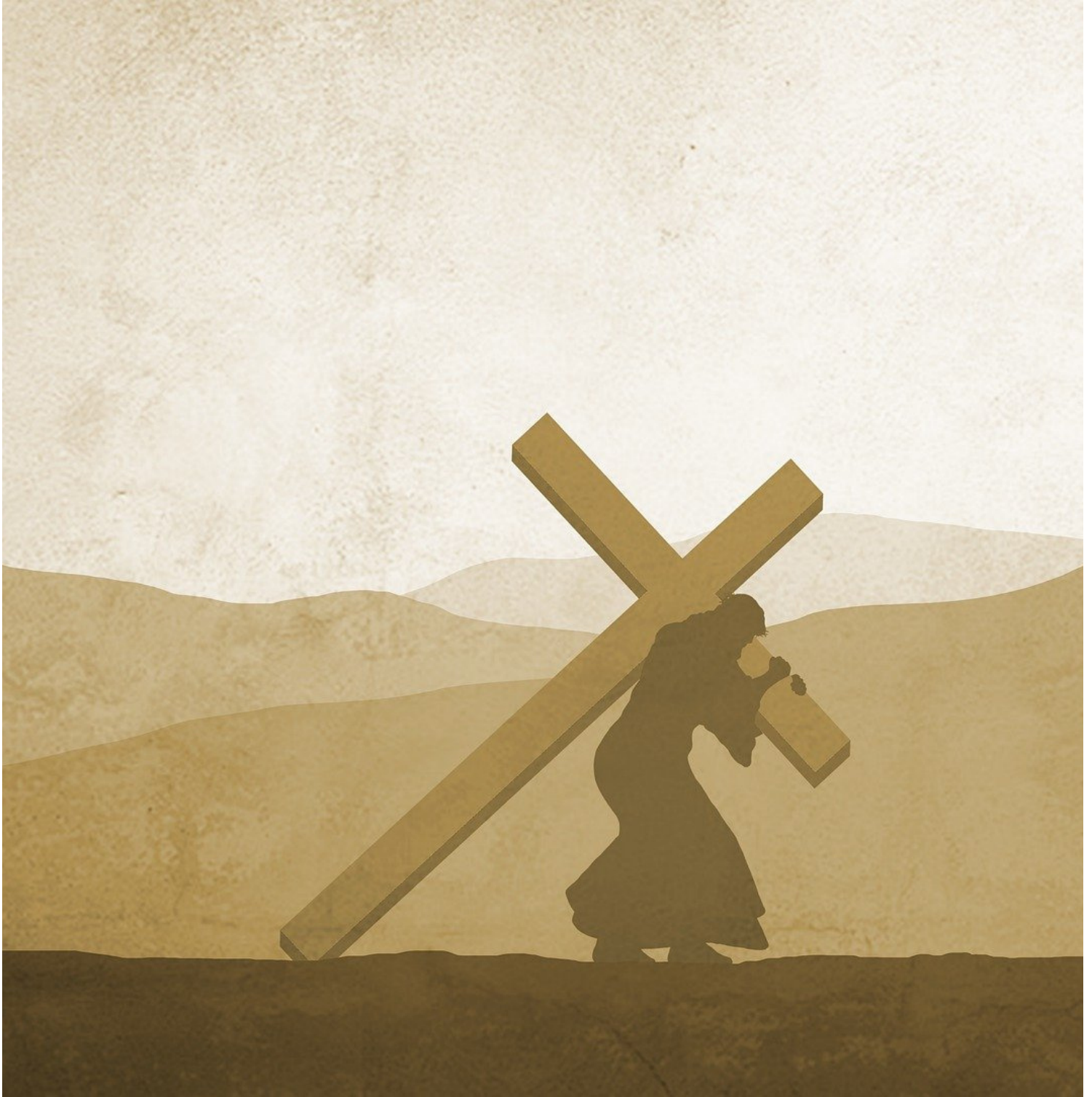


Lent Reflection Resources

Week 2: Submission



The Bible Passage

Jesus went on with his disciples to the villages of Caesarea Philippi; and on the way he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that I am?" And they answered him, "John the Baptist; and others, Elijah; and still others, one of the prophets." He asked them, "But who do you say that I am?" Peter answered him, "You are the Messiah." And he sternly ordered them not to tell anyone about him.

Then he began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, "Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things."

He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels."

~ Mark 8:27-38



Ways to Enter the Story

You might like to relive the story, as one of the disciples, or an unnamed member of the crowd, and take the opportunity to talk to Jesus, to pray and worship. It might help to read or listen to the passage again. If you find it hard to keep focused while imagining things, you could try writing your reflection down. Or maybe you're artistic, and you want to paint or draw something related to the story.

Here are some questions to ponder as you respond.

Are you feeling a bit like Peter at the moment – not really understanding God's plans, particularly as the pandemic is ongoing? Could you talk to God about your anxiety and uncertainty?

Could you ask God to show you how we and our church community could grow creatively more and more Christ-like even through the pandemic?

Sometimes we have our own plans and ideas about what following Christ should look like, and we try to persuade God that we know best, just like Peter! Even Jesus didn't want to carry his cross, despite being obedient to the Father. Are there times when God has asked you to do something hard or painful? Could you talk to God about those times? Have you found blessing and grace, or even joy and delight, while you carry your cross?

[Click here to listen to 'Take up thy cross, the Saviour said'.](#)

