

October 1

John 19:18-27

These verses describe the crucifixion of Jesus.

Question to Consider:

Try to put yourself in the crowd looking at the three people being crucified. Take a moment and picture yourself there. What are you thinking? What are you feeling?

Prayer:

Father God, those were real people in the crowd that day – people just like me. Help me to always remember that the stories in the Bible happened in real places to real people – people just like me. I pray in the name of Jesus, Amen.

October 2

Matthew 27:38-43

In this passage we read that Jesus was mocked by almost everyone.

Question to Consider:

Matthew does not mention anyone who was willing to stand up for Jesus in that crowd. Have you ever found yourself in a situation that called for you to stand up in defense of another person? Did you?

Prayer:

Loving God, the time may come when I need to stand up in the face of others and defend someone. When that time comes, please put the courage in my heart and the words in my mouth. In Jesus' name I pray, Amen.

October 3

Luke 23:39-43

Sometimes things are not always as they seem. In these verses, we read that one of the criminals crucified with Jesus came to his defense.

Question to Consider:

If the people on the ground believed in hell, they no doubt believed that all three men who were being crucified were going there. And yet, two were not. Have you ever found yourself tempted to pass judgement on another person's relationship with God?

Prayer:

Gracious God, the people in the crowd had no idea about the eternal destiny of the men who were being crucified. Help me to remember that I do not know what kind of relationship other people actually have with you. Therefore, fill me with your grace and the loving spirit of Jesus. In His name I pray, Amen.

October 4

Luke 23:44-48

This passage tells of the death of Jesus.

Question to Consider:

What does it mean to you to know that Jesus died for you?

Prayer:

Merciful God, it is difficult for me to fully comprehend the love of Jesus and to think that his love is so great that he was actually willing to die for me. I pray that I never take that gift for granted. I pray in the name of Jesus, Amen.

October 5

John 19:31-37

In these verses, we are told that Jesus' side was pierced before he was taken down from the cross.

Question to Consider:

It can be difficult to comprehend how cruel people can be sometimes. Think of a time when you witnessed someone being mean (cruel) to another. What were the circumstances and how did you respond?

Prayer:

Almighty God, our inhumanity toward one another is difficult to understand and yet we encounter it in the news every day. Help me to love like Jesus and to treat others as you would have me do. In Jesus' name I pray, Amen.