

JOURNEYPRAY

APRIL 2020 – MONTHLY THEME

“I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.” John 16:33

Jesus had a way of packing so much into a few sentences, didn't he? With all that is going on, many of us are staying in our homes with limited social activities. This would be a good time to dwell on Jesus' words, seeking wisdom and trying to take in everything he wants to communicate to us. When Jesus said the words above, he knew exactly what his followers would face in the future... He knew what we would be facing now. And he not only wanted to prepare us, but he also gave us the most important promise of all time!

WEEK 1 – APRIL 5

“I have told you these things...”

Jesus “told us” everything we will need to live our lives as his followers and all of those things can be found in his word, the Bible. But let's admit it... Sometimes the distractions of life get in the way of us spending time reading and studying his words or maybe we just don't realize how important they are in our day-to-day life. Let's focus on the Book of John this week and take time to search out those things that Jesus told us and that we need to know. And while we are at it, let's thank him for that!

WEEK 2 – APRIL 12

“so that in me, you may have peace.”

Peace? How do we have peace when everything around us is changing... And when the future feels so unknown? Today is April 12, and although it might look different than usual, we are celebrating the day that Jesus Christ rose from the dead, conquering sin and death. And because of that incredible day, as followers of Jesus, the peace that Jesus speaks about does not depend on the circumstances around us but is grounded in something that is eternal and secure. Peace is a word you will find several times in the Bible... Take some time to look those passages up and seek the peace that surpasses all understanding. (Philippians 4:4-7)

WEEK 3 – APRIL 19

“In this world you will have trouble.”

Hmmm... Don't we know it! But so did Jesus. He not only knew the trouble we would face, he lived it. And Jesus was straight up with us so we wouldn't get caught off-guard. Jesus is not only our Savior and our Lord, but he is also our friend. And a true friend is not only honest with us, but we can be honest back. Talk to Jesus about your troubles, your struggles... He didn't sugar coat things with us and he doesn't want us to with him. He wants to hear those things, not only because he cares more than anyone else, but also because that is what a true friendship is all about. (John 15:13-15)

WEEK 4 – APRIL 26

“But take heart! I have overcome the world.”

Don't you love a “happy ending”? Who wants to read a book or watch a movie that ends with the good guy losing and the bad guy winning? When Jesus said “take heart!” he was adamantly telling us to be strengthened and encouraged because *he knew* how this story, the story that has been unfolding since the beginning of time, was going to end. Although at this point, Jesus had not given his life yet, he knew what he was about to do and he knew that however difficult and painful, he would see it through to the end fulfilling the Father's plan and promise for all of mankind. During this season of time, peek ahead at the last page of the Book and find comfort in knowing that those whose Lord is Jesus will share in the greatest victory of all time! (1 Corinthians 15; 2 Corinthians 4:16-18; 1 Peter 1:3-6).