

DAILY BIBLE STUDY SHEET

As the people of God, we should be committed to reading Scripture every day. Here are daily readings and questions to help prompt your meditation. If you do not have a Bible, please contact the church office and we would be honored to provide one. 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 18th – John 20:1-10

Once again, this year, we will bask in the various reports of that awesome 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 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. He is writing about his experience. He is very clear that it was only when he saw that he believed and understood what Jesus had been talking about. What do you need to believe that Jesus rose from the dead? Consider how you know he is risen. What in John's version of this glorious event helps you 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 19th – Mark 16:1-8a

Mark has three endings. Today you have read the original ending, which concludes with the women fleeing in fear. What is the first thing you notice about this, which seems strange and contradictory when we compare it to the later, added endings of Mark and the other three Gospels? What if this ending had been the correct ending? What would that mean to us today? Would there 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 longer ending. Again, this was 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 20th – 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 that 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? 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 each Mary worshipped God, spend time today in complete worship, abandoning all your fears to relish the presence of the risen Messiah—your King!

Thursday, April 21st – Luke 24:1-12

We now read Luke's story of the resurrection. We begin by reading about the women who have come to tend to the body of Jesus. When they arrive, they discover the stone has been moved. What do they discover (vs. 3)? What would you have thought if you walked in and the body was gone? What do the men (messengers) ask the women (vs. 5)? In verses 6-7 the men answer the question for the women. What do they declare? How do they help the women grasp the news? How do the women respond? (vss. 8-10)? How did the disciples respond (vs. 11)? In verse 12, how does Peter attest to what Luke says in verse 11? If you had been there in the room with the men, what would you have thought? This ties into Sunday's question – you've been told, so do you believe? And what exactly do you believe? And if you believe, do you understand that this is a game-changer for your life? Consider today how the resurrection of Jesus brings change and transformation in everything you do today. If it is true – Jesus is risen and lives – how do you live your life in response to this Good News? Once you come up with some answers to these questions, put these changes into practice in your life today.

Friday, April 22nd – John 21:1-14

We started the week with John and now we end the week with John's resurrection story. He talks about several appearances of Jesus. Today we read about one of the last appearances before Jesus' ascension. We begin by the sharing of a meal. What is on the menu today? Remember the call on the Disciples – they 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? Which will you do today?

Saturday, April 23rd – Prepare for tomorrow by reading John 20:19-31.