



The Plot **Thickens**

Lent in the Gospel of John

Myers Park
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

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Lent in the Gospel of John

This Lent we will be journeying through the Holy Week narrative, following along with Jesus and his disciples on the last earthly days of Jesus' life. Each story builds towards the passion narrative and eventually Easter glory. Through the readings and questions on the following pages, consider the journey of faith that you have been on and how Christ journeys with you.

The suggested questions align with our congregation-wide storytelling project this year, the Thread Project.

Use these questions for personal reflection or group conversation and pair them with the provided scripture reading for the day.

Week 1

Scripture: John 11:1-44

Reflection: What was one of the greatest losses in your life? How did you get through it, and did your faith play a part?

To begin your reflection, consider...



Writing just the words that stand out to you in the passage.

Prayer: *God of community, we give you thanks for the gift of those who walk this journey of faith with us. We come to know your love through the care, support, and encouragement of others. As we journey through this Lenten season we become more aware of the bumps and bruises that accompany us in life. In our sharing of stories, may we know your mercy and grace which accompany us daily and lead us into newness of life. Amen.*

Week 2

Scripture: John 13:1-35

Reflection: When have you felt deeply loved, accepted, or like you truly belonged?

To begin your reflection, consider...



Following this finger labyrinth in prayer and reflection

Prayer: *God of great love, you show us what it means to love one another with the fullness of ourselves. Soften our hearts where we are hardened against one another, and enliven us to the moving of your Spirit. Guide us by your love, O Christ, that we may come to know you more fully through loving one another just as you love us. Amen.*

Week 3

Scripture: John 18:1-27

Reflection: Share a time you stood up for something, protested, or refused to go along with something you believed was wrong.

To begin your reflection, consider...



Doodling as you read and seeing where it takes you.

Prayer: *Gracious God, you are kind to us in our failings – and yet you are firm in who you are and who you call us to be. We often waver with the disciples, feeling afraid to stand for anything and in the end we sometimes stand for nothing. Strengthen our resolve and uphold us in our faith that we may live boldly for the ways of your kingdom. In our words and in our actions may we embody peace, love, hospitality, and grace. Amen.*

Week 4

Scripture: John 18:1-27

Reflection: How did your understanding of God change, grow, or diminish when you were younger?

To begin your reflection, consider...



Circling the verbs in the passage and meditating on their movement in your life.

Prayer: *God we have so many questions – including among them, “Who are you really?” Through our questions, may you hear our faithfulness and our desire to know you more fully. Grant us courage to follow where you lead, even if we don’t know where you are leading. And when the path ahead seems daunting grant us strength to take just the next step in faith. In all of our daily trials and journeys we give you thanks for you abiding presence. Amen.*

Week 5

Scripture: John 19:1-16

Reflection: Tell a story of a time when your faith led you to take action.

To begin your reflection, consider...



Writing the names of people that come to mind when reading the passage.

Prayer: *God of mercy, at times it is hard to read the words of scripture. We often times seek a respite from the troubles around us through the comforting words of scripture. And yet, many times we are met in your words with a mirror of our lives – seeing the pain and suffering among us. By your Spirit grant us the strength and courage to not turn away from the hurt in the world, but open our eyes and our hearts to know you in the midst of it all. In confronting the world's challenges, may we know more fully your desire for restoration, healing, and wholeness in our lives and throughout the world. Amen.*

Week 6

Scripture: John 12:12-19, 19:16-30

Reflection: Was there a moment that changed how you experienced God?

To begin your reflection, consider...



*Starting with deep breaths in and out for one minute.
Allow the space and rhythm to ground you.*

Prayer: *Loving God, so much that we experience in life is full of contradictions. With the disciples we shift from singing "Hosannah" in one moment to shouting "Crucify Him!" with the crowds the next. We give you thanks for your faithfulness to humanity through it all, that our fickleness does not deter you from loving us. And in receiving your sustaining love, may we come to know you more fully and in the end more fully love one another as well. Amen.*