

Week 4

14 March - 20 Mrch 2021

SMALL GROUP WEEKLY DEVOTIONAL MATERIAL



God LOVED the WORLD

LECTIONARY YEAR B
17 Feb 2021 - 3 April 2021

Daily Bible readings, a memory verse and a prayer for individual contemplation
Weekly worship song, reflection and small group questions

THIS WEEK AND UPCOMING WEEKS:

Lectionary year B - Lent and Holy Week – 17 Feb to 3 April

- WEEK 4 Sunday 14 March to Saturday 20 March – God loved the world – Xhanti Mblubulwana
- WEEK 5 Sunday 21 March to Saturday 27 March – Jesus predicts His death – Thoko Mbense
- WEEK 6 Sunday 28 March (Palm Sunday) to Saturday 3 April (Holy Week) – The death of Jesus – Lusi Badi



THIS WEEK:
Week 4
God loved the world

START YOUR DAY WITH
Devotionals Daily

Monday	15 March	Psalm 107:1-16	Exodus 15:22-27	Hebrews 3:1-6
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Memory Verse: “Therefore, holy brothers and sisters, who share in the heavenly calling, fix your thoughts on Jesus, whom we acknowledge as our apostle and high priest.” (Hebrews 3:1)

Prayer: O Lord, our Rock and Redeemer, guide our thoughts and our words today. Let our hearts be filled with praise, our apostle and high priest. Let us never forget the good things you do for us. God almighty, you demonstrated your own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Amen!

Tuesday	16 March	Psalm 107:1-16	Numbers 20:1-13	1 Corinthians 10:6-13
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Memory Verse: “Moses and Aaron went from the assembly to the entrance to the tent of meeting and fell facedown, and the glory of the Lord appeared to them.” (Numbers 20:6).

Prayer: “For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God”, Lord God we ask for mercy against anything the enemy has done, or we have done to cause us to fall short of God’s glory. We bow before you facedown like Moses and Aaron did and you respond by showing your glory to them. At this time when millions of people are

unemployed, thousands of businesses shutting doors, thousands of people dying due to Covid-19 Corona Virus complications. Lord we need to see your glory. Amen.

Wednesday	17 March	Psalm 107:1-16	Isaiah 60:15-22	John 8:12-20
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Memory Verse: "Let the redeemed of the Lord tell their story those he redeemed ... those he gathered. They were hungry and thirsty, and their lives ebbed away. Then they cried out to the Lord in their trouble, and he delivered them for their distress." (Psalm 107: 2,3,5,6).

Prayer: Merciful God, we thank you for Jesus and his work of redeeming us on the cross. We were enslaved by sin, distressed by the troubles of this world and Jesus saved us from the consequences of sin. Teach us to tell our story of redemption, in Jesus name we pray. Amen.

Thursday	18 March	Psalm 51:1-12	Isaiah 30:15-18	Hebrews 4:1-13
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Memory Verse: "For the word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart." (Hebrews 4:12).

Prayer: Thank You, Father, for the living, powerful Word of God. I pray that whatever it takes, your Holy spirit would continue to convict, convert, comfort, and conform me into the image of the lovely Lord Jesus, so that I may become the person you want me to be. May I never hinder the work of your Holy Spirit within, as He continues to divide my born-again spirit from my sin-sick soul. Root out all that is not of Christ and use me I pray, as a conduit through whom you can flow, unhindered, into the lives of those around me. Thank you that you loved us so much that you purposed to change all who believe, into the image and likeness of Christ Jesus, in whose name I pray. Amen (Source: <https://prayer.knowing-jesus.com/Hebrews/4>)

Friday	19 March	Psalm 51:1-12	Exodus 30:1-10	Hebrews 4:14-5:4
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Memory Verse: "Once a year Aaron shall make atonement on its horns. This annual atonement must be made with the blood of the atoning sin offering for the generations to come. It is most holy to the Lord." (Exodus 30:10).

Prayer: O Saviour of the world, God of Gods, light of light, you who are the brightness of your Father's glory., the express image of his person; you who have destroyed the power of the devil, who have overcome death, "who sits at the right hand of the father"; you will speedily come down in your Father's glory to judge all men according to their works. Be my light and my peace; destroy the power of the devil in me and make me a new creature. You who cast seven devils out of Mary Magdalene, cast out my heart all corrupt affections. (John Wesley, Source: <https://prayer.Knowing-Jesus.com/Prayers-for-cleansing>.)

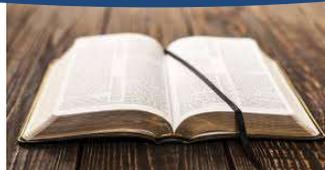
Saturday	20 March	Psalm 51:1-12	Hebrews 4:14-5:4	John 12:1-11
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Memory Verse: "Have mercy on me, O God, according to your unfailing love; according to your great compassion blot out my transgressions." (Psalm 51:10).

Prayer: Father, I come before you grieved and broken by conviction of sin. I feel the weight of that conviction pressing down on me. I agree with the psalmist that it feels like my bones have been crushed. I feel far from you and desire to return to the joy of being in your presence. Through the blood of Christ shed for me, I ask for forgiveness. I thank you that because of Christ, you look at me and see his blood covering my sin. You also see his righteousness; you see His holy life and credit it to me. And because of Jesus, I am united with His Spirit and He is at work in me. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Sunday 14 March

First Reading: [Numbers 21:4-9](#)
Psalms: [Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22](#)
Second Reading: [Ephesians 2:1-10](#)
Gospel: [John 3:14-21](#)



John 3:14-21

¹⁴Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the wilderness, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, ¹⁵that everyone who believes may have eternal life in him.'¹⁶ For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. ¹⁷ For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.

¹⁹ This is the verdict: light has come into the world, but people loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil. ²⁰ Everyone who does evil hates the light and will not come into the light for fear that their deeds will be exposed. ²¹ But whoever lives by the truth comes into the light, so that it may be seen plainly that what they have done has been done in the sight of God.

WORSHIP:

Song: The love of God, Jimmy Swaggart
<https://youtu.be/qiHkoATc2zo>

FOR REFLECTION:

DAILY DEVOTIONS, REFLECTION AND SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS WRITTEN BY **XHANTI MHLUBULWANA**

“God loved the world”, This is the great truth that motivated God's plan of salvation. God was motivated by 'love for the world'. The 'world' here perhaps refers to 'all people on earth', irrespective of race, ethnicity, culture or social standing. Perhaps the 'world' here also refers to all creation. The reason and the power that motivated God's plan to deliver our salvation was love. There is power in God's love. May God's love manifest in our lives, families, communities, workplaces and businesses as well as our BMC family. May God's love touch us in the 2021 lent season as we journey towards the cross of Christ. So, in the salvation story on the cross at calvary, Christ was lifted up. God showed his endless love for the world while on the cross. Yes, limitless or endless in space, extent, or size; impossible to measure or calculate, "the infinite love of God" for all. The Methodist four all's ...



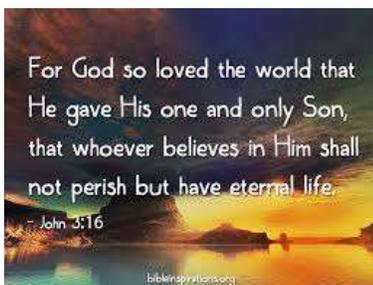
"All people need to be saved - the doctrine of original sin.

All people can be saved - Universal Salvation.

All people can know they are saved - Assurance.

All people can be saved completely - Christian perfection."

The cross was the supreme exaltation of Jesus, the one and only Son of God. In the Old Testament we learnt, "Moses made a bronze snake and put it up on a pole. Then when anyone was bitten by a snake and looked at the bronze snake, they lived." Jesus was lifted up, people looked at Jesus on the cross and lived. (Numbers 21:8-9 NIV)



The cross was the expression of God's love for all people. On the cross the Son of Man, Jesus, drew all people to himself without regard for nationality, ethnic affiliation, race, status or social standing. Jesus lifted up on the cross, his glory was visible to all. The glory of God's love radiated in Jesus on his way to the cross, through the trials and temptations, on the cross and in resurrection and ascension.

“Radiating God’s Love” means intentionally acting in loving ways and sharing your faith with people so they may connect to God. Not in a “pushy” or “manipulative” way, rather, in a way that explains why you choose to live and act as you do. Radiating God’s love this week may be the most important thing you do.

Despite our mistakes, God shows His love for us through Jesus. You can accept it today. Jesus was the evidence of the love of God for humanity and all of his creation. "For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace". "The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth No one has ever seen God, but the one and only Son, who is himself God and is in closest relationship with the Father, has made him known." (Isaiah 9:6; John 1:14,18 NIV)

'... that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life'. To believe is to trust God's love. To believe is to accept and receive God's love. To believe is to accept that God's righteousness on the cross at calvary was credited to us, while we were still sinners made possible by the power of the love of God. Saint Paul states, "For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God". (Ephesians 2:8; NIV)

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. 'Let us give thanks to the Lord for his unfailing love and his wonderful deeds for mankind'. (Ps. 107:21)

What we learned: Our salvation is not dependent on what we do, but on what Jesus has already done for us driven by love for the world. Being born again hinges on our belief that Jesus is the Son of God who has come into our world

to pay the price for sin because God loves us. No matter who we are or what we have done, Jesus tells us all that we must be born of water and the Spirit. Good people and bad people must be born again. Religious people and lost people must be born again. All people must be born again.

Small Group Questions:

1. When you realize that Jesus came to die and that God gave him for that purpose, does that help you understand God's love for humankind? In what way does that help you understand God's love for you individually?
Ukwazi ukuba wenjenje uYehova ukulithanda kwakhe ihlabathi, wancama unyana wakhe ongu-Yesu ekuphela kwakhe ukuze afela thina boni bomhlaba kumthi wehlazo emqamlezweni, oku kwesihange. Olu lwazi lukutyhilela ntoni ngothando lukaThixo i) kuluntu lonke; ii) kuwe wedwa;
2. For a world filled with sin and disobedience, what kind of a response would you expect from God? How did he respond? Read Romans 5:6-8 and Romans 8:1.
Kweli lizwe lokona nokungathobeli imithetho ka-Thixo; wena ungalindela impendulo eluhlobo luni okanye enjani ephuma kuye uThixo ? Ngokubona kwakho waphendula njani uThixo kwimeko yesono nokona emhlabeni? (Funda KwabaseRoma 5: 6-8; 8:1);
3. What does it mean to "believe in the name of the only Son of God"? Is this just mental assent?
Kuwe ithetha ukuthini lentetho, "ukukholwa egameni loNyana ka-Thixo ekuphela kwakhe, ongu-Yesu?" Ingaba lentetho yinkolelo nje esengqondweni kuphela?
4. As you think about your life, do you live for Jesus in all that they /you do? Should our lives bear witness to the reality that we believe in Jesus? How can you improve your witness to radiate joy, purpose and meaning?
Xa ucinga ngobu-bomi obuphilayo, ingaba usayiphilela na iNkosi? Ingaba uyabunika na ubungqina ngo-Yesu nemisebenzi yakhe ? Intlalo yakho yobungqina ngoYesu ungayiphuhlisa njani ? Ukuze ibenako ukubonakalisa uvuyo, injongo kunye nentsingiselo yokuphilela iNkosi.
5. Take a few minutes to tell God how grateful you are because of his gift of love. If you have not yet come to belief in Jesus and have not yet claimed him as your savior, write down a few questions that still need to be answered in order for you to believe in Jesus. Share these questions with your small group leader or a minister/pastor at BMC.
Thabatha imizuzu embalwa, cinga ungambulela ngantoni uThixo ngesipho sakhe sothando ngaye uYesu, bulela kuThixo ngomthandazo. Bhala phantsi yonke imibuzo onayo, nika uMkhokheli wakho imibuzo ebhaliweyo okanye nika uMfundisi weBandla eBMC.



It is important for parents to take time to lead the conversations of family time and to be honest with their children in these conversations.

BY THABANG JANUARY – YOUTH PASTOR
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Pray daily: Set up family time for prayer and devotions and stick to this arrangement. All devotions should always begin by with a prayer. Ask a family member to pray or one of the children.

Scripture Reading: [John 2:13-22](#)
Allow children/teens to read out loud for the family.

Activity/Family Moment:

Let's clear and clean our houses during this week and donate all the stuff we have but no longer use like clothes, toys, and shoes. You can bring it to BMC or donate it to a charity of your choice.

Next Week...
WEEK 5
JESUS PREDICTS HIS DEATH
Sunday 21 March to Saturday 27 March



Contact NADJA to join a small group near you! nadja@bmc.org.za / 011463 2333