

YOBL

Year of Biblical Literacy

Week 40: Jesus as the Resurrected One

Daily Reading for Week

- Luke 10-11, Psalm 117
- Luke 12-13, Psalm 118
- Luke 14-16, Psalm 119:1-32
- Luke 17-18, Psalm 119:33-64
- Luke 19-20, Psalm 119:65-96
- Luke 21-22, Psalm 119:97-128
- Luke 23-24, Psalm 119:129-152
- Read Scripture Video: Luke 10-24

Focus of time together

To reflect on the uniqueness of the resurrection accounts in the Gospel stories and to allow the Holy Spirit to fill us with the same wonder and excitement the disciples must have felt when they realised Jesus was alive again.

Connecting Exercise (15 mins)

When you think of the resurrection, what is your initial response? Do you remember the first time you heard the resurrection story?

Opening Prayer

Have someone open your time in prayer and ask for the Holy Spirit to reveal new layers to the story of Jesus' resurrection.

Intro to Discussion

Over the past 5 weeks, we have seen the ingenious and beautiful ways the Gospel writers have infused their narrative biographies of Jesus' life with the Old Testament Scriptures. Jesus was at once something entirely new and paradigm-busting AND also something entirely old whose identity, actions, and teachings were seeped in the history, legacy, and story of Israel.

This week, we will look at the account of Jesus' resurrection from the Gospel of Luke. The past 5 weeks, we have jumped back and forth between a Gospel passage and the

Old Testament passages it quoted, alluded to, or echoed. This week will be different, focused solely on the mysterious account of Jesus' resurrection and interaction with two disciples on the road to Emmaus. One of the striking features of the Gospel accounts of Jesus' resurrection is how few echoes there are of the Old Testament compared to the rest of each Gospel. Not that they are entirely devoid of allusions — Luke includes in the Emmaus story Jesus unpacking literally the entire Old Testament in order to show how it points to Him, after all. But as you read the accounts, it is clear something new, mysterious and entirely unexpected had happened. One can almost hear the straining in each Gospel writer's recollections, decades later, still flabbergasted by the wonder of it all, still trying to work out what exactly did happen.

One of the tragedies of Christianity today is that the resurrection has ceased to be a wondrous, unfathomable moment in history and instead has become a theological idea a person believes. It has lost the sheer mystical incomprehensibility it had for the disciples and early followers of Christ. Today, as we hear the stories of Jesus coming back from death itself, may our hearts burn within us and would we be similarly overwhelmed and full of the same baffling hope of the two disciples Jesus spoke with on the road to Emmaus.

Whole Group Discussion (60 minutes)

Before you begin reading, sit for 1 minute in silence. As the Scripture is read, savour each portion of the reading, constantly listening for the Holy Spirit to reveal any words or phrases that particularly stand out and compel you as you hear this story.

Slowly read Luke 24:1-35.

Sit in silence for another minute, reflecting on what you just heard. Then, ask the Holy Spirit to reveal to you the part of the story you find most mysterious and/or confusing.

Have someone read the passage again slowly.

Questions for Interacting with Scripture

These questions are to help us slow down, to taste and notice Scripture, savour its richness and meditate on its complexity of meaning.

Sit for 5 minutes in silence and meditate on the word or phrase that compelled you most from this story.

1. What is it about this particular phrase you find compelling?
2. Why might the Holy Spirit have highlighted it for you?

If you still have time after your discussions, use the other questions from the discovery bible method to guide you...

- What do you see
- What does this say about God?
- What does this say about us?
- What are you going to do as a result of what God is saying to you from this passage?

Closing Prayer

Spend an extended time praying for one another, asking the Holy Spirit to continue to reveal this coming week the significance of the word or phrase He gifted you, and thank God for the wonder of the resurrection.