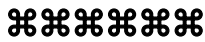


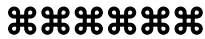
PASSION MONTH

Memory Verses, Questions, & Encouragements



From the Latin *passus*, meaning “to suffer”, “passion” was a term the early church used to describe the emotional, physical, and spiritual suffering of Jesus, beginning with His betrayal and culminating in His death on the cross. Even the resurrection of

Jesus points to His *passion*, since it proves both the effectiveness of His suffering for sinners and His victory over sin. In the coming weeks, may God produce in us conviction, comfort, gratitude, and worship, as we prayerfully consider His Son in light of these verses.



Week 1—Memorize Isaiah 53:4-6

March 4—Take time to read over these verses at least five times. Each time, think about what they tell us about the *passion* of Jesus. Ask God to help you hide His word in your heart (Psalm 119:11).

March 5—Work today on memorizing verse 4. Take time to thank God for His word and for the passion/suffering of Jesus.

March 6—Look at every instance of the words “our” and “we”. What do we learn about people like us? Now look at every instance of the words “he” and “him”. What would be the right response in light of what we are told about “we” and “he”? (Keep working on your memorization!)

March 7—Work today on memorizing verse 5, in addition to verse 4. After learning verse 5, say it together with verse 4. How is God speaking to you through these verses?

March 8—After working on your memorization, think about this: these words were written 700 years before the time of Jesus. What does that tell us about God and the passion/suffering of Jesus?

March 9—Work today on memorizing the whole passage, verses 4-6. Pray about who you might be able to share this with today.

March 10—In what ways do these verses encourage you and equip you to obey the Great Commands, to love God with your all, and your “neighbor” as yourself?

Week 2—Memorize John 3:14-17

March 11—Take time to read over these verses at least five times. Each time, think about what they tell us about the *passion* of Jesus. Ask God to help you hide His word in your heart (Psalm 119:11).

March 12—Work today on memorizing verses 14, and 15. Take time again to thank God for His word and for the passion/suffering of Jesus.

March 13—Numbers 21:4-9 tells us about the bronze serpent that “Moses lifted up” in the desert. How does that story help us understand what it means to “believe in him” (John 3:15, 16)? What must we “believe” about Jesus to “have eternal life”? (Keep working on your memorization!)

March 14—Work today on memorizing verse 16, in addition to verses 14 and 15. After learning 16, say it together with verses 14 and 15. How is God speaking to you through these verses?

March 15—After working on your memorization, think about this: verse 16 reminds us of the extent of God's love (“God loved the world so much that he...”). Take time to pray for those in your circle who need to know about and receive God's love.

March 16—Work today on memorizing the whole passage, verses 14-17. Pray about who you might be able to share this with today.

March 17—In what ways do these verses encourage you and equip you to obey the Great Commands, to love God with your all, and your “neighbor” as yourself?

Week 3—I Peter 2:22-25

March 18—Take time to read over these verses at least five times. Each time, think about what they tell us about the *passion* of Jesus. Ask God to help you hide His word in your heart (Psalm 119:11).

March 19—Work today on memorizing verses 22 and 23. Take time to praise God for His word and for the passion/suffering of Jesus.

March 20—Why is it so important that Jesus was without sin; that He was perfectly innocent, even as He suffered in his final hours? (Keep working on your memorization!)

March 21—Work today on memorizing verse 24, in addition to verses 22 and 23. How is God speaking to you through these verses?

March 22—After working on your memorization, think about this: did you notice how this passage points us back to our Week 1 memory verses? Peter confirms that Jesus fulfilled Isaiah's prophecy! How does that encourage you in terms of God's faithfulness?

March 23—Work today on memorizing the whole passage, verses 22-25. Pray about who you might be able to share this with today.

March 24—[Palm Sunday]: In what ways do these verses encourage you and equip you to obey the Great Commands, to love God with your all, and your “neighbor” as yourself?

Week 4—Memorize Colossians 2:13-15

March 25—Take time to read over these verses at least five times. Each time, think about what they tell us about the *passion* of Jesus. Ask God to help you hide His word in your heart (Psalm 119:11).

March 26—Work today on memorizing verse 13. Take time again to thank God for His word and for the passion/suffering of Jesus.

March 27—Think for a minute about what these verses tell us about our spiritual condition before God rescued us. Let that reminder inspire in you a renewed sense of humility, gratitude, and worship. (Keep working on your memorization!)

March 28—Work today on memorizing verse 14, in addition to verse 13. How is God speaking to you through these verses?

March 29—[Good Friday]: After working on your memorization, think about this: “rulers and authorities” here most likely refers to Satan's “spiritual forces of evil” (Eph. 6:12). Give thanks to God that Christ's suffering has “disarmed” these powers!

March 30—Work today on memorizing the whole passage, verses 13-15. Pray about who you might be able to share this with today.

March 31—[Easter Sunday]: In what ways do these verses encourage you and equip you to obey the Great Commands, to love God with your all, and your “neighbor” as yourself?