

Sunday, April 13, 2014

Read Psalm 47

Reflect Take time to slowly read this psalm and meditate on these words and phrases in the context of the psalm: clap your hands; all you nations; shout God; cries of joy; awesome; Most High; ascended; King; King of all the earth; sing praises; God reigns; kings of the earth belong to God. How do these words and phrases shape our understanding of God and our worship?

Pray Use this psalm as a template for speaking your own prayer to God. Praise God. Express joy to God. Exalt God.

Act Gather with your church family at Lafayette to praise the One who hears your cries of joy. Most Sundays there are people in our gathering who are full of joy. Look for them. Celebrate their joy with them.

Monday, April 14, 2014

Read Matthew 21:1-11; Mark 11:1-10; Luke 19:28-44; and John 12:12-19

Reflect Put yourself into the story of the triumphal entry. What did the scene look like? With whom do you most identify with in the story? What would you do/ how would you feel?

Pray Praise God for God's love, mercy, and grace. Praise God as the King of kings and Lord of lords.

Act Be aware of your thoughts and actions today. What is consistent with living in God's kingdom? What is inconsistent?

Tuesday, April 15, 2014

Read Matthew 21:12-17; Mark 11:15-18; Luke 19:45-48

Reflect Why do you think Jesus reacted so strongly to what was happening at the temple? Have you ever used church to take advantage of others or to advance yourself? What is it about your behavior and church life that Jesus might want to cleanse?

Pray Praise God for the pure motives and actions of Jesus. Confess times when you have taken advantage of others and used people for your personal gain.

Act Do something today that intentionally puts others before yourself. When you find yourself trying to put others down to advance yourself, stop your actions and reverse course.

Wednesday, April 16, 2014

Read Matthew 22:34-40; Mark 12:28-34

Reflect Does it surprise you that Jesus would even answer this question? Jesus makes it clear that some things are more important than others. Is that difficult for you to grasp? Have you (unlike Jesus) ever considered everything equally important? If you were to list the most important things to God and church, would love be on the list? What can churches do to make it evident that love is the top priority?

Pray Ask God to examine your heart. Ask God to search out what is loving and what is not loving. Ask God to cleanse your heart of anything that is not rooted in love.

Act Reflect for a moment on whether the first or second commandment is the most difficult for you to practice? Express your love for God today. Express your love for people.

Thursday, April 17, 2014

Read Matthew 26:17-30; Mark 14:12-26; Luke 22:7-23; and John 13:1-35

Reflect What does the simplicity of this meal reveals about our God? What does "the body of Christ" mean to you when you eat the sacred meal? What does "the blood of Christ" mean to you as you eat the sacred meal?

Pray Thank God for Jesus.

Act The meal is designed to remember Jesus. Write one sentence that summarizes one of your favorite Jesus-memories.

Friday, April 18, 2014

Read Matthew 26-27; Mark 14-15; Luke 22-23; and John 18-19

Reflect What part of the crucifixion story struck a chord in your heart as you read? Had you been there, what would have been the most difficult part of the story to watch?

Pray Praise God for God's love. Thank God for God's love. Confess times when you have wandered from the love of God. Pledge your love to God and people.

Act Take time to list all the good deeds you have done this week. Then tear up the list as you recognize that what you do is worthless compared to what Jesus has done for you on the cross.

Saturday, April 19, 2014

Read Matthew 28:1-10; Mark 16:1-11; Luke 24:1-12; and John 20:1-18

Reflect Imagine what it would have been like for the disciples of Jesus on the Saturday after his crucifixion and before resurrection Sunday. How do you think they would have felt? Take time to ponder how the glory of the resurrection was magnified by the misery experienced that Saturday.

Pray Ask God to prepare your heart for the worship gathering, that you might go to the gathering to give to God and others, without the expectation of personal benefit.

Act In our church family there are people each week who gather for worship while experiencing despair and suffering or renewal and rebirth. Be prepared to encounter the resurrected Jesus tomorrow in our worship gathering.



Lafayette Church
of **Christ**

*Spiritual exercises to encourage our relationship
with God and others by*

Finding Our Rhythm

Part 6



April 13-19, 2014