



## REVEILLE'S GPS WEEKLY SCRIPTURE GUIDE

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Explore scriptures and daily devotionals that reflect on this Sunday's sermon message.  
Sign up to receive the daily devotional email at [www.bit.ly/devotional-rumc](http://www.bit.ly/devotional-rumc).

**April 14-20, 2025**

### **EASTER SUNDAY**

**Sermon Title: "Standing Room Only" by Rev. Dr. Peter Moon**

Use the space below to reflect on the questions in this week's devotionals,  
make class and sermon notes, and write down prayers and concerns.

#### **Questions for families, small groups, and individual reflection:**

- Discuss with your loved ones what Easter meant to you growing up. What does it mean to you now? What is the difference, if anything?
- What, if anything, is difficult for you about the Easter message?
- What would the world and your life look like without Easter?

#### **Monday, April 14: Read Matthew 21:18-19**

As we begin Holy Week, we acknowledge that we are living in a world where we are all looking for a firm place to stand in these days. For many, that firm place is not found in our country, our leadership, or our workplace. Jobs, economy, and country are in a state of flux. This Holy Week, we will look for that place at the side of Jesus, walking with him through his last lessons, his last days, to the cross, and miraculously, to the resurrection, where we are given the ultimate gift of eternal life. Today, we begin our Holy Week journey with Jesus in a seemingly odd place – with a hungry Jesus who seems to also be “hangry” (angry and hungry), cursing the fig tree for not bearing fruit. Is this how we also find ourselves today? Hungry for the world to start yielding the fruit of which we know it's capable? Hungry for that fruit in ourselves?

- **Relationship Opportunity:** *Discuss where you see hunger in our world and in yourself. Can you relate to Jesus's reaction to the fig tree, or does his reaction confuse you?*

## **Tuesday, April 15: Read Matthew 25:31-46**

As we continue our walk with Jesus, we are given an important lesson in today's reading about how Jesus measures a good and righteous life, or as he puts it, the difference between "sheep" and "goats". His criteria are simple, but not easy. Are we feeding the hungry? Are we welcoming the stranger? Are we clothing the naked? Are we caring for the sick? Are we visiting the imprisoned? In a world where the cultural norms and values can turn on a dime, Jesus's words today give us a clear and constant "plumb line" against which we can measure ourselves. How are we measuring up? Spoiler: if you're like the rest of us and the answer is "usually not great," there is good news. Easter is about grace, forgiveness, and infinite chances to repent, renew, and redirect with the love, power, and support of Christ.

- **Discipleship Opportunity:** *Take time to inventory your time, priorities, and behaviors against Jesus's "plumb line" from today's scripture.*

## **Wednesday, April 16: Read Matthew 26:6-16**

We walk ever closer to the cross. Today's story offers two contrasting pictures: the beauty of the anointing of Jesus and the ugliness of Judas' betrayal. Take in the beauty of this anointing, along with all the harshness in the background. Today is Wednesday. How long do you think that fragrance will endure? Could it have been there during the coming trial, the cross, Jesus' last breath? What does that say about this extravagant gift?

- **Discipleship and Relationship Opportunity:** *Reflect on a time that was filled with both beauty and sadness, or a relationship you have that is mixed with both. Where can you choose celebration and beauty over pain? Where can Jesus help?*

## **HOLY THURSDAY, April 17: Read John 13:1-17, 31b-35 AND Matthew 26:17-30**

In our Methodist tradition of observing Holy Thursday, we sometimes alternate between a focus on the Last Supper and a focus on Jesus washing his disciples' feet. Today we ask you to read both scriptures, recognizing how each story demonstrates what is most important to Jesus, for these stories are about how Jesus chose to spend his last hours of freedom: in relationship and service. Jesus washes his disciples' feet – the lowest form of service, usually reserved for the most junior servant in a household. Jesus dines with his disciples, pouring out his blood and offering up his body to them...and us. Is this how you would spend your last day?

- **Discipleship Opportunity:** *Reflect on how you would spend today if it was your last day on earth. Then live today, and every day, like that.*

## **GOOD FRIDAY, April 18: Read Matthew 26:30-27:61**

We encourage you to find a way to deepen your walk with Christ on this most holy, most difficult day. You may choose to fast, as many Christians do on Good Friday, both from food and the earthly distractions that tempt us to forget about what Jesus actually went through before the glory of Easter Sunday. We encourage you to attend the Good Friday service, where you will listen – really listen – to the Passion in the presence of other souls also grappling with the magnitude of Christ's love and sacrifice.

- **Study and Discipleship Opportunity:** *As you read today's (long and painful) scripture, pay attention to your emotions and senses. What do you feel? See? Hear?*

## **QUIET SATURDAY, April 19: Read Esther 4 and Psalm 27:14**

American pastor and author John Ortberg wrote a well-known devotion about this Saturday, describing it as the "in-between times": the time between prayer and answer to prayer; the time when God seems absent or at least far away. Esther is a prime example of this phenomenon and is notably the only book in the Bible where God is never directly mentioned. Have you ever been in this place? Waiting on a diagnosis? Waiting to hear from someone?

- **Discipleship Opportunity:** *Examine how you handle "in-between times." Where does faith come in?*

## **EASTER SUNDAY, April 20: Read 1 Corinthians 15:12-20, 58**

As we celebrate the miracle of Christ's resurrection today, we also acknowledge the importance of standing firm in the truth of the resurrection as a place upon which we can ground ourselves. When we stand here, our work is not in vain. Our eternal life is guaranteed. Our victory has already been won. Let us couple today's celebration with a commitment to continually work on eternal, not fleeting, things we believe will endure in a way that goes beyond us. This is our privilege and gift as an Easter people. Hallelujah! He is risen!