

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 of the book. 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.

Monday, April 2nd – John 20:1-10

This week we will bask in the various reports of the Good News – Jesus is Risen!!! We begin with 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 has been 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. They don't just come, they *run* to the tomb. The "other" disciple is John. He is 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 see to believe that Jesus rose from the dead? Consider how you know He is risen. What in John's version of this glorious event do you find aids in your belief? What do you see through John's eyes that makes you believe? Can John's eyes be your eyes? Without looking, consider what John saw. Now close your eyes and imagine yourself there. What would that have looked like in the tomb? How would you have responded?

Tuesday, April 3rd – Mark 16:1-8a

Mark has three endings. Today you have read the original ending, which ends with the women fleeing in fear. What is the first thing you notice about this ending? What seems strange and contradictory compared 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 even be a group called Christians? Now read the rest of Mark 16:8. This is called the "shorter ending," which indicates someone added this sentence to the original text. Why do you think they did that? What was the importance of it? Now read the rest of Mark 16, beginning at verse 9. This is considered the long ending – again added after the text was finished. What was added and why? What are we the readers to take away from this reading? Consider what part of this longer ending fills you with joy and wonder. Spend some time thanking God for these blessings.

Wednesday, April 4th – Matthew 28:1-10

Today we read 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 and John? How is this different from Luke's version that we heard Sunday? 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 Marys worshipped God, spend time today in complete worship, abandoning all your fears to relish in the presence of God.

Thursday, April 5th – Luke 24:13-34

We read a Jesus encounter on resurrection day that is not found in other three Gospels. As you read this 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 the meal, what does that mean to us when we come to take communion? Are we not communing with Jesus as well as each other? Is Jesus present in the breaking of the bread? Is it 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 not important then to remember every Communion Sunday as an Easter Sunday? How does it feel that we celebrate Easter Sunday each time we share in The Lord's Supper? Thank God for the celebration of Holy Communion and the unity with Jesus through the bread and wine.

Friday, April 6th – John 21:1-14

We started the week with John and now we end the week with John's resurrection story. John tells of several appearances of Jesus. Today you read one of the last appearances before Jesus' ascension. Yesterday we read of Jesus sharing a meal with his traveling companions and the breaking of bread. Today we again have the sharing of a meal. What is on the menu today? Consider the teachings we had on fish. The Disciples will become fishers of men. The lunch that fed many had small fish. Several of Jesus' disciples had been fishermen by trade. The temple tax money was found in the mouth of a fish. And today, fishing and fish seem to be part of Jesus' appearance. The men are fishing and Jesus blesses them with a large catch. Then they come to shore and eat fish and bread. In reading John's experience what touches your heart? If you had been there, would you have known it was Jesus? Why is it that only Peter races to see the Lord? Would you be like Peter or the others? Which do you think would please God?

Saturday, April 7th – Prepare for tomorrow by reading John 20:24-29.