

Quest for Depth: WEEK FOUR**Sunday:** Scripture: John 19:16-19

Message: "Ouch! That Hurts!"

Object of the Week: Nails (one for each person in your household)**Thoughts for the Week:**

Nails can be used in many ways. None of us likes the thought of a nail being driven through human hands and feet; yet many of us enjoy constructing something useful with a hammer and nails. The construction project at Calvary combined the most painful use of nails with the most meaningful product ever: our salvation. The Bible readings this week leave no doubt that Calvary's hammering was for *you*. Will you respond by building your life with him?

Bible Readings for the Week:

1. Acts 2:22-24

2. Isaiah 53:6-9

3. 1 John 1:8-2:2

4. Colossians 2:13-15

5. 1 Corinthians 3:10-13

6. John 20:24-28

Questions to Consider:

1. Lay the nails you received on Sunday at the base of your cross. Sometime during the week consider your sins for which Christ was crucified. Confess them in prayer, then take turns hammering the nails into the cross. Now thank God for the forgiveness Christ accomplished for you through the crucifixion.
2. As you reflect on the passages for this week, think about how God expects us to respond to the sight of the nail holes in Jesus. Is there any way you can express your response this week?

Hymn of the Week: "Were You There?"**Quest for Depth: WEEK FIVE****Sunday:** Scripture: John 19:28-30

Message: "Are You Thirsty?"

Object of the Week: A Sponge**Thoughts for the Week:**

One of the compassionate moments on the cross occurred when Jesus was offered a drink with a sponge. If you've ever exerted yourself on a hot day and then felt the relief of a cold drink, you can begin to identify with Jesus. Amazingly, Jesus was the one who was showing, not receiving, true compassion on Good Friday. And he tells us today that he has living water that he wants us to drink freely and share with others. I pray that you'll grow in your appreciation of God's "holy thirst quencher" this week!

Bible Readings for the Week:

1. Isaiah 55:1-2

2. Psalm 107:1-9

3. John 4:7-14

4. Matthew 25:31-40

5. Romans 12:17-21

6. Revelation 22:12-17

Questions to Consider:

1. Describe the "thirsts" that the living water spoken of in the Bible will satisfy.
2. What are some ways in which you "drink of Jesus"? "Share Jesus' drink?" Try this week to do both!
3. With the children in your household, decide upon a way that you can bring "relief" to another person this week, and then do that activity together, in Jesus' name.

Hymn of the Week: "Springs of Living Water"**Quest for Depth: WEEK SIX****Sunday:** Scripture: John 12:12-19

Message: "This Is the King"

Object of the Week: Various Colored Cloths**Thoughts for the Week:**

This week we add colorful "drapes" to our cross, and we see the "chameleon-like" character of Jesus' sacrifice. On Sunday we welcome Jesus as King, and we place a royal purple drape on our cross. On Thursday we hear Jesus' call to remember his blood, shed for us, and we add a red drape to the cross. On Friday we ponder the darkness of Jesus' climatic suffering and death, adding the black drape to the cross. Then on Saturday, as we anticipate the victory of life over death which is proclaimed on Easter, we add the green drape to the cross. May God bless us all in this special week of worship and reflection.

Bible Readings for the Week:

1. Psalm 24:1-10

2. Isaiah 6:1-7

3. Isaiah 61:10-11

Thurs.: Matthew 26:26-30

Fri.: Matthew 27:45-60

Sat.: 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

Questions to Consider:

1. The Isaiah 6 passage speaks of meeting God face to face; in fact, each Scripture this week helps us to picture meeting God, through Christ. Describe *your* attitudes toward the prospect of seeing Jesus.
2. As you add the colored cloths to the cross this week, discuss with any children in your home what the various colors mean.

Hymn of the Week: "What Wondrous Love Is This"**Quest for Depth: POSTLUDE****Sunday:** Scripture: 1 Corinthians 15:50-58

Message: "Where is Your Victory?"

Object of the Week: An Easter Lily**Thoughts for the Week:**

There is a sweet sense of accomplishment at the *end* of something. Ask anyone who has completed a novel, finished a course, or concluded a household task. Does today mark the end of your "Quest for Depth"? I hope not! I hope, rather, that these past six weeks have been just a continuation of a *lifelong* journey, and a catalyst to regular "quiet time" with Jesus. Today's Easter lilies symbolize the continuation of the Christian life; and, even more, Jesus' resurrection demonstrates the vitality and victory that come with walking with him. May we each continue our journey with Jesus, on into eternity!

Bible Readings for the Week

How will you fill in this section in the week, and weeks, ahead?

Questions to Consider:

1. Are you planning to join in our service of sharing and celebration this evening?
2. How will you continue to seek and serve the risen Lord in the coming weeks?
3. Do you have any comments or suggestions about the "Quest for Depth in Jesus"? If so, jot them down and share them with Pastor _____ Thank you!

Hymn of the Week: "Good Christian Friends, Rejoice and Sing!"