

## 2026 Easter Prayer Guide

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If you spend yourselves  
in behalf of the hungry  
and satisfy the needs of  
the oppressed, then  
your light will rise in the  
darkness, and your night  
will become like the noonday.

Isaiah 58:10



## Week 1: Into the Wilderness (Feb 18 – Feb 21)

### Scripture Focus: Matthew 4:1-11 (Jesus in the desert)

**Devotion:** Jesus willingly entered the desert and fasted for 40 days. At the end of those 40 days, two things happened. The devil came to Him and tempted Him. But before that began, it simply says this, "...he was hungry." Jesus was hungry and then the devil began tempting Him. Could it be that this is one of those passages that is both literal and symbolic? No one would doubt that after fasting 40 days, Jesus would be hungry, that is literally true. But symbolically, it sets forth a challenge for all of us. Jesus was hungry for food,

no doubt. But we know from His life and ministry that He was hungry to do God's will, hungry to accomplish the purpose for which He had been sent, hungry to bring glory to His Father in Heaven. This hunger drove Him with a singular focus to withstand the temptations of the devil. This hunger eventually drove Him out of the desert and into a three-year ministry adventure that would change the world forever. This hunger drove Jesus to the cross.

### Questions:

1. Are we hungry for the things that Jesus was hungry for?
2. What steps can we take to cultivate that hunger?
3. What is God asking us to prepare for?

**Heart for Lebanon Application:** Our team in Lebanon encounters hungry people every day. They are hungry for food, that is true. But they also hunger for relationships, safety, love, and hope. Our team often enters desert times with these families and walks with them as their hunger grows to know more about who Jesus is and why He loves them.

**Prayer:** *Father God, thank You for giving purpose to our desert experiences. Shape, change, and prepare us during those times. We want to accomplish Your purposes in this world. Bless, protect, and provide for our Heart for Lebanon team in Lebanon. Thank You for their willingness to walk with those we serve through challenging and difficult circumstances. May they know Your presence even in those desert times, we pray in the Name of Jesus, Amen.*



## Week 2: The Call to Transformation (Feb 22 – Feb 28)

### Scripture Focus: John 3:1-17 (Jesus and Nicodemus)

**Devotion:** As Jesus is trying to explain to Nicodemus what it means to be born again, He says an interesting thing, “Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit.” Expectant mothers give birth to babies. But the Spirit of God, the Holy Spirit, is the one who can give birth to a spiritually new life! Rebirth seems to require two specific acts to happen. First, each of us must decide that we want to be born again. Then the Holy Spirit does

something that only He can do; He transforms our spirit and gives us a new beginning to life in this world and the hope and promise of eternal life to come in Heaven! Once we were born as babies, it became our parent’s job and later our job to nourish us and help us grow. Once we are reborn by the Spirit, it becomes our job and the job of fellow believers around us to nourish our faith and grow as a follower of Jesus.

### Questions:

1. How is your own growth and transformation going?
2. What is your greatest need to accelerate that transformation?
3. How are you investing in the transformation of others?



**Heart for Lebanon Application:** Hope Evangelical Church (Zahleh & Ghazieh) exists not because we decided to plant churches. They exist because hundreds of new believers among the people we serve wanted to worship, learn, grow and experience ongoing transformation together! We wanted that for them and so we launched these two growing congregations! We see transformation happening in people’s lives each day in big and small ways and we praise God for it! We pray that rebirth is experienced by many more in the years ahead!

**Prayer:** *Father in Heaven, thank You for making rebirth, new life, and salvation possible for each of us! Renew our spirit today, right now, as we pray. Remind us of the gift of transformation that we received when we decided to follow Jesus. Lead, guide and grant wisdom to our pastors and teams at Hope Evangelical Church. Work through them to help many experience rebirth and begin the process of transformation that You long to do in all of us. We ask this in the transforming Name of Jesus, Amen.*

## Week 3: Living Water for the Thirsty (March 1 – March 7)

### Scripture Focus: John 4:5-42 (The Woman at the Well)

**Devotion:** When this passage is read and understood in light of the Jewish law and customs of Jesus' day, we discover that this is a moment of scandal, rebellion, and, ultimately, hope for all of us. Scandal because she was a woman and a Samaritan. This interaction alone could have gotten Jesus arrested. It was rebellion because Jesus clearly ignored the laws and customs He was expected to observe and live by as a Jew. But it represents hope

for everyone, no matter their cultural, ethnic, or religious background. It shows that Jesus was interested in offering living water to everyone! This moment in Jesus' ministry also shows us that one changed life can sometimes be the beginning of revival in an entire community! Jesus worked through the least likely person, a Samaritan woman with a questionable past, to carry Living Water to many in that village!



#### Questions:

1. In your sphere of influence, who might God be calling you to offer Living Water to?
2. What are your thoughts about Jesus being in a scandalous, rebellious situation like this?
3. What does that mean for us?

**Heart for Lebanon Application:** Our team in Lebanon has served, cared for, and loved people from many different cultural, ethnic, and religious backgrounds. In the Middle East, this can be considered scandalous or rebellious by some. However, like Jesus, we strive to offer Living Water to everyone who might need it or want it. And just as in this scripture passage, we've seen a few changed lives multiply into hundreds and hundreds of changed lives and we praise God for this each day!



**Prayer:** Lord God, we praise You for reaching beyond cultural, ethnic, racial, and religious boundaries to reach each of us! Even more, we praise You for reaching beyond our sin and rebellion to offer us Living Water and new life! Bless and guide our team in Lebanon as they live out the example of Jesus among the many Lebanese and refugee families that You've called them to serve in Jesus Name, Amen.

## Week 4: From Blindness to Sight (March 8 – March 14)

### Scripture Focus: John 9:1-41 (The Man Born Blind)

**Devotion:** We all likely understand that in the Bible, there is literal blindness and there is symbolic blindness. Both are seen clearly in these verses. While the man who was born blind is literally blind, once he is healed by Jesus, it is clearly the Jewish leaders who are now symbolically blind. Their eyes work just fine, but they can't or won't believe what they are seeing and hearing. Something they all would say they've been longing, waiting, and praying for, the coming of the Messiah, has

happened right in front of them. However, their power, authority, wealth, comfort, institutions, and spiritual pride are being threatened by this Man and the Kingdom He says He came to make known and establish. Sometimes we might find some aspects of our lives being challenged or threatened by our faith in Jesus. In those moments, we must follow the example of the man born blind when he declared to Jesus, "Lord, I believe", and then worshipped Jesus.

### Questions:

1. Were there things in your life that kept you blind to who Jesus is and what He was offering you?
2. How can remembering those things help you as you love and care for others who are struggling to see Him?
3. Is there anything in your life today that you need Jesus to open your eyes about?

**Heart for Lebanon Application:** A common question that our team encounters as they serve those in need is this: "Why are you helping us?" Often, the implication is "We are Muslim, you are Christian, why would you help us?" In that moment, the people we serve cannot see. They are blind to what drives our love and care for others. But usually, over time, their eyes are opened. As they begin to understand Jesus, they begin to understand why we strive to love others the way we do. It is a great joy of our work to see those who are spiritually blind find their sight through Jesus' love and grace.

**Prayer:** *Lord God, our Healer and Redeemer, we ask in the Name of Jesus for You to heal us of any blindness in our lives. Grant us the courage to open our eyes, to see ourselves and other people the way You see us. May Your grace and truth work through us to change us and to offer new life to others who are weary of their own blindness. Thank You, Lord, Amen!*





## Week 5: Out of the Tomb (March 15 – March 21)

### Scripture Focus: John 11:1-45 (The Raising of Lazarus)

**Devotion:** There is a recent worship song that says, “I wasn’t made to be tending a grave, I was called by name, born and raised back to life again, I was made for more” (Made for More, Bethel Music). These could easily be the words of Lazarus! We often think of being Mary and Martha watching this happen, talking with Jesus, expressing their questions or sorrow. But can you imagine being Lazarus? Taking that first breath of new life and realizing, “I’m alive”! Jesus uses this moment in scripture for several

purposes. He foreshadows what is to come after His crucifixion. Helping them know, “People really can rise from the dead”! He demonstrates His power to grant new life to anyone. He shows that He is truly having a human experience by weeping with His friends. He makes the powerful declaration that He is “the resurrection and the life,” He’s not just a magician or prophet. Jesus is pointing this group of people and all of us toward this truth: He is the Messiah, the Christ, the Son of God, and He is about to fulfill His mission on earth.

### Questions:

1. Are you in need of a fresh experience of resurrection?  
*Stop right now and ask God for it.*
2. Are there people in your life who are searching, longing, hoping for new life?  
*Stop now and pray for them.*
3. What do you think it would be like to have been in Lazarus’s place and experienced this?

**Heart for Lebanon Application:** Over these last few years, the country of Lebanon, the many refugee families, and the Lebanese people have been through a dark time. A time when death was a daily reality or possibility for many. Everyone in their own way is longing for resurrection, a new life, a new beginning. Our team works daily to bring hope where there once was despair. To remind the people we serve that our God has the power to resurrect a country, a family, a life. Pray for us as we carry that message to thousands of families.

**Prayer:** *Lord God, Creator of Heaven and Earth, thank You for the promise of resurrection as we put our faith in Jesus! Help us to experience every day as a new start, a new beginning, as we share this Good News with others. Empower us by Your Spirit to live victorious lives despite the challenges of this world. May our lives, our faith, our thoughts and our actions bring glory to You each day, in Jesus’ Name, Amen!*

## Week 6: The Power of Serving (March 22 – March 28)

### Scripture Focus: John 13:1-5 (Jesus Washes His Disciples' Feet)

**Devotion:** Verse 3 of this text says that “Jesus knew that the Father had put all things under his power...” Can you imagine that? Standing there, getting ready to have what we refer to as “The Last Supper” with his friends and disciples. He pauses, maybe closes His eyes, we don’t know. But in that moment, He was reminded that all things were under His power. He knew the cross was coming; He could have called down an army of angels, He could have called together an army of men, with a word He could have struck down His enemies. All things were under His power.

So, the question that comes to mind, with all of that power resting on Him, is what did He do next? Here is what the next verse says, “... so he got up from the meal, took off his outer clothing, and wrapped a towel around his waist.” With all power available to Him, He washed His disciples’ feet. He just turned our earthly idea of the use of power upside down. He used all of that power to show them His love, to set a powerful example for them, to show them how they should use their power in the days ahead.

### Questions:

1. What would be some things that you might be tempted to do if you had “all power” and you knew that crucifixion was coming?
2. What does Jesus’ use of power teach us about how we should live in this world?
3. If you had been one of the disciples, how might you have responded to Jesus washing your feet?

**Heart for Lebanon Application:** Since Biblical times, the Middle East (and most of the world) has been caught up in the pursuit, use, and abuse of power. We pray that this reality will make our attempts to love those who were once thought to be our enemy even more impactful. We have members of our Heart for Lebanon team who can share stories of how they hated other groups of people that today they willingly love and serve. This is the impact of Jesus’ example and His use of power to love, care, and serve others.

**Prayer:** *Thank You, Jesus, for setting such a powerful example for us. Forgive us when we have failed to live that example. Empower us to live it out each day to the best of our ability. May we find joy in sacrificially serving those You’ve called us to reach. It is in Your Name that we live, serve, and pray, Amen.*



# Holy Week: The Way of the Cross (March 29 – April 4)

## Scripture Focus: Matthew 27:27-61

**Devotion:** There are several single words that could be used to define what “The Way of the Cross” means: Love, Sacrifice, Redemption, Salvation, among others. However, there is one word that may best define it, but it can be a hard word: Obedience. As we read through the New Testament, a common occurrence is Jesus saying something like, “If you do what I have asked you to do...” He is essentially saying, “If you obey Me.” Jesus obeyed what God, the Father, asked Him to do. In the garden, He said, “Not my will, but yours

be done.” He knows that His mission in this world will only be accomplished if we are obedient. So, Jesus set the ultimate example. Philippians describes it this way, “And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death—even death on a cross.” Jesus showed us what obedience is every step of the Way to the cross. He could do it because He knew He had power over death. We can have the same confidence as we obey and Jesus’ mission is accomplished through us.

### Questions:

1. How are you at obedience to God?
2. How are you at obeying people in authority over you in your life?
3. Try to imagine what Jesus’ human experience of arrest, beating, mocking, carrying the cross, and crucifixion must have been like. What enabled Him to obey through it all?

**Heart for Lebanon Application:** There are people among the families that we serve, and people on our staff, who have had to sacrifice relationships in order to follow Jesus. People who have been criticized, ostracized, or threatened because they chose to follow Jesus. Their obedience has been difficult, but it has also been inspiring. Some people have asked how and why we continue to do ministry when war has raged around us over these last few years. A part of that answer is simply obedience. God called and we have tried to answer that call.

**Prayer:** *Father in Heaven, thank You for sending Jesus to us. Thank You for loving us enough to come in the flesh and experience what this life is like. Thank You for enduring the Way of the Cross for us. Help us to be obedient people who are driven by love for others. Help us to endure the hard parts, looking to Jesus as our example. We love You and praise You, Lord! May You be glorified through our lives, in Jesus Name we pray, Amen.*

