

Weekly Study Guide

The week of April 14, 2013

Daily Readings

Monday	Luke 24:13-35, Job 19:25-27	Tuesday	Genesis 3:15, Deuteronomy 18:15-19	Wednesday	Zechariah 9:9-12 Zechariah 12:10, 13:1
Thursday	Psalms 139	Friday	Isaiah 53 and 54	Saturday	Psalms 22: 16-18 Psalm 34:20

My notes on this week's readings...

Next Week in Worship

Next week's message: *The Marks of Jesus*

Next week's readings: John 20:24-29, Galatians 6:17, Colossians 1:24.

The story of Thomas demanding to see the nail marks in Jesus' hands and side as proof of his identity shows us something profound about the resurrected Jesus. The scars of our past wounds become, through the victory of the resurrection, badges of honor—a reminder that God's heart is to bring beauty out of ashes. Sometimes, like Thomas, it is only in knowing that our Lord understands the broken times in our lives that we can trust him to be the Savior who can bring us new life.



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Group Discussion

Connect	<p>Has there ever been a time in your life when you overheard a story being told, only to realize that it was a story about something you did? How did it feel to hear about that event from someone else's experience?</p>
Learn	<p>Imagine you are a follower of Jesus who has just witnessed Jesus' death, and heard the rumors of his missing body. You, along with a friend, are now heading out of town, to a town seven miles away called Emmaus. Why do you think these disciples were leaving town?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• What do you imagine they were feeling at this time? What words would you use to describe those emotions?• Have you ever experienced those emotions around questions about your faith?• Have you ever experienced a time of 'running away' from those questions? <p>Read Luke 24: 13-33 together out loud. Jesus initiates conversation with the two by asking them two questions. What do these questions tell you about Jesus?</p> <p>Look at the things the two disciples say about Jesus. From what they say, what do you gather they think about Jesus?</p> <p>What are their impressions about the stories told to them about Jesus' resurrection? What does this tell us about the early disciples? Do you think things would be different if this happened today?</p> <p>When Jesus unpacks the scriptures for them, it seems to have a big impact on these disciples. When you look back to the Old Testament, knowing prophecies were made hundreds to thousands of years before Jesus, does this impact your thinking? Read together Isaiah 53. What similarities do you see to the story of Jesus?</p> <p>Read Psalm 139:7-10: How do you see God's character at work in this story of Jesus? What does this psalm, and this story of Jesus say to you about God's love for you today?</p> <p>Most people have many different 'Aha' moments in their lives of faith— moments when God gives a new revelation or understanding of the depth of his love, or his presence. If you feel comfortable, close this discussion today by sharing some of your 'Aha' moments of faith.</p>
Apply	<p>When Jesus walks along with these disciples, even though he knows what they are talking about, he begins by asking them questions. He knows that they will only come to hear the truth as they themselves work through the information and process it. As you have conversations with people who don't believe in Jesus, or don't know what they believe, asking questions about their thoughts on faith is a great way to start the conversation (following in Jesus' example!)</p>
Pray	<p>Pray today for those who have not yet experienced the truth that what Jesus has done, was done for them, and because of it, they too are part of God's story.</p> <p>Pray for a deepening of that understanding for yourself as well, that you might see what God is doing in your story to weave it into the story of his involvement for the sake of the world.</p>