

# GOOD FRIDAY



## *What's so good about Good Friday?*

In this RightNow Media video series, Francis Chan will look at two important events in the life of Christ, and discuss the importance of these events in the lives of all Christians. As a group, spend time this week focusing on the events of Good Friday and use the accompanying Bible study to help gain a greater, and more worshipful, response to the crucifixion of Jesus. If at all possible, consider attending Legacy's Good Friday service as a group. The service is from 6:30p until 7:30p on Friday, April 15.

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## OPEN

In this session from The Gospel of Mark, Francis Chan reflects on the suffering and death of Jesus Christ. The crucifixion of Jesus, he says, perfectly displays and proves the deep, unconditional love that God has for all of us.

## READ

Read Mark 14:32–15:47. (If you don't have time to read the whole passage, read these excerpts: 14:32–39, 55–65, and 15:33–40.)

## VIEW

Watch Good Friday with Francis Chan (14 minutes).

## DISCUSS

Francis Chan emphasized the deep emotions that Jesus felt. Jesus started by eagerly anticipating dinner with dear friends. Then, in the Garden of Gethsemane, he was “very sorrowful” as he begged the Father for a way out of his suffering. In what way does this reminder of Jesus’s humanity affect the way you think of him? How does it help you understand him better?

Jesus encountered many people during his arrest, trial, and crucifixion who reacted to him in different ways. What were the responses of the religious leaders (14:43–65, 15:31–32), bystanders (15:6–15, 29–30), women (15:40–41), and the Roman centurion (15:39)? How have you seen some of those responses to Jesus reflected in your own experience of how people respond to Jesus?

Despite Jesus’s repeated prayer that the Father find another way to accomplish his purpose, he still went obediently to the cross. In what way are you inspired by Jesus’s prayer “not my will but yours be done”? Why do you think the cross was necessary to God’s plan to save us from our sins?

Francis said, “The good news of the cross is so much bigger than every other thing in your life.” Why is it true that your response to Jesus’s death is the most important decision you could ever make?

How have you responded to the good news that Jesus died in your place, as a substitute, taking on the penalty of your sin? When did you understand and accept his love for you? Take time for everyone with you to share their stories.

Sometimes contemplating the incredible gift of forgiveness that Jesus offers can overwhelm us. In what ways could Jesus’s grace toward you motivate you in your own relationships this week?

## LAST WORD

God’s most dramatic and meaningful declaration of love came through Jesus’s selfless sacrifice. Contemplate the suffering and shame he endured on your behalf. Write out a prayer to acknowledge your need for forgiveness and thank God for his gracious plan to reconcile us to himself. If you have young children, retell the crucifixion story in your own words, highlighting God’s love for them. Then, take time to thank him for loving you so completely.

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