

Hope Today
January - April 2022

Daily Study

for Program Series



discovering Jesus

a study of The Gospel of John

Week 14 : April 11-15

The following series of daily readings, questions, and prayers have been designed by Pastor Tom Cullen to lead up to the program for the coming week. There are five daily studies for each week. Allow about 20 minutes a day to complete each one.

A video that will take you deeper into the text is available at lightnlife.ca

Program Schedule
Discovering Jesus

April 17 - Discovering Jesus in the resurrection
(John 20:1-18)

April 24 - Discovering Jesus in second chances (John 21)

Hope Today Winter/Spring 2022

Program Series Study Guide

discovering Jesus

a study of The Gospel of John

Monday

Read

❖ John 19:28-42

Study

1. What does verse 28 -30 tell you about who is in control of this whole situation?

2. Why do you think Jesus said, "*It is finished*"? What was finished?

3. How would verse 34 enable someone to argue against those who say that Jesus wasn't truly a man but only seemed to take on human form and only appeared to die?

4. Who buried Jesus? Do you think that Jesus' death still has the power to change people's half-hearted devotion to full fledged allegiance? How? (If you have time, trace Nicodemus' faith journey by re-reading John 3:1-15; 7:45-52)

Notes

- ❖ John 19:29 Don't confuse this drink with the "*wine mixed with myrrh*" that Jesus was offered on the way to the cross (see Mark 15:23). That drink was a sedative designed to dull the senses and the pain of the event. Jesus would have none of it, as He resolved to drink the full cup of suffering the Father had given Him. The drink offered in our text is not a sedative but a thirst quencher that would prolong life and consequently the pain. The use of the word "*wine vinegar*" recalls Psalm 69:21 where the same noun is used.
- ❖ John 19:31 "The Mosaic law insisted that anyone hanged on a gibbet (usually after execution) should not remain there overnight (Deuteronomy 21:22,23). Such a person was under God's curse, and to leave him exposed would be 'to desecrate the land'. Presumably this would be viewed as doubly offensive if the day on which the desecration took place was a "special Sabbath". So the '*Jews asked Pilate to have the legs broken and the bodies taken down.*' They may also have been hoping that this further

mutilation would in the eyes of the people make Jesus appear to be plainly accursed and abandoned by God.”¹

Reflect

- ❖ We read a portion of Isaiah 53 earlier. Now take time to read the whole chapter and note all the parallels between this passage and Jesus’ death.

Pray

- ❖ “Rock of Ages, cleft for me,
Let me hide myself in Thee;
Let the water and the blood,
From thy riven side which flowed,
Be of sin the double cure,
Cleanse me from its guilt and power.”²

Memory Verse for the Week

John 20:31

¹ D.A. Carson, *The Gospel According to John, The Pillar New Testament Commentary* (Grand Rapids, Michigan: William B. Eerdmans Publishing, 1991) 622-623.

² From the hymn, “Rock of Ages”. Words by Augustus M. Toplady.

Read

❖ John 20:1-9

Study

1. Mary Magdalene is the first to go visit the tomb of Jesus. What does she see? What does she do in response? And what does she assume has happened?

2. Try to imagine what Peter and the other disciple (we believe it to be John) are thinking as they run to the tomb.

3. When Peter and John arrive at the tomb, what do they see? Why do you think John gives us the details as he does? Why would it be important?

4. What didn't Peter and John understand at this point? Read Luke 24:25, 26, 45, 46 to discover why they did not understand.

Reflect

- ❖ Re-read John 2:18-22. Why is the resurrection the greatest sign Jesus gives us?

Pray

Begin by giving thanks to God for the wonder of the resurrection. Perhaps pray through Psalm 16:7-11.

Memory Verse for the Week

John 20:31

Read

❖ John 20:10-18

Study

1. What evidence does John give us of the reality of the resurrection? (see John 20:1, 2, 6-8, 16)

2. Look up Mark 16:9 and discover why Jesus is so special to Mary Magdalene. What finally convinced Mary of what has happened? How does she demonstrate her new convictions and beliefs?

Reflect

❖ Mary is told by Jesus “Do not hold on to me, for I have not yet returned to the Father.” The text is difficult to interpret because the verb can be taken in a number of different ways. But what seems to make sense is that

Jesus is telling Mary not to cling to him “but go and tell the disciples that I am in the process of ascending to my Father and your Father. This is not the time for clinging to me, but sharing the good news.”

Mary was clutching to Jesus as one would a carefully guarded secret. But things have changed – he is now risen and is about to go to the Father – so go tell the world. How is it with you? Is your relationship with Jesus one in which you dare not share with anyone else? Is he telling you to stop holding on to him and start sharing him with others?

Pray

❖ Christ the Lord, is risen today, Alleluia!
Sons of men and angels say, Alleluia!
Raise your joys and triumphs high, Alleluia!
Sing ye heavens, and earth, reply, Alleluia!

Love’s redeeming work is done, Alleluia!
Fought the fight, the battle won, Alleluia!
Lo! the Sun’s eclipse is over, Alleluia!
Lo! He sets in blood no more, Alleluia!

Vain the stone, the watch, the seal, Alleluia!
Christ hath burst the gates of hell, Alleluia!
Death in vain forbids His rise, Alleluia!
Christ hath opened paradise, Alleluia!

Lives again our glorious King, Alleluia!
Where, O death, is now thy sting? Alleluia!
Once He died our souls to save, Alleluia!
Where thy victory, O grave? Alleluia! ³

Memory Verse for the Week

John 20:31

³ From the hymn, “Christ the Lord Is Risen Today.” Words by Charles Wesley.

Reading

❖ John 20:19-23

Study

1. John tells us that it is now evening of the first Easter Sunday. What clue does John give you regarding the disciples' state of mind in verse 19.

2. Jesus appears to the disciples - what does he tell them two times over?

3. Jesus greets the disciples in a standard way for the day (vs.19,21). But these words are far more than a greeting. Look up John 14:27 and 16:33. How has this promise become a reality?

4. Verse 20 is also a fulfillment of a promise Jesus has made. Read John 16:20-22. What is the promise?

5. John tells us that Jesus gives the disciples the Holy Spirit. We know that the Holy Spirit was given on the day of Pentecost (see Acts 2). I believe that this event points forward to the day of Pentecost, much like the foot washing in John 13 points forward to the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. Why would the Holy Spirit be important, given what Jesus says in verse 23?

6. We know that it is God who forgives sin. So in what sense is verse 23 true?

Reflect

- ❖ Jesus Christ rose from the dead and is alive today. What practical difference does that make to you?

Pray

- ❖ O Lord may your Holy Spirit have complete control of me today.

Memory Verse for the Week

John 20:31

Friday

Read

❖ John 20:24-31

Study

1. Thomas has a bad reputation because of this passage. Why do you think he reacts to the way he does to the news of the resurrection?

2. When Jesus showed Thomas his scars - using the exact words that Thomas had said - why didn't Thomas touch them as he said he wanted?

3. Why is Thomas' statement so significant?

4. Given verse 30 and 31 how would you define believing?

Reflect

- ❖ Do you ever have doubts about the truth of Christ? Think of how Jesus treats Thomas. Is that your experience of him?

Pray

- ❖ Allow this prayer guide you in your prayers today:

O Lord Jesus Christ, forgive us for the times when we have forgotten your risen presence for ever with us.

Forgive us for times when we failed in some task, because we did not ask your help.

Forgive us for times when we fell to some temptation, because we tried to meet it ourselves.

Forgive us for times when we were afraid, because we thought that we were alone in the dark.

Forgive us for times when we were driven to despair, because we were trying to fight the battle in our own unaided strength.

Forgive us for times when we said and did things which now we are ashamed to remember that you heard and saw.

Forgive us for times when death seemed very terrible, and the loss of loved ones beyond all bearing, because we forgot that you have conquered death.

May we hear you again say, "I am with you always, to the very end of the age" and may we find courage and strength in that promise to meet all things.

This we ask for your love's sake. Amen.⁴

Memory Verse for the Week

John 20:31

Additional Notes

⁴ William Barclay, *The Plain Man's Book of Prayers* (Great Britain: Fontana Books, 1959) 101.