The Seedbed Daily Text

FORTY STEPS ON THE ROAD TO RESURRECTION

YOUTH TEACHING PLANS

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The Seedbed Daily Text - Listen to Him: Forty Steps on the Road to Resurrection (Youth Teaching Plans)

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LISTEN TO HIM

HABITS

Introduction

Roads are remarkable things, providing both direction and clarity. Most of our great roads began as trails running through wild country, blazed with equal measures of tenacity and uncertainty. From these coarse tracks to wagon paths, winding highways, and then interstates, our roads have matured. Even a simple trail through woods, mountain, and desert allows a traveler to find their bearing and with confidence, continue. Our habits are the roadways of our lives. In the beginning, we may be uncertain of how they will shape us and will require some type of endurance. This Lent, we will journey together, listening to Jesus from Luke 9:18 to Luke 24:8, making roads in our hearts, minds, bodies, and souls on the way to the resurrection.

How to Use

Each week we will lean into a habit of listening to Jesus. This resource is intended to be a trail sign for each week, providing direction as you lead your students through Lent. With a reading from Luke, a brief reflection, an introduction for a weekly habit, and our sinner-to-saint prayer of identity, you can integrate this into your current ministry offerings. Use the reflection in a Sunday school as the conversation guide. Or, on a Wednesday night, read the weekly scripture and let the reflection be the outline for your student sermon, while the habit forms your breakout discussion. Throughout the week, you may challenge your students to post how they are practicing the habit with the hashtag #ListentoHim on your student social media platforms.

Classes and Bands

Promote the habit in small groups or bands. This is a journey you and the other adult leaders are taking alongside your students. Your ministry will feel the greatest reverberation if your groups are reading the Daily Text or participating in the Discipleship Bands App. **The habit of the second week is to huddle, and may provide a launching point for your students to form these small groups.**

SESSION ONE
(THE WEEK OF ASH WEDNESDAY)
THE HABIT OF WORSHIP

Join a community of listeners reading from Luke 9:18 through
Luke 10:16 by following along with the Daily Text.

Luke 9:18–24 ESV

Now it happened that as he was praying alone, the disciples were with him. And he asked them, "Who do the crowds say that I am?" And they answered, "John the Baptist. But others say, Elijah, and others, that one of the prophets of old has risen." Then he said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" And Peter answered, "The Christ of God."

And he strictly charged and commanded them to tell this to no one, saying, "The Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised."

And he said to all, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me. For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will save it.

Luke 10:9–11 ESV

Heal the sick in it and say to them, "The kingdom of God has come near to you." But whenever you enter a town and they do not receive you, go into its streets and say, "Even the dust of your town that clings to our feet we wipe off against you. Nevertheless know this, that the kingdom of God has come near."

This week we join the trail of Jesus as he turns toward Jerusalem, the cross, and the rolled away stone. This week of Ash Wednesday, we hear our Creator's words, "for you are dust, and to dust you shall return" (Gen. 3:19) and mark this moment of repentance and remembrance as our trailhead. Listen alongside the disciples, first to his question and then to his invitation to journey.

First, hear his question: *Who do you say that I am?* Speak it softly so that your own ears can hear it. Before we leap into our own responses, hear his question. Jesus asks this question not as a classroom teacher or football coach; he asks in a spirit and posture of prayer. Jesus and the disciples are coming to this conversation in prayer, a prayer that prompts the question of how they understand his identity. If you're anything like me, I tend to listen to people with more than my ears. When we listen to Jesus, we hear better when we join him in his Spirit and posture; then, our response may be one of revelation rather than reaction. (Pause here and imagine

with me the sounds of prayer, the smells of the disciples, the sight of a praying Jesus.) Now, hear it again, *Who do you say that I am?*

Second, hear his invitation to journey: *If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me.* The invitation is in the *if*. It does our ears and hearts good to place ourselves in the spirit and posture of this invitation. Jesus, our true trailblazer, has been rightly named as the Christ of God, and he calls us to join his journey. He has humbled himself by offering it and been fully transparent about what it will cost him, and what it will cost us.

Lastly, join the journey with the disciples hearing the reality of the kingdom in each of our challenges and circumstances from Jesus, *"Nevertheless know this, that the kingdom of God has come near."* Listening to him here at the trail's beginning, sure of nearness of the kingdom, we are ready for our first habit: worship.

THE HABIT OF WORSHIP

THE REORIENTATION TO THE REALITY AND PERSON OF JESUS

Perhaps the most revolutionary of self-denying habits, worship is the natural outcome of proclaiming Jesus as the Christ of God. Worship requires a few things from us. It requires time, an obvious but overlooked act of self-denial; you are literally giving moments of your life fully to God. It requires humility, by naming clearly that you are not the Lord of your life. It requires transparency, that you have a need both to hear a proclamation of forgiveness while openly proclaiming the triune God as the one who forgives.

Hear from Jesus the invitation: to deny self, carry our cross, and follow-ship. This is your invitation to Lent and life. We are designed and invited to hear from the Lord. **The denial of self in worshiping Jesus is not a loss of identity, but claiming the only full and true identity available to us.** We are sinners. We are sons and daughters of God. We are saints. This will be our prayer through our journey, marking each day with identity in Jesus.

1. Join your Ash Wednesday service as a worshiping act of confession, self-denial, and willing reorientation to the kingdom. Take a picture and post it online with #ListentoHim to mark how you are beginning the journey.

2. Set an alarm on your phone or calendar for the remainder of the week, with the simple note attached: *Who do you say I am?* —Jesus

3. Hear this question from Jesus as an encouragement to worship him as the Christ of God. Let it reorient your ears to listen to him, and your eyes to see his glory and the nearness of his kingdom.

4. Then, pray our sinner-to-saint prayer of identity:
   Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me, a sinner.
   Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me, a son/daughter.
   Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me, a saint.