

said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age” (Matthew 28:18–20). This is what Christians are tasked to do. Preach God’s Word, with the power of Christ, and make disciples of all nations.

Discussion Questions

- Have you ever gotten some “final instructions” before someone leaves? Were they important?
- Why is it important that Jesus paired these instructions with a reminder that He is with us always?

Day 5 – The ascension

After 40 days of post-resurrection teaching, Jesus was going back to heaven so he could send the comforter, the Holy Spirit, to bring power to Christian ministry. *Luke 24:50–53 And he led them out as far as Bethany, and lifting up his hands he blessed them. While he blessed them, he parted from them and was carried up into heaven. And they worshiped him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy, and were continually in the temple blessing God.* They returned with great joy! It is good to have direction and purpose in life. It is good to absolutely know that Jesus is real, alive, and directing our lives through the Holy Spirit. And if you are in Christ you have this spirit at work in you. *If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit who dwells in you* (Romans 8:11) It is good to be saved and have peace. *There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus* (Romans 8:1). Jesus promised His people in Acts 1:8, *But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.*” Easter is never truly over, our hope springs eternal!

Discussion Questions

- What is your favorite part of the Easter story? Why?
- How does the resurrection affect your daily life today?

Holy Week

Family Worship Guide



West Oaks Baptist Church

(in preparation for Sunday, April 27th, 2025)

A five day look at the week after Easter.

Suggested Memory Verse

Romans 8:11 If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit who dwells in you. (ESV)

Day 1 – Resurrection day

Easter is a time to celebrate and rejoice that our Savior Jesus Christ has risen! But, what about the Monday after? Do you ever get post-holiday blues? I hope not, because the resurrection is not the end of the story but the beginning of our hope in Christ and His Gospel. In fact, God has given us a weekly rhythm of celebration so that Sunday by Sunday we can remember and not lose sight of what Christ has done. We need this encouragement, just like the disciples who mourned the death of Jesus. On the Sunday morning that Jesus arose, some women came and looked in the tomb. Angels inside said, *“Do not be alarmed. You seek Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has risen; he is not here...”* (Mark 16:6) Those words must have sounded surprising and filled them with joy, even if the disciples wouldn’t believe them at first. Dejected, scared, and hiding because their Lord had been killed and buried, they didn’t comprehend all that Jesus had taught them. John 20:9 says, *“for as yet they did not understand the Scripture, that he must rise from the dead.”* The women began to remember, though, when the angels spoke... *that the Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men and be crucified and on the third day rise.”* And they remembered his words (Luke 24:6–8). Words heard in the past now became alive and full of meaning. Christ has risen!

Discussion Questions

- Why do you think the disciples were slow to remember and believe what Jesus had told them?
- How often do you need to be reminded that Jesus is victorious over sin and death?

Day 2 – Road to Emmaus

The truth of the resurrection is powerful in the lives of those who know it. The day that Jesus rose from the dead, two disciples were walking to Emmaus. Luke 24 says, *... they were talking with each other about all these things that had happened. While they were talking and discussing together, Jesus himself drew near and went with them. But their eyes were kept from recognizing him. And he said to them, “What is this conversation that you are holding with each other as you walk?” And they stood still, looking sad...* They continued and told him *“Concerning Jesus of Nazareth, a man who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, and how our chief priests and rulers delivered him up to be condemned to death, and crucified him. But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel...”* Jesus responded... *“O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken! Was it not necessary that the Christ should suffer these things and enter into his glory?”* And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he interpreted to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning himself (Luke 24:13–27). These men who had lost hope were revived to know they had not believed a lie. This stranger was Jesus, He was their savior, and He was alive! This brought them joy and purpose, to proclaim the resurrection of Jesus to all who would listen.

Discussion Questions

- Have you ever been afraid that maybe something you believed wasn’t really true? How does Jesus answer these fears for the men going to Emmaus?
- If you are a Christian, share when you first believed Jesus was your risen savior and how it has affected your life.

Day 3 – Appearing to others

In the days that followed the resurrection, Jesus was very busy appearing to people, rekindling hearts, and proclaiming victory over death and sin that had snared men for thousands of years. In John 20 we see him appearing to the women at the tomb, to the disciples repeatedly on the first day of each week, and also to *more than five hundred brothers at one time* (1 Corinthians 15:6). This was exactly what the Jews and officials had feared could possibly happen, so much so that they had bribed the guards to keep it quiet. *While they were going, behold, some of the guard went into the city and told the chief priests all that had taken place. And when they had assembled with the elders and taken counsel, they gave a sufficient sum of money to the soldiers and said, “Tell people, ‘His disciples came by night and stole him away while we were asleep.’”* (Matthew 28:11–15). Jesus did not intend to stay quiet, though. He would personally make it known that he was alive and heaven’s gates were opened wide to receive all that had faith in Jesus Christ. This is the gospel that Paul describes in 1 Corinthians 15:3–4 *For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures.* Jesus had accomplished His redemptive work, but He was not done teaching his disciples.

Discussion Questions

- Why was it important that the risen Jesus was seen by so many different people at different times?
- Why do you think Jesus was willing to meet with His disciples and reassure them, even when they doubted Him?
- What kind of assurance has Jesus given you when you needed it?

Day 4 – Feed my sheep/Great Commission

For 40 days after the resurrection, Jesus was actively preparing His disciples for ministry. In John 21:15–19 we read a training conversation. *Jesus said to Simon Peter, “Simon, son of John, do you love me more than these?” He said to him, “Yes, Lord; you know that I love you.” He said to him, “Feed my lambs.” He said to him a second time, “Simon, son of John, do you love me?” He said to him, “Yes, Lord; you know that I love you.” He said to him, “Tend my sheep.” He said to him the third time, “Simon, son of John, do you love me?” Peter was grieved because he said to him the third time, “Do you love me?” and he said to him, “Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you.” Jesus said to him, “Feed my sheep.”* What is Peter to feed the sheep with? God’s Word. Jesus also has a conversation with his disciples at the end of Matthew called the great commission *...And Jesus came and*