally engaging with God through His Word.

The Center Pages contain the notes and outline for the message given on Sunday. The message is also available as an audio download from www.pointofgracechurch.org

The Back Page has a study written specifically for a small group of people (or an individual) to drill down deeper into a particular aspect of the week’s theme. Small groups can review memorable points of the week’s message and then work through the study concluding with a time of prayer.

Scripture & Meditation Guide - April 18-23

Helpful Hints:

- 1) Find a quiet place along with 15-20 minutes!
- 2) Focus on God for a few moments asking His Spirit to speak to your heart!
- 3) Listen to Him by reading a section of scripture then rereading it several times, dwelling on “words and phrases” which grab your heart’s attention. Ask God, “What do You want me to hear?” “Why this word at this time?” “How are You inviting me to respond?”
- 4) Pray everything that is on your heart and mind as you are ready!
Worship Him, Bless Him, Thank Him, Ask Him, Trust Him

Monday: John 12:20-36

Tuesday: John 13:1-17

Wednesday: John 14:1-14

Thursday: John 15:1-17

Friday: John 18

Saturday: John 19