



Open Bible Study
Lent 2024

Sundays at 9:30 am ET | MLK 316 or Zoom
trcnyc.org/OpenBibleStudy



THE RIVERSIDE CHURCH
IN THE CITY OF NEW YORK

This journal is designed for you to deepen your engagement with scripture during the season of Lent. Whether you read and reflect on your own or join us for Open Bible Study, we are taking this Lenten journey together.

Open Bible Study is a space where people can learn something new about the Bible and discuss the ways this ancient text continues to echo in our world and lives today. This is a space to open our minds to new ideas and ways of seeing the Bible, our world, and ourselves. The group is open to all and a safe space open to all ideas and questions, so long as they are shared with love.

Participate in Open Bible Study to look at the texts that will be preached that Sunday as we pray, study scripture, and check in with one another. This class takes place each Sunday morning before worship.

Contact Education at education@trcnyc.org for more information.

Join us on Sundays during Lent at 9:30 am ET in MLK 316 or on Zoom.
Visit trcnyc.org/OpenBibleStudy for the link to join online.

CONTENTS

Sunday, February 18, 2024 Mark 10:17-31	01
Sunday, February 24, 2024 Mark 10:32-52	03
Sunday, March 3, 2024 Mark 12:1-17	05
Sunday, March 10, 2024 Mark 12:28-44	07
Sunday, March 18, 2024 Mark 13:1-8, 24-37	09
Sunday, March 24, 2024 Mark 11:1-11; 14:3-9	11
Lent Events Calendar February 14 - March 9	13
Lent Events Calendar March 10 - March 31	14

Sunday, February 18, 2024

Mark 10:17-31

17 As he was setting out on a journey, a man ran up and knelt before him and asked him, “Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?” 18 Jesus said to him, “Why do you call me good? No one is good but God alone. 19 You know the commandments: ‘You shall not murder. You shall not commit adultery. You shall not steal. You shall not bear false witness. You shall not defraud. Honor your father and mother.’ ” 20 He said to him, “Teacher, I have kept all these since my youth.” 21 Jesus, looking at him, loved him and said, “You lack one thing; go, sell what you own, and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow me.” 22 When he heard this, he was shocked and went away grieving, for he had many possessions.

23 Then Jesus looked around and said to his disciples, “How hard it will be for those who have wealth to enter the kingdom of God!” 24 And the disciples were perplexed at these words. But Jesus said to them again, “Children, how hard it is to enter the kingdom of God! 25 It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God.” 26 They were greatly astounded and said to one another, “Then who can be saved?” 27 Jesus looked at them and said, “For mortals it is impossible, but not for God; for God all things are possible.”

28 Peter began to say to him, “Look, we have left everything and followed you.” 29 Jesus said, “Truly I tell you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or fields for my sake and for the sake of the good news 30 who will not receive a hundredfold now in this age—houses, brothers and sisters, mothers and children, and fields, with persecutions—and in the age to come eternal life. 31 But many who are first will be last, and the last will be first.”



Discussion questions:

How would you answer the young man's question –

“What must I do to gain eternal life?”

What could “the first will be last and the last will be first” mean for our world today?

This image shows a blank sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

Sunday, February 24, 2024

Mark 10:32-52

32 They were on the road, going up to Jerusalem, and Jesus was walking ahead of them; they were amazed, and those who followed were afraid. He took the twelve aside again and began to tell them what was to happen to him, 33 saying, "Look, we are going up to Jerusalem, and the Son of Man will be handed over to the chief priests and the scribes, and they will condemn him to death; then they will hand him over to the gentiles; 34 they will mock him and spit upon him and flog him and kill him, and after three days he will rise again."

35 James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came forward to him and said to him, "Teacher, we want you to do for us whatever we ask of you." 36 And he said to them, "What is it you want me to do for you?" 37 And they said to him, "Appoint us to sit, one at your right hand and one at your left, in your glory." 38 But Jesus said to them, "You do not know what you are asking. Are you able to drink the cup that I drink or be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with?" 39 They replied, "We are able." Then Jesus said to them, "The cup that I drink you will drink, and with the baptism with which I am baptized you will be baptized, 40 but to sit at my right hand or at my left is not mine to appoint, but it is for those for whom it has been prepared."

41 When the ten heard this, they began to be angry with James and John. 42 So Jesus called them and said to them, "You know that among the gentiles those whom they recognize as their rulers lord it over them, and their great ones are tyrants over them. 43 But it is not so among you; instead, whoever wishes to become great among you must be your servant, 44 and whoever wishes to be first among you must be slave of all. 45 For the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve and to give his life a ransom for many."

46 They came to Jericho. As he and his disciples and a large crowd were leaving Jericho, Bartimaeus son of Timaeus, a blind beggar, was sitting by the roadside. 47 When he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to shout out and say, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!" 48 Many sternly ordered him to be quiet, but he cried out even more loudly, "Son of David, have mercy on me!" 49 Jesus stood still and said, "Call him here." And they called the blind man, saying to him, "Take heart; get up, he is calling you." 50 So throwing off his cloak, he sprang up and came to Jesus. 51 Then Jesus said to him, "What do you want me to do for you?" The blind man said to him, "My teacher, let me see again." 52 Jesus said to him, "Go; your faith has made you well." Immediately he regained his sight and followed him on the way.



Discussion questions:

How would you describe the misunderstanding of James and John in verses 35-40 and how might such misunderstandings surface among Christians today?

As you reflect on this passage, what truths can be applied to our lives and the Church in the 21st century?

This image shows a blank sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

Sunday, March 3, 2024

Mark 12:1-17

12 Then he began to speak to them in parables. "A man planted a vineyard, put a fence around it, dug a pit for the winepress, and built a watchtower; then he leased it to tenants and went away. 2 When the season came, he sent a slave to the tenants to collect from them his share of the produce of the vineyard. 3 But they seized him and beat him and sent him away empty-handed. 4 And again he sent another slave to them; this one they beat over the head and insulted. 5 Then he sent another, and that one they killed. And so it was with many others; some they beat, and others they killed. 6 He had still one other, a beloved son. Finally he sent him to them, saying, 'They will respect my son.' 7 But those tenants said to one another, 'This is the heir; come, let us kill him, and the inheritance will be ours.' 8 So they seized him, killed him, and threw him out of the vineyard. 9 What then will the owner of the vineyard do? He will come and destroy the tenants and give the vineyard to others. 10 Have you not read this scripture:

'The stone that the builders rejected
has become the cornerstone;
11 this was the Lord's doing,
and it is amazing in our eyes'?"

12 When they realized that he had told this parable against them, they wanted to arrest him, but they feared the crowd. So they left him and went away.

13 Then they sent to him some Pharisees and some Herodians to trap him in what he said. 14 And they came and said to him, "Teacher, we know that you are sincere and show deference to no one, for you do not regard people with partiality but teach the way of God in accordance with truth. Is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar or not? 15 Should we pay them, or should we not?" But knowing their hypocrisy, he said to them, "Why are you putting me to the test? Bring me a denarius and let me see it." 16 And they brought one. Then he said to them, "Whose head is this and whose title?" They answered, "Caesar's." 17 Jesus said to them, "Give to Caesar the things that are Caesar's and to God the things that are God's." And they were utterly amazed at him.



Discussion questions:

How does Jesus represent the son in the story?

How does Jesus embody the will of God?

Whom has God sent to speak to us today?

What prevents us from receiving the truth?

This image shows a blank sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

Sunday, March 10, 2024

Mark 12:28-44

28 One of the scribes came near and heard them disputing with one another, and seeing that he answered them well he asked him, “Which commandment is the first of all?” 29 Jesus answered, “The first is, ‘Hear, O Israel: the Lord our God, the Lord is one; 30 you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.’ 31 The second is this, ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ There is no other commandment greater than these.” 32 Then the scribe said to him, “You are right, Teacher; you have truly said that ‘he is one, and besides him there is no other’; 33 and ‘to love him with all the heart and with all the understanding and with all the strength’ and ‘to love one’s neighbor as oneself’—this is much more important than all whole burnt offerings and sacrifices.” 34 When Jesus saw that he answered wisely, he said to him, “You are not far from the kingdom of God.” After that no one dared to ask him any question.

35 While Jesus was teaching in the temple, he said, “How can the scribes say that the Messiah is the son of David? 36 David himself, by the Holy Spirit, declared,

‘The Lord said to my Lord,
“Sit at my right hand,
until I put your enemies under your feet.”

37 “David himself calls him Lord, so how can he be his son?” And the large crowd was listening to him with delight.

38 As he taught, he said, “Beware of the scribes, who like to walk around in long robes and to be greeted with respect in the marketplaces 39 and to have the best seats in the synagogues and places of honor at banquets! 40 They devour widows’ houses and for the sake of appearance say long prayers. They will receive the greater condemnation.”

41 He sat down opposite the treasury and watched the crowd putting money into the treasury. Many rich people put in large sums. 42 A poor widow came and put in two small copper coins, which are worth a penny. 43 Then he called his disciples and said to them, “Truly I tell you, this poor widow has put in more than all those who are contributing to the treasury. 44 For all of them have contributed out of their abundance, but she out of her poverty has put in everything she had, all she had to live on.”



Discussion questions:

With over 600 commandments to choose from, why do you think Jesus chose these two as the first/greatest? What can the widow's offering teach us about giving?

[illegible]

Sunday, March 18, 2024
Mark 13:1-8, 24-37

13 As he came out of the temple, one of his disciples said to him, “Look, Teacher, what large stones and what large buildings!” 2 Then Jesus asked him, “Do you see these great buildings? Not one stone will be left here upon another; all will be thrown down.”

3 When he was sitting on the Mount of Olives opposite the temple, Peter, James, John, and Andrew asked him privately, 4 “Tell us, when will this be, and what will be the sign that all these things are about to be accomplished?” 5 Then Jesus began to say to them, “Beware that no one leads you astray. 6 Many will come in my name and say, ‘I am he!’ and they will lead many astray. 7 When you hear of wars and rumors of wars, do not be alarmed; this must take place, but the end is still to come. 8 For nation will rise against nation and kingdom against kingdom; there will be earthquakes in various places; there will be famines. This is but the beginning of the birth pangs.

24 “But in those days, after that suffering, the sun will be darkened,
and the moon will not give its light,
25 and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.

26 “Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in clouds’ with great power and glory. 27 Then he will send out the angels and gather the elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.

28 “From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. 29 So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. 30 Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. 31 Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

32 “But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven nor the Son, but only the Father. 33 Beware, keep alert, for you do not know when the time will come. 34 It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. 35 Therefore, keep awake, for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening or at midnight or at cockcrow or at dawn, 36 or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. 37 And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.”



Discussion questions:

Most scholars agree that the Gospel of Mark was compiled around 70 CE, following the destruction of the Jerusalem Temple. How might that impact our understanding and interpretation of this passage?

What metaphors do you see in verses 24-37 and how do they impact the way you interpret this passage?

[illegible]

Sunday, March 24, 2024

Mark 11:1-11; 14:3-9

11 When they were approaching Jerusalem, at Bethphage and Bethany, near the Mount of Olives, he sent two of his disciples 2 and said to them, “Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately as you enter it you will find tied there a colt that has never been ridden; untie it and bring it. 3 If anyone says to you, ‘Why are you doing this?’ just say this: ‘The Lord needs it and will send it back here immediately.’ ” 4 They went away and found a colt tied near a door, outside in the street. As they were untying it, 5 some of the bystanders said to them, “What are you doing, untying the colt?” 6 They told them what Jesus had said, and they allowed them to take it. 7 Then they brought the colt to Jesus and threw their cloaks on it, and he sat on it. 8 Many people spread their cloaks on the road, and others spread leafy branches that they had cut in the fields. 9 Then those who went ahead and those who followed were shouting,

“Hosanna!

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!

10 Blessed is the coming kingdom of our ancestor David!

Hosanna in the highest heaven!”

11 Then he entered Jerusalem and went into the temple, and when he had looked around at everything, as it was already late, he went out to Bethany with the twelve.

3 While he was at Bethany in the house of Simon the leper, as he sat at the table, a woman came with an alabaster jar of very costly ointment of nard, and she broke open the jar and poured the ointment on his head. 4 But some were there who said to one another in anger, “Why was the ointment wasted in this way? 5 For this ointment could have been sold for more than three hundred denarii and the money given to the poor.” And they scolded her. 6 But Jesus said, “Let her alone; why do you trouble her? She has performed a good service for me. 7 For you always have the poor with you, and you can show kindness to them whenever you wish, but you will not always have me. 8 She has done what she could; she has anointed my body beforehand for its burial. 9 Truly I tell you, wherever the good news is proclaimed in the whole world, what she has done will be told in remembrance of her.”



Discussion questions:

Both of these stories are in all four gospels (a rare feat!).

What do they tell us about Jesus?

What is the modern-day version of breaking the jar of perfume?

How do we show extravagant love?

This image shows a blank sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

2024 LENTEN CALENDAR



Love
Poured Out

2024 LENTEN CALENDAR

March 10 - March 31

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
10 Lenten Bible Study 9:30 AM 316 MLK & Online Worship Service 11:00 AM Hybrid Rev. Adriene Thorne, Preaching	11 Morning Prayer 8:00 AM Online	12 Morning Prayer 8:00 AM Online	13 Morning Prayer 8:00 AM Online Noon Prayer 12:00 PM Hybrid Evening Prayer 6:00 PM Online Only
17 Lenten Bible Study 9:30 AM 316 MLK & Online Worship Service 11:00 AM Hybrid Rev. Adriene Thorne, Preaching	18 Morning Prayer 8:00 AM Online	19 Morning Prayer 8:00 AM Online	20 Morning Prayer 8:00 AM Online Noon Prayer 12:00 PM Hybrid Evening Prayer 6:00 PM Online Only
24 PALM SUNDAY Worship Service 11:00 AM Hybrid Rev. Adriene Thorne, Preaching	25 Morning Prayer 8:00 AM Online	26 Morning Prayer 8:00 AM Online	27 Morning Prayer 8:00 AM Online Noon Prayer 12:00 PM Hybrid Evening Prayer 7:00 PM Hybrid

RESURRECTION SUNDAY

Lenten Bible Study 9:30 AM | 316 MLK & Online
Special Music Easter Brunch *Ticketed Event*
 10:30 AM | Hybrid After Worship | South Hall
Worship Service Easter Egg Hunt
 11:00 AM | Hybrid After Sunday Service
 Rev. Adriene Thorne
Beginning in the Cloister Lounge.
 Preaching



THE RIVERSIDE CHURCH
IN THE CITY OF NEW YORK



For Daily Lenten Practices scan QR code.
 For more detailed information go to the website.
www.trcnyc.org/lent

Thursday	Friday	Saturday
14 Morning Prayer 8:00 AM Online	15 Morning Prayer 8:00 AM Online Organ and Dance Meditations 12:00 PM Nave Roy Nagem, Brick Presbyterian Church	16
21 Morning Prayer 8:00 AM Online	22 Morning Prayer 8:00 AM Online	23
28 MAUNDY THURSDAY Morning Prayer 8:00 AM Online Worship Service 7:00 PM Hybrid	29 GOOD FRIDAY Morning Prayer 8:00 AM Online Worship Service 12:00 PM Hybrid	30 HOLY SATURDAY Labyrinth Walk 12:00 PM - 3:00 PM Assembly Hall