

## **Good Friday**

For many of us, Easter Sunday has become a day symbolized by plastic eggs, chocolate bunnies and pastel crosses. It's common that we try to soften the sharp edges of reality, but in story of Christ, it is important that we not miss out on a single moment of the powerful sacrifice that Christ made on the cross. Though Easter Sunday is shrouded in light, the days leading up to it are historically dark and difficult. Before this devotional take some time to pray and ask that the Lord open your heart to accepting the harsh realities of the crucifixion, and that this acceptance would lead to eye-opening awe of such a magnificent Savior.

Read Luke 23:26-56 slowly, don't rush, just let yourself be in the story.

1. How does this story make you feel? How does your sin relate to the story? Do you see the connection or not?
2. Which portions of the story stand out to you as most powerful? Which parts are most convicting?
3. What do you learn about the character of Christ from the crucifixion story?
4. How does this story challenge you and the way you live? What does it reveal to you about yourself?
5. In this story we see both Christ's unbelievable, unshakeable love for us, and His perfect love and obedience to the Father. How does this great love change the way you live?

Read Isaiah 53

1. How does it make you feel to know that the plan for the Cross has been in place since sin entered the world, and to know that all of the Bible has pointed toward Christ?
2. How does this information change the way you view God?
3. If you truly believe and accept the incredible, sacrificial love that God has for you, how should it change and shape your life?

As you finish spend time thanking the Lord for the gift that came through Christ on the cross. Ask that He give you a heart of faith to fully believe and accept what has been given, and the humility to allow it to change your day-to-day life.