

April 16

Jeremiah 31:31-34

Jeremiah was a prophet (preacher) who lived about 600 years before Jesus. In these verses, God speaks through Jeremiah and says that the day will come when He will relate to His people in a new way – not through law inscribed in stone, but through His Spirit and their hearts. Christians believe that the foundation of this “new covenant” is Jesus.

Question to Consider:

God told Jeremiah that He would use a new way of being with His people. Think of a time when you had to change the way you were doing something. What was it, and what was the result?

Prayer:

Father God, thank you for loving us enough to not give up on us. I pray that I will be as loyal to you as you are to your people. In Jesus' name, Amen.

April 17

Ezekiel 37:1-14

Ezekiel was a prophet (preacher) at the same time as Jeremiah, about 600 years before Jesus. He sought to tell the people of God's judgment on Israel and other nations, but he also brought a message of hope. In these verses, we read of a vision in which God brings new life into that which was dead.

Question to Consider:

God breathes new life into people today when they turn away from their sin and turn to God. Do you know of someone who has become a Christian and whose life is different as a result? Who? How has the person's life changed?

Prayer:

Loving God, I pray that you breathe new life into me each day so that I will fully live every day for you. I pray in the name of Jesus, Amen.

April 18

Daniel 1:1-21

Daniel was among those taken captive when Babylon conquered Jerusalem. Because of his integrity, he eventually became a trusted adviser to Babylonian rulers. In these verses, we are told the beginning of Daniel's story and how he came to be in the service of Nebuchadnezzar.

Question to Consider:

Daniel's situation looked grim, but God was with him. Can you think of a time in your life when things looked bleak, but as you look back on it now, you know God was with you?

Prayer:

Almighty God, help me to be like Daniel, faithful and trusting you even when the situation appears hopeless. I pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

April 19

Daniel 3:1-18

In these verses, we read the first part of the story of Daniel's three friends and how they remained faithful to God, even as they risked their lives.

Question to Consider:

People in some parts of the world today risk their lives in order to worship God. What might someone who does not face that risk do to help those who do?

Prayer:

Merciful God, I pray today for people who are take great risks in order to worship you. And Father, help me to have the courage to assist hurting people when the circumstances allow it. I pray in the name of Jesus, Amen.

April 20

Daniel 3:19-30

This is part 2 of the story of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego.

Question to Consider:

Have you ever had to stand up to someone who was threatening you? Did you ask God to help? What happened?

Prayer:

Gracious God, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego demonstrated total faith in you. I pray that my faith will always be strong, and that when I face a time of trial that I will trust you to be with me. In Jesus' name I pray, Amen.