

Saturday, 4/11/09 – Read Luke 23:50-56

My Observations: _____

A Question to Answer: After all the tension and conflict of Jesus' last week, the burial scene is a moment of terrible stillness. Can you sense the stillness, the emptiness? What do you imagine the women were feeling? What about the disciples who had gone into hiding; what might they have been feeling? ... Think for a moment about the role of the women in verse 55 -- they followed and they saw. They stood as witnesses of this terrible thing that had happened. Sometimes, when terrible things happen, all we can do is stand witness. And that is an important thing to do! When the horrible happens, it makes a difference that someone notices, that someone stands as witness. Is there something happening around you -- something that you cannot fix -- but something for which you can stand witness?

Sunday, 4/12/09, EASTER – Read Luke 24:1-12

My Observations: _____

A Question to Answer: Look at verses 11 and 12. The apostles of Jesus initially thought that the report of the women was “an idle tale.” Why do you think that was? Is it hard for us to accept resurrection -- that God could reach into death and pull forth new life? Is that hard for you? ... Take a few moments and make a list of times when you have seen new life come out of “death.” ... As you look at your list, does it seem to you that God was active in those little resurrections? How would your life be different if you really expected resurrection to happen?

My Faith Journal • April 5, 2009

Palm Sunday

What do I hear God saying to me today?

What action do I intend to take this week?

Each day this week, take a few minutes. Begin with PRAYER. Then READ through the Bible passage indicated on the inside of this guide. WRITE down your own thoughts, reactions, observations. ANSWER THE QUESTION to begin connecting the Bible with your life. Use additional paper or your own notebook if you need more space to write.

Holy Week: Walking with Jesus

Monday, 4/6/09 – Read Romans 6:4-5

My Observations _____

A Question to Answer: Jesus' initial invitation was "Follow me." And during Holy Week we follow him; we walk with Jesus through the last days of his life. Today's reading reminds us that we participate in dying and rising too. In fact this is the way that God brings us to revitalized living. ... Has there been a time in your life when you went through a kind of death and resurrection experience? What was that like? Is there something in your life now that still needs to die? Is there a resurrection that you're still praying for?

Tuesday, 4/7/09 – Read Mark 11:15-19

My Observations: _____

A Question to Answer: The people Jesus had the most conflict with were the religious authorities. Just from what you read in today's verses, what attitudes or practices did Jesus seem most upset about when he overturned the temple tables? ... Think for a moment about your own life and the life of the church today. How do we (how do you!) sometimes substitute "religion" for faithfully following Jesus?

Wednesday, 4/8/09 – Read John 13:1-35

My Observations: _____

A Question to Answer: In the Gospel of John these teachings of Jesus occur on his last night with the disciples -- almost as if he were saying, "Of all that I have taught you, don't forget this!" ... Think for a few minutes about verses 34-35. Jesus

said that we are to love each other the way he loved. What's your impression of how Jesus loved people? Describe that for yourself and write it down. ... Do you think Jesus really expected us to love that way? Name one thing (just one thing) you will do this week to love the way Jesus loved.

Thursday, 4/9/09 – Read Luke 22:7-23

My Observations: _____

A Question to Answer: Jesus' last supper with the disciples may be the most intimately tender moment of his whole ministry. What do you think it felt like to be around that table that night? Let yourself "feel into" that scene. What do you imagine Jesus was feeling? What about the disciples? ... When we celebrate communion, we remember Jesus' last supper. What does communion mean to you? Does it seem that communion illuminates a relationship (a covenant) between you and God? Between you and others in the church? What's your experience of communion, of participation in Jesus' last supper?

Friday, 4/10/09– Read Luke 23:26-49 [or Luke 22:39-23:49]

My Observations: _____

A Question to Answer: If you have time, take the longer of today's readings to get the fuller story. ... As you read, simply let yourself be aware of thoughts, feelings, questions, wonderings. Jot them down so you won't forget. What does reading the story of Jesus' death bring into your awareness?

