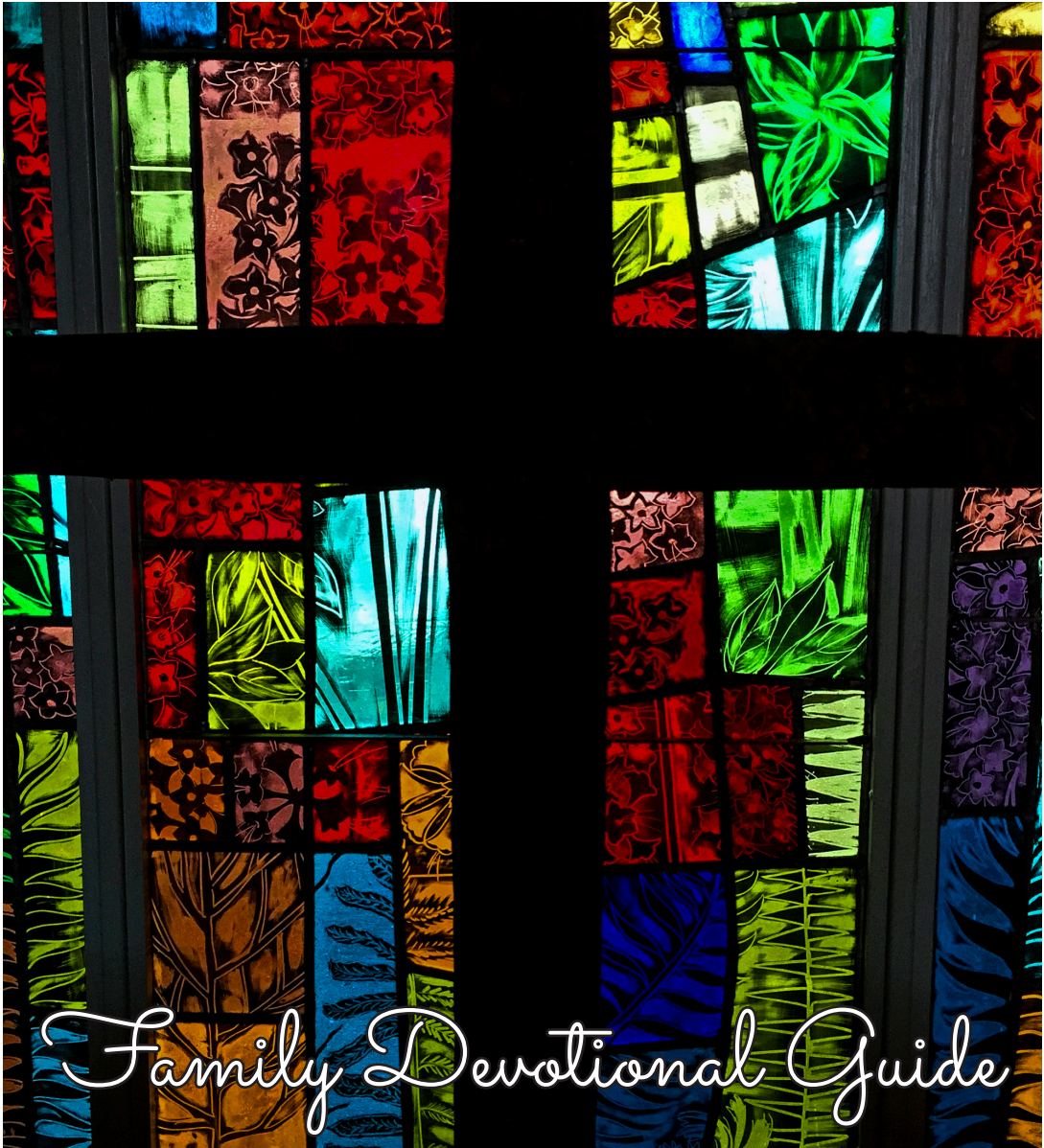


# JOURNEY TO THE CROSS



*Family Devotional Guide*

# FATHER GOD,

*Thank you for solving the problem of our sin so we could once more walk with you. I need a savior. My service of Jesus demands and deserves my all which is not too much for you, Lord, to expect from those for whom you have done so much. Let not my service be performed as a matter of routine; there must be vigor, power, freshness, eagerness, and warmth about it. Take full possession of me during these ten days, and help me to hear from you more clearly than ever before. Thank you for loving me and being patient with me as I grow up spiritually. By your precious blood I am redeemed.*

*In the Beautiful Name of Jesus,*

# AMEN

# A NOTE FROM THE PASTOR

At times even the best laid plans must change, and this year's Journey to the Cross with its wonderfully made plans must change. The Journey to the Cross experience will happen sometime later this year.

As for this prayer guide, let it be your preparation for an Easter unlike any of us have experienced. Let it prepare your hearts to meet the resurrected Jesus afresh. Let it reignite the excitement you had the first time you invited Jesus into your life, and he brought salvation to you. Let it be the beginning of a renewed journey with God who wants to be in every part of your life.

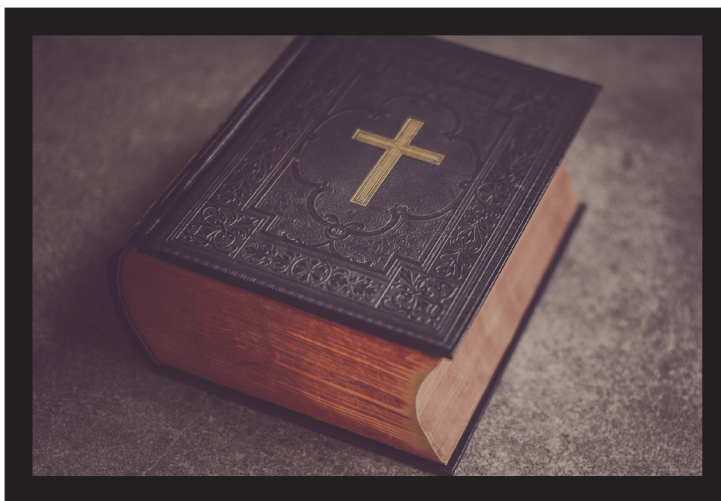
Begin the Day 1 devotion on April 3. Then proceed through each day's devotion until Day 10 which will be Resurrection morning on April 12. Someone said to me that they thought Easter this year would be crazy. I agreed and reminded them that the first Easter was crazy, too. Someone who had been executed by crucifixion came back alive!

May this guide bless you during this special season.

In Christ,

*Dana Moore*

Pastor,  
Second Baptist  
Church



# DAY 1

by John Hyde

***Many people spread their cloaks on the road, while others spread branches they had cut in the fields. Those who went ahead and those who followed shouted,***

***“Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!”***

***“Blessed is the coming kingdom of our father David!”  
“Hosanna in the highest heaven!”***

***-Mark 11:8-10***

Jesus did not come to Jerusalem as a conquering general but as a suffering, though triumphant, servant. We enjoy this story because it feels so right. Most of his audience rejected any kind of personal commitment to Jesus. But it was all different on this day. On this day they lavished attention and generous praise on Jesus with feathery fronds from palm trees. Jesus deserves to be praised, and we must praise him. On this day the palm branch became forever afterward a symbol of victory. This great outpouring of Jerusalem to welcome Jesus was a huge spontaneous celebration. The king had arrived!

What kind of king were the people expecting?

What do you think the people thought Jesus would do?

How about you? Are you shouting “Hosanna!” (Oh, save me) with the people?

How much are you in love with Jesus? How sweetly do you talk about him?  
What do you do for him?

O Lord Jesus, I throw my arms around you, my Savior! Give me courage today to tell someone how much I love you, Jesus. All that I have is yours. Make a great change in me today, the like of which I never knew before- one which only you could work! For you shed your precious blood to save me! Hosanna!



# DAY 1

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*art by Maile Vasquez*

# DAY 2

by Bob James

***On the first day of the Festival of Unleavened Bread, the disciples came to Jesus and asked, “Where do you want us to make preparations for you to eat the Passover?”***

***He replied, “Go into the city to a certain man and tell him, ‘The Teacher says: My appointed time is near. I am going to celebrate the Passover with my disciples at your house.’”***

***So the disciples did as Jesus had directed them and prepared the Passover...***

***While they were eating, Jesus took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, “Take and eat; this is my body.”***

***Then he took a cup, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, “Drink from it, all of you. This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins.”***

***-Matthew 26:17-19, 26-28***

We ask ourselves a question much like the disciples asked: “What do we do to prepare ourselves for this observance?” We do what we can to prepare ourselves, but, still unworthy, we eat the bread and drink the cup. Only then do we realize that Jesus made us worthy on the cross and prepared us for his kingdom.

How can you prepare yourself to receive Jesus?

What did Jesus mean when he said the bread was his body and the cup is his blood?

# DAY 2



art by JoAnne Rowley

# DAY 3

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by Molly Gowan

***So Jesus got up from the meal, took off his outer clothing,  
and wrapped a towel around his waist.***

***After that, he poured water into a basin and began to wash  
his disciples' feet, drying them with the towel that was  
wrapped around him.***

***-John 13:4-5***

When Jesus took off his garments and set them aside, he was showing a sign of thankfulness to the disciples for staying with him and continuing to follow him unlike Judas who would betray Jesus. Then, Jesus poured water into the basin and started to wash and dry the disciples' dirty feet. Jesus washed the disciples' dirty feet just like he washed our sins away when he died on the cross.

Imagine you are one of the disciples. How would you feel or what would you think about Jesus washing your feet?

How has Jesus washed you clean?



# DAY 3

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art by Willow Tucker

# DAY 4

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by Tianqi Chen

***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.”***

***-Matthew 26:39***

In the Garden of Eden Adam said, “Let my will be done. I want to be like God.”

In the wilderness the Israelites said, “Let our will be done. Let us worship a golden calf as our god and return to Egypt.”

But we heard a different voice in the Garden of Gethsemane. Jesus, while facing humiliation and painful punishment, prayed, “...nevertheless, not as I will, but as you will.”

Dear brothers and sisters, what is your choice? Your will or God’s will?

Whose will was Jesus following?

# DAY 4



art by Thai Martin

# DAY 5

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by Jerry Silva

***So they bound Jesus, led him away and handed him over to Pilate the governor...***

***Then Pilate released Barabbas to them. But he had Jesus flogged, and handed him over to be crucified.***

***-Matthew 27:2 & 26***

After Jesus had been praying all night, he was arrested and his hands were bound by the soldiers. He was then delivered to Pontius Pilate. Jesus and Barabbas, a thief, were brought before Pontius Pilate. The chief priests and the multitude of people persuaded Pontius Pilate to release Barabbas and crucify Jesus. Pontius Pilate ordered his soldiers to whip Jesus with a lead tipped whip and to crucify him. In these two verses, we learn that Jesus going through this process was just the beginning of our deliverance.

Did Jesus do anything to deserve his punishment?

How does it strike you that the people wanted a known criminal released instead of Jesus?

What does it mean to you that Jesus was bound and suffered in your place?

Tie a piece of string around your wrist and leave it there for the rest of the day. Every time you see it, let it remind you that Jesus was bound so that you could be free.



# DAY 5

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*art by Daisy Yao*

# DAY 6

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by Jerry Barker

***They stripped him and put a scarlet robe on him, and then twisted together a crown of thorns and set it on his head. They put a staff in his right hand. Then they knelt in front of him and mocked him.***

***“Hail, king of the Jews!” they said.***

***-Matthew 27:28-29***

Jesus' tormentors meant it as humiliation. They saw his physical defeat as the defining moment wherein a treacherous pretender found no glory, no celebration, only regret.

Jesus knew better. He was indeed King, but not like any king they had ever seen. He was the One King whose personal sacrifice meant that time itself would forever be measured by his life, not his death.

When the thorns broke the tender skin of his scalp, they pierced the Lamb who placed himself on the final altar of sacrifice. He was the Lamb whose blood, unlike the blood of countless lambs before him, did not only temporarily cover the sins of his people but instead washed them away forever.

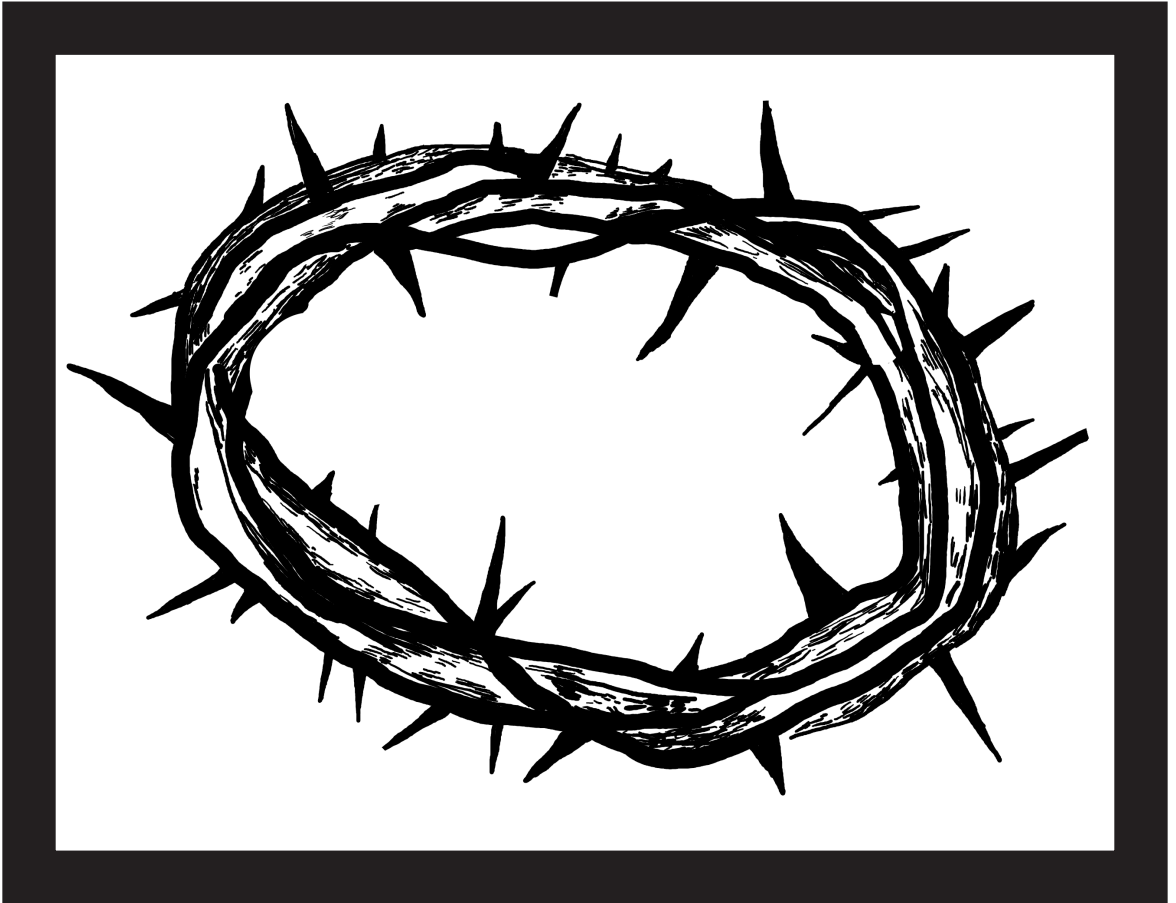
The crown they intended as a mark of shame stands forever as a symbol of his steadfast love for all of us, including the very ones who cut, formed and finally embedded the thorns into him.

Even in this, Jesus loved them.

Here Jesus is called a king again. How is Jesus a different kind of king?

# DAY 6

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*art by Daisy Yao*

# DAY 7

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by Christy Evans

***When they came to the place called the Skull, they crucified him there, along with the criminals- one on his right, the other on his left...Now there was a man named Joseph, a member of the Council, a good and upright man...***

***-Luke 23:33 & 50***

My sin. Your sin. It's a dark subject. As someone who grew up in the church it was hard to really understand the depth of my sin. Like Joseph of Arimathea, I considered myself to be a person of relatively good heart and character. Little did I know that my sin, the sin that Jesus died for, was as deep, dark, and rebellious as that of the worst criminal!

There is no good sin and bad sin. ALL sin was nailed to the cross and covered by the blood of Jesus!

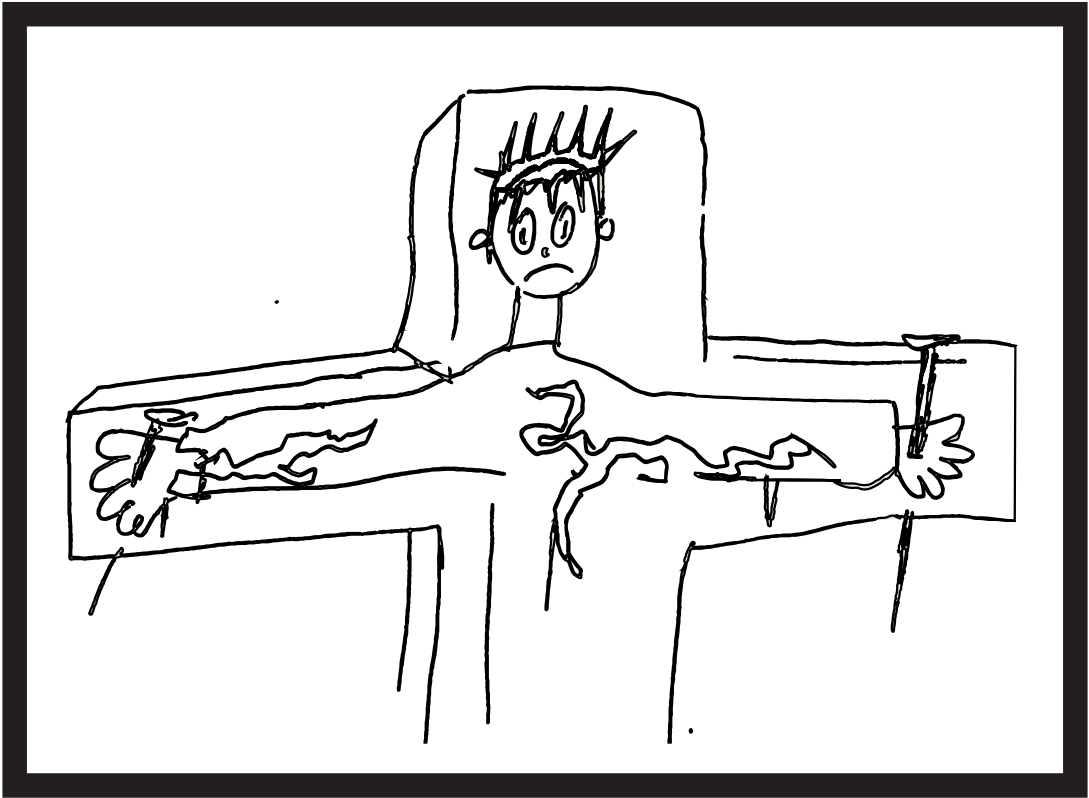
Take a moment and think over your life. In what ways are you as full of sin as the guilty criminal?

Why did Jesus have to die?

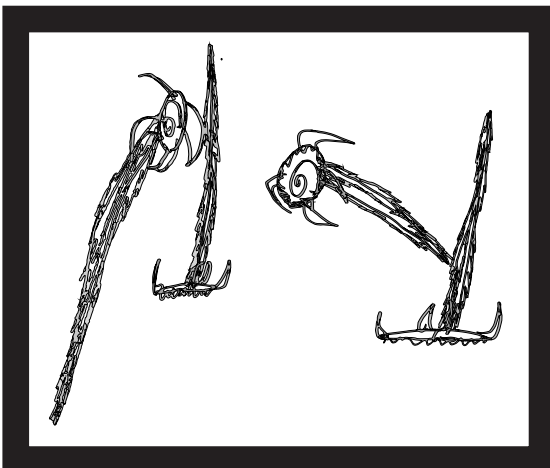
What does it mean to you that Jesus took on all of your sin, every wrong thing you have ever done and will ever do, on the cross?



# DAY 7



*art by Jude Beazley*



# DAY 8

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by Dr. Jay Farrar

***Joseph took Jesus' body, wrapped it in a clean linen cloth, and placed it in his own new tomb that he had cut out of the rock. He rolled a big stone in front of the entrance to the tomb and went away.***

***-Matthew 27:59-60***

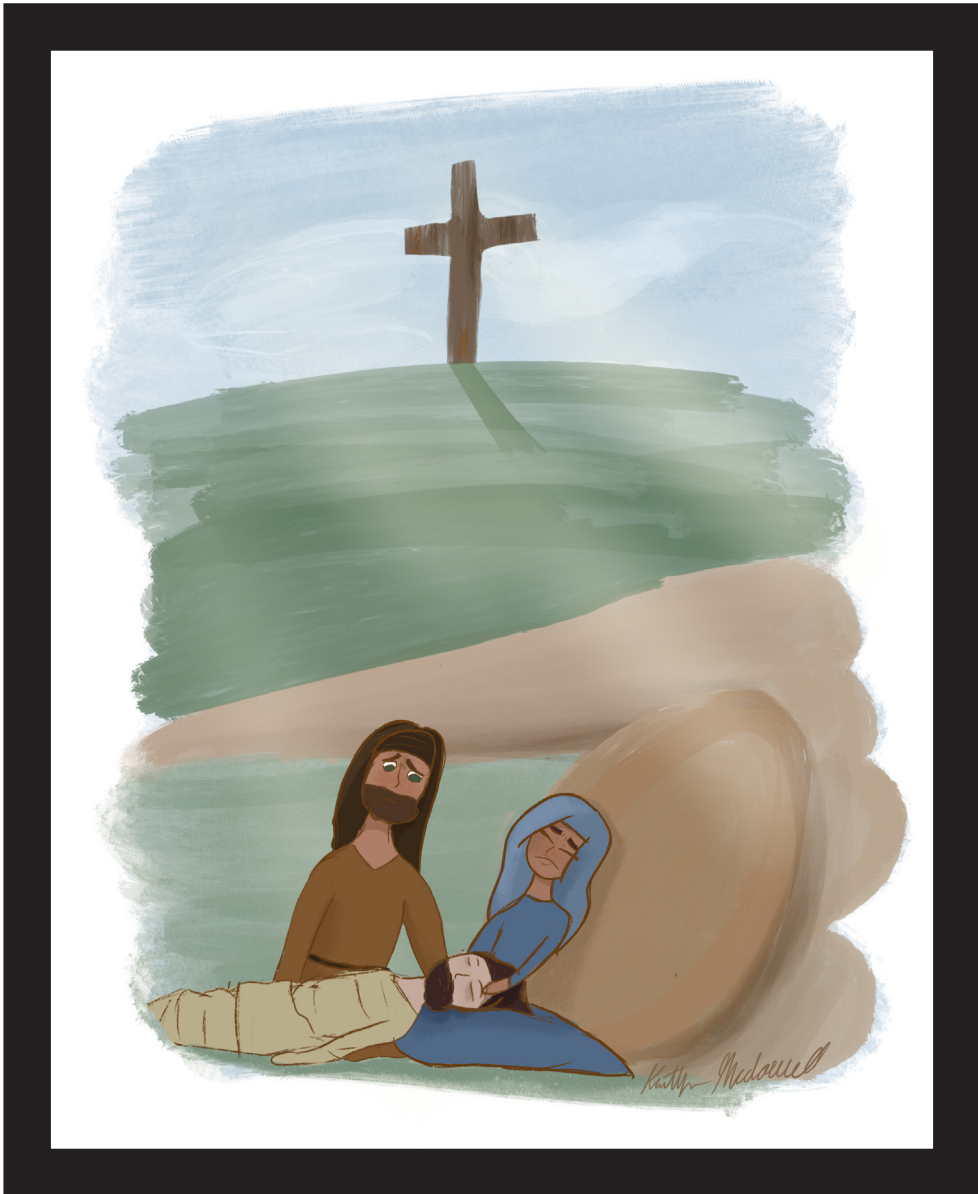
There are times in life when our duty or task is done. This is such a time for Jesus. As the four tenors sing: "Can't you hear the angels singing."

Jesus was obedient to do the duty assigned to him by the Father. Learn to work for, rest in, and rejoice in such a time for yourself.

What is the task to which God has called you?

Joseph's task here was to wrap Jesus' body in cloth and bury him. What do you think it felt like to bury Jesus?

# DAY 8



art by Kaitlyn McDowell

# DAY 9

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by Vince Deases

***So they went and made the tomb secure by putting a seal on the stone and posting the guard.***

***-Matthew 27:66***

Jesus died unjustly on a Roman cross. He actually died and was buried in a real tomb. The chief priests and religious leaders were afraid so they asked Pilate to guard the tomb. But why were they afraid? Jesus was dead! Pilate ordered Roman soldiers to guard his burial tomb anyway.

Why do you suppose they put guards in front of Jesus' tomb?

Of what were the priests and religious leaders afraid?

Just as the priests and religious leaders had the tomb sealed and guarded, so too we can seal and guard our hearts against God. Is there any part of your heart that you are keeping from him?



# DAY 9

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*art by Kathy Minderman*

# DAY 10

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by Lisa Villarreal

***He is not here; he has risen, just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay.***

***-Matthew 28:6***

As believers, Matthew 28:6 is an affirmation of our Christian faith. He is risen translates that he has defeated sin and death forever.

He has not just risen all those years ago, but remains risen NOW! It is a victory for all who choose to put their faith in Jesus Christ. Christ has promised us his power, peace, and purpose.

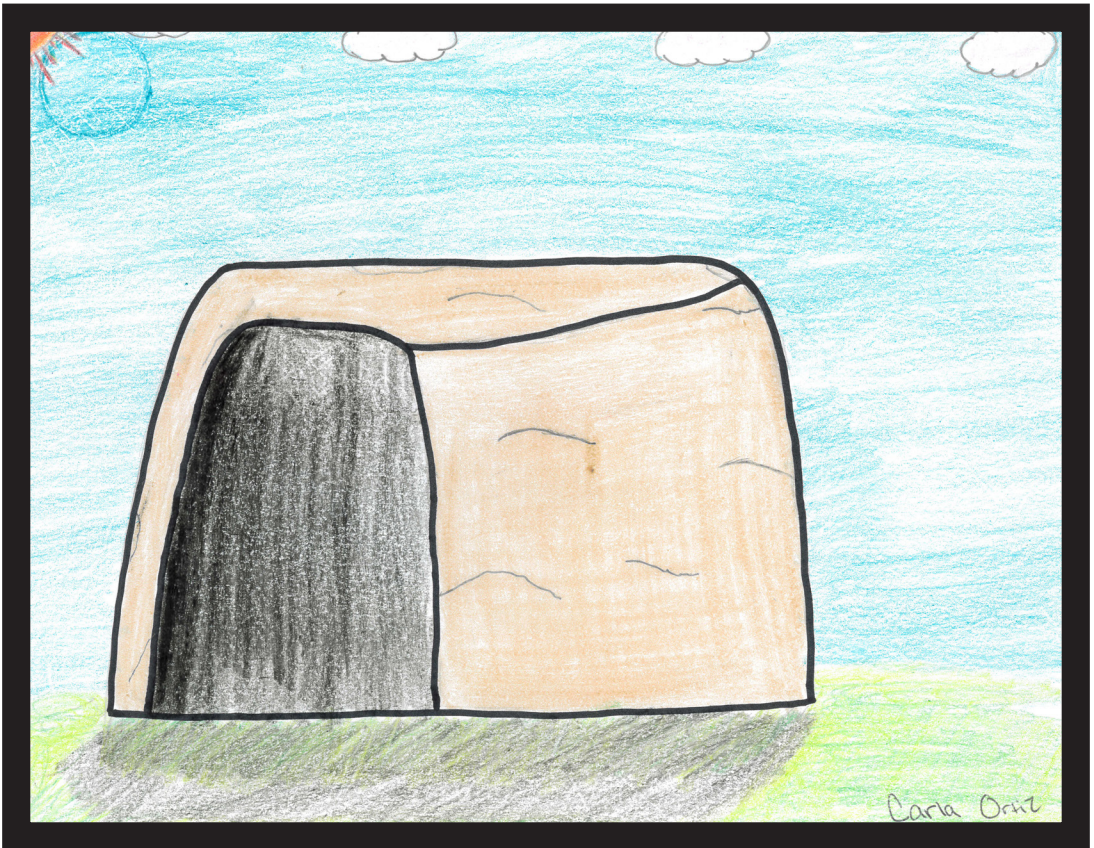
Why isn't Jesus in the tomb anymore?

Put yourself in the shoes of the women at the tomb. How would you have felt on that third day?

What does it mean to you that Jesus is risen from the dead?

# DAY 10

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art by Carla Ortiz

# SECOND BAPTIST CHURCH

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At Second Baptist we are a congregation on a journey, a journey toward Christ-likeness, and we make it our aim to develop disciples. We seek to be a community which is transformed by Jesus, engaged in our community, and compelled to pursue our neighbors with God's love.

## SUNDAYS:

8:30am- Early Encounter Worship Service

9:45am- Sunday School for all ages

11:00am- Next Encounter Worship Service

We have two identical worship services on Sundays with captivating music, meaningful prayer, and a powerful message from God's Word. We have childcare available for children up to the age of three, and we have Wee Worship, a unique opportunity for children up to 1st grade to go with the children's ministry team to a special area in our sanctuary to color or play quietly during the sermon while still being a part of the worship community.

## WEDNESDAYS:

5:15pm- Dinner

6:00pm- AWANA Club (2yr.-5th gr.)

The Gathering (6th-12th gr.)

6:30pm- Wednesday Night Update

(Adult Bible Study led by our pastor, Dana Moore)

6:30pm- Adult Choir Practice

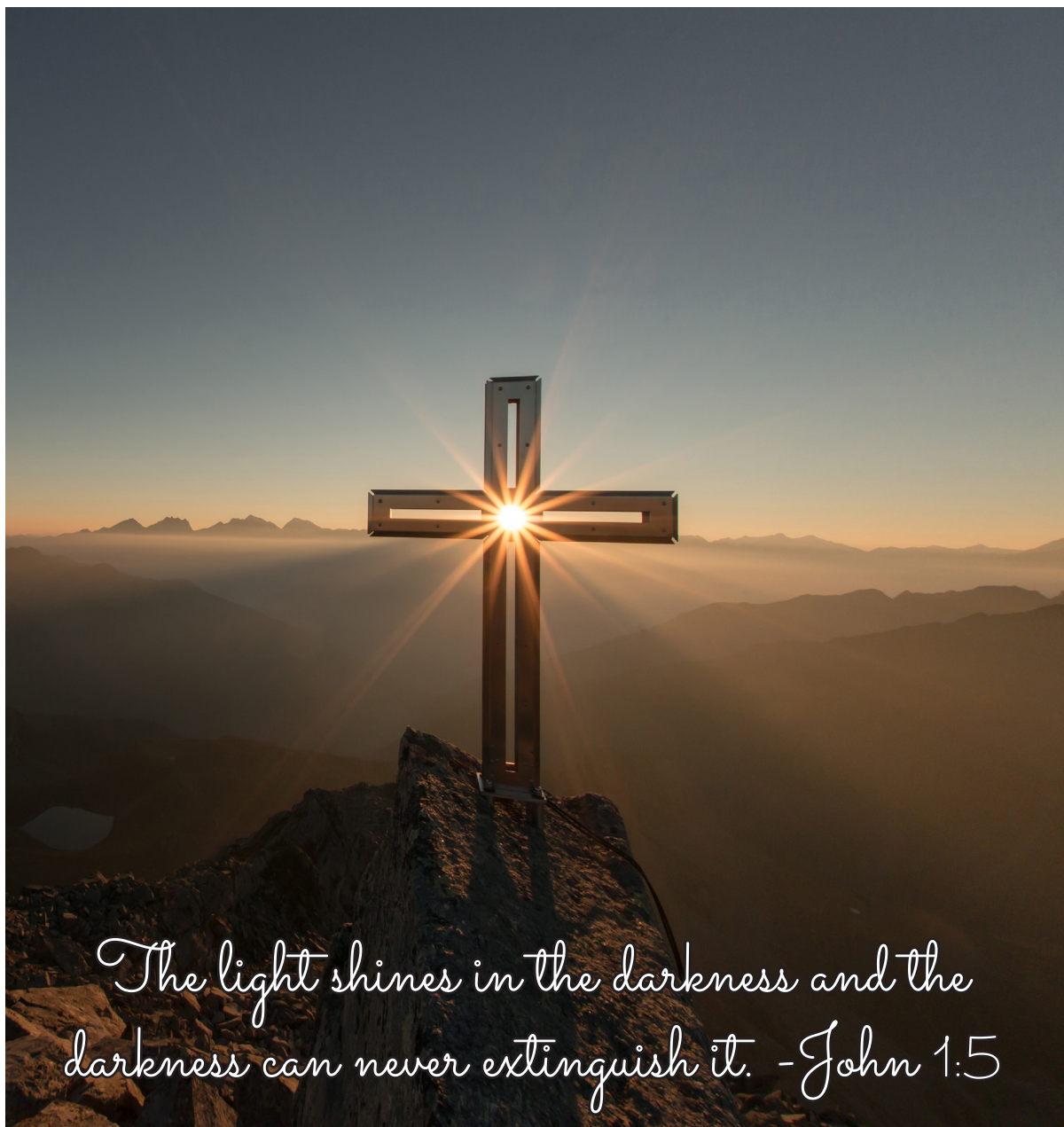
FOR MORE INFORMATION CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE: [WWW.2BC.ORG](http://WWW.2BC.ORG)

# NOTES

*Reflections on your Journey to the Cross*

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*The light shines in the darkness and the  
darkness can never extinguish it. - John 1:5*



*Developing Disciples*

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