

Easter

Sermon-Based Study Guide
Good Shepherd Presbyterian Church

Luke 24 | April 1, 2018

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I. Introduction to this Study

This week we conclude our journey through the Gospel of Luke, celebrating the resurrection of Jesus.

II. Connecting with One Another

Easter is a wonderful time to gather with family and friends. Does your family have any particular traditions?

III. Study the Text

- a. At the end of Luke 23, women who had journeyed with Jesus to Jerusalem see where he is buried, then return home to prepare spices and perfumes to anoint his body. And yet, observance of the Sabbath keeps them from doing so.

Read Luke 24.1-3. What do you think is their current state of mind? How would you be feeling if you were in their sandals? Why?

- b. Read Luke 24.4-8.

The mild rebuke in verses 5-6 recalls Jesus' predictions of his own death and resurrection in 9.22 and 18.32-33. Why do you think it took this conversation to "remember his words" (verse 8)?

Have you ever remembered a discussion differently after someone reminded you of it? How does God help you remember His Word?

- c. Read Luke 24.9-12.

Though each of the gospel writers emphasizes the importance of these women's testimony (see Matthew 28.1-10, Mark 16.1-8, and John 20.1-10, if you're interested), they are initially disbelieved. The word used, "nonsense" or "idle tale," was used "to refer to the delirious stories told by the very sick as they suffer in great pain or to tales told by those who fail to perceive reality."

Have you ever been treated this way for something you knew to be true? How did it feel? Do you think you would have believed their story? Why or why not?

What do you think prompts Peter to run to the grave?

- d. Read Luke 24.13-24.

One of the recurring themes in Luke has been the difference "between seeing Jesus and grasping his identity." These two, on a seven-mile journey, are so deep

in conversation they do not recognize who is next to them. The scene recalls Jacob's statement in Genesis 28.16: "Surely the LORD is in this place, and I was not aware of it." When have you had a similar thought? When has God been present though you weren't, at first, aware of it?

- e. Reread verse 19. Who did these followers of Jesus think he was?
- f. In verse 21, they communicate their hopes for Jesus. What did they hope he would do? What do you think they meant? What are your greatest hopes for God in your life?
- g. At the end of verse 24, they still don't see Jesus for who he really is. "Doubting Thomas" gets a lot of press, but was he the only one who had questions? What about these two? What about Jesus' disciples (in verse 11)? What about us? What do you do with your doubts?

- h. Read Luke 24.25-27.

For the second time, in verse 26, we read that it was necessary for the Messiah "to suffer these things and then enter his glory" (compare verse 7). What do you think that means? How do you think these first followers of Jesus understood it?

- i. The Risen Jesus "begins with Moses and all the Prophets, then explains to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself." Why is it important that Jesus fulfilled the story of Israel? How can you be foolish and slow to believe what the prophets have spoken?

- j. Read Luke 24.28-35.

Jesus' disciples extend hospitality, but once in their home, the guest becomes the host. Jesus has attended a lot of meals through Luke's gospel. How is this one different?

- k. With the flame relit in their hearts, these followers of Jesus respond to the news that he is alive. What do they do? How do you follow in their footsteps?

IV. Pray

- a. Lift up all those who have doubts in the resurrection of Jesus, that God would open their eyes to His truth,
- b. Ask God to help you follow in the footsteps of these earliest disciples who set out to proclaim the good news of Easter,
- c. Ask the Holy Spirit to protect our students and adults who are travelling to Ensenada, Mexico this week to serve.

V. Digging Deeper

- a. We don't know specifically which Hebrew Scriptures Jesus was thinking of, but these passages from the Hebrew Scriptures point to him: Isaiah 52-53, Psalm 16, Deuteronomy 18.15, Psalm 2.7, Psalm 110.1, Psalm 118 and Daniel 7.13-14.