



Read: How often Jesus chose to be silent or to give cryptic answers rather than defend himself. Read [John 18:28-38](#). How did Jesus respond? What could he have said? What was Pilate's response?

The love of God often shines most brightly when things around us seem darkest. Read [Jeremiah 31:1-4](#). Read it again, listening for God's heart as he knows the pain his people are about to suffer. Choose a word or phrase to focus on.

Think: Review the passage again and ponder the word or phrase that stands out to you. What do you see of God's nature in this? What do you see about his heart? Turn this word or phrase over and over in your mind—gently, like a fragile treasure.

Pray: Ask the Holy Spirit to impart God's message for you from this passage. What is he inviting you to consider? To do? To know? Open your heart and ask him to write his love deeply within you.

Rest: Sit quietly with what you have heard or sensed or experienced. Let all other thoughts go, except the reality of God's presence here and now, with you. Let him love you. If it helps, play worship music in the background. If your mind gets distracted, gently whisper "I receive your love" or "I love you, Lord."

Christ is to us just what His cross is. All that Christ was in heaven or on earth was put into what He did there...Christ, I repeat, is to us just what His cross is. You do not understand Christ till you understand His cross.

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