

DAILY BIBLE STUDY SHEET

Daily meditation on the Word of God is imperative to our growth. As the people of God we should commit to reading Scripture every day. There are questions to help prompt your meditation. If you do not have a Bible, please contact the church office and one will be given to you. To locate the passages, use the Table of Contents to find the page number. The number before the colon will tell you the chapter to find. The numbers after the colon are the superscript numbers in your Bible indicating the verses to read. Our Lenten meditations are based on Warren Wiersbe's book "Jesus in the Present Tense."

Monday, March 28th – Mark 16:1-20

This week we will bask in the various reports of the Good News – Jesus is Risen!!! All our Gospels point to the fact that Jesus truly is the Resurrection and the Life via his own resurrection. We begin with Mark, which has three endings. The first one stops at verse 8. What would have happened if this truly were the end? What is the first thing you notice about it that seems strange and contradictory to the added endings of Mark and to the other three Gospel explanations? What if this ending had been the correct ending, what would that mean to us today? Would there be victory? Would there be a group called Christians? In verses 9 and 12, we see that even though someone has now spoken up, still no one believes. How does this seem like the world today? How many hear but do not believe? What is at stake for lack of belief? Why is it important for us to live out our belief as resurrected Easter people every day?

Tuesday, March 29th – Matthew 28:1-10

Today we turn to Matthew's telling of the resurrection of Jesus. What are some of the different things Matthew discusses? Considering Matthew is speaking to a predominantly Jewish audience, why would the guards, the earthquake, the angels all be important? Read verses 11-15 to help you answer these questions. Who are the first visitors to the tomb? How is that different from Mark? Only John and Matthew have the women encounter Jesus. Why do you think that is? What in Matthew's story fills you with awe and wonder regarding Jesus' resurrection? What if you had run into Jesus on that morning, how would you have felt? Just as the women worshipped God, spend time today in complete worship, abandoning all your fears to relish in the presence of God. Open yourself up to the new life of Easter resurrection Christ won for you.

Wednesday, March 30th – Luke 24:13-34

We read a Jesus encounter on resurrection day that is not found in Matthew or John's Gospel, but does show a slight reference to Mark 16:12-13. As you read Luke's story consider its purpose for Luke. Jesus is teaching his followers how he is the fulfillment of the Old Testament prophets. Why do you think that these followers do not recognize Jesus, even when Jesus is teaching them? Why do you think that they only recognize him in the breaking of bread? When does the breaking of bread take place in the church today? If Jesus is recognized in the breaking of the bread and the sharing of meal, what does that mean to us when we come to take communion? Are we not communing with Jesus as well as with each other? Is Jesus present in the breaking of the bread? Is it the victory of grace (the unmerited love of God) we receive when we come to the table to eat? This is an Easter story as it happens on Easter Day. Is it important then to remember every Communion Sunday as an Easter Sunday? How does it feel that we celebrate Easter Victory each time we share in The Lord's Supper? Thank God for the celebration of Holy Communion, and unity with Jesus the Victor, through the bread and wine.

Thursday, March 31st – John 20:1-10

Today we turn to John's version. Mary heads out to the tomb. She must have been seriously grief stricken, as it was still dark when she headed out. When she sees the tomb tampered with, she goes to get the men. Have you ever wondered why she did that? Two of the disciples come back to the tomb to check things out, and they don't just come, they run to the tomb. The "other" disciple is John. In writing about his experience, he is very clear it is only when he saw that he believed and understood what Jesus had been talking about. What do you need to let you believe that Jesus rose from the dead? Consider how you know he is risen! Is it a head or heart knowledge? What in John's version of resurrection helps you believe? What do you see through John's eyes that helps you? Can John's eyes be your eyes? Without looking back at the Bible, consider what John saw. Close your eyes and imagine yourself there. What would that have looked like in the tomb? How would you have responded? Where do you see victory?

Friday, April 1st – John 20:19-29

Today we read about Jesus' appearing to the disciples. In verses 19-23 Jesus suddenly appears to 10 of the 12. Remember Judas has committed suicide and Thomas is not in the room. As you read these verses, make notes in your Bible where indications of resurrection and life are found. Is it in the giving of the Holy Spirit? Is there resurrection in the presence of Jesus? As you finish reading the passage, consider how Thomas must have felt. Do we not have doubts like Thomas? Look at verse 29. Where is there life in this statement regarding belief? While blessings come to those who believe without seeing, does this mean that Thomas, as well as those who do not believe without seeing, face condemnation rather than life? Is there resurrection and life for those who will believe upon seeing Jesus at his return? Consider how believing before seeing brings resurrection to our lives here and now, rather than only at Jesus' return. Do you believe without seeing that Jesus is victorious over sin and death? If so, how does your lifestyle reflect victorious living? Is it obvious to others?

Saturday, April 2nd – *In preparation for tomorrow's worship please read all of Acts 9:1-9.*