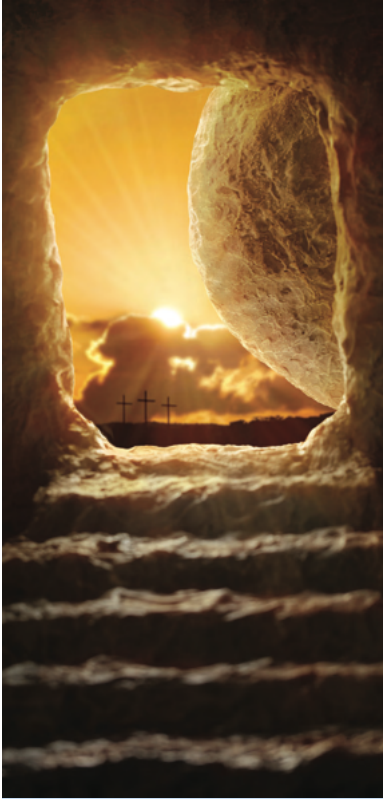


Bible Passages

Luke 22:1–27; 23:32–47; 24:1–12 (Easter)



The Righteous Shall Live

Desired Outcomes

1. To read about the Last Supper, the crucifixion of Jesus, and the discovery of the empty tomb.
2. To consider the implications of the fact that Jesus rose from the dead, just as he said he would.
3. To celebrate the good news of the resurrection and what it means for our lives.

Session Key Verse

“Why do you look for the living among the dead?”

—Luke 24:5

Optional Materials

- Internet access
- Flip chart
- *For free digital resources to enhance this lesson, go to www.warnerpress.org/life-mosaic-resources.*

Sneak Peek

After Jesus celebrated the Passover with his disciples, he was crucified and died. But on the first day of the week, he arose from the dead.

1 *Get Acquainted*



Create a welcoming atmosphere and greet people as they enter the room. If anyone is new to your group, take a few moments to introduce yourselves. If there were prayer requests or other concerns expressed last week, share with the group any changes or updates. Ask for additional prayer concerns and requests, then share in a time of prayer.

Think about a time when you made a great investment of time or money in preparation to do something, only to have the plans fall through and the activity cancelled. **How would you describe the situation?** Going around the room, share briefly about the experiences of group members.

The characters you will read about today found themselves in such a situation. They had invested their time and their emotions in devotion to Jesus, but then he was killed. Then they spent time and effort preparing Jesus' body for burial, only to discover that it was gone from the tomb.

2 *Discover*



Read and discuss [Luke 22:1–27](#); [23:32–47](#); and [24:1–12](#). The commentary sections can be used to generate dialogue, or for study prior to your meeting.

[Luke 22:1–27](#)

Commentary

At this sacred meal, Jesus' revealed his identity and nourished his disciples—including Judas. Jesus pronounced the bread and the cup “for you.” The references to Judas and his activity frame Jesus' preparation for and ministry of the holy meal.

Some commentators have assumed that Judas's odd surname, “Iscariot,” derived from his radical activity among the Sicarii, or revolutionary assassins.



When Jesus included Judas in this sacramental meal, he was simply extending the same ministry he had continued throughout Luke's story.

Luke never explains what Jesus meant when he pronounced woe upon his betrayer (22:22). Was Judas doomed because of God's judgment or simply because of the path he had chosen? Jesus showed us that judgment often bears grace, and grace always tempers judgment. Though judged, Judas ate with the other disciples.¹

Questions

- **How do we balance Satan as the cause of Judas's betrayal of Jesus with the free will Judas possessed?**
- **What do you imagine the disciples thought about Jesus' words and actions here? Why?**
- **How could the disciples be so callous as to argue over their own greatness at this time?**

Luke 23:32–47

Commentary

As in life, so in death, Jesus spent time with outcasts. They were crucified with Jesus, one on his right and one on his left. From the cross, Jesus spoke words found only in Luke: "Father, forgive them for they do not know what they are doing." Some manuscripts omit these words, and it's not clear if Jesus meant the criminals or those who condemned him. But the theme of forgiveness is consistent with Jesus' life and teaching: love your enemies and offer unending forgiveness to others.

1. Adapted from "Commentary on Luke 22:1–27," accessed June 10, 2020, https://www.workingpreacher.org/preaching.aspx?commentary_id=1654.

The leaders scoffed at Jesus: “Let him save himself if he is the Messiah of God, his chosen one!” The soldiers must have been laughing when they posted the inscription over Jesus’ head. With that sign they mocked Jesus and all the Jews along with him.



Jesus’ dying words were the psalmist’s words of deep assurance: “Father, into your hands I commend my spirit” (Ps 31:5). Then Jesus breathed his last. It was a Roman soldier, a centurion, who dared to challenge this deadly verdict: “Certainly this man was innocent.”²

Questions

- Describe a time when you endured hardship for the sake of a particular goal or a “greater good.”
- **What kinds of hope can we derive from verse 43? To whom does it apply?**
- **What ironies are represented in verses 44–47? What do you think of them? Why?**

Luke 24:1–12

Commentary

The women had come to the tomb because that is where they saw the body of Jesus placed after his crucifixion (23:55–56); they brought spices to anoint the body. Upon arrival, they received from the angelic messengers a word that ran counter to what they knew to be true. They were told that Jesus had risen, but they did not see the risen Jesus himself. It would seem so much easier to have the women come to the tomb and watch Jesus walk out into the light of a new day. And it would seem much easier for Jesus simply to appear in dazzling glory to us. This is precisely where

2. Adapted from “Commentary on Luke 23:32–47,” accessed June 10, 2020, http://www.workingpreacher.org/preaching.aspx?commentary_id=558.

our situation is like that of these women: we are all given a message of resurrection, which flies in the face of what we know to be true.

Those who gather for worship on Easter follow in the footsteps of Peter. They have heard that Jesus is alive and come to hear again for themselves: “What if it is true? What if death is real, but not final? What if Jesus were to meet me here?”³³

Questions

- **What does the preparation of spices suggest about the women’s perspective on Jesus as they were on their way to the tomb?**
- **Why did it take two men in dazzling apparel to jog the women’s memory regarding Jesus’ words? Do you think they understood what Jesus meant when they heard it originally? Explain.**
- **Wouldn’t it have been better for the women to witness Jesus’ resurrection right when it happened, or at least to have seen him instead of seeing a couple of heavenly messengers? How does it perhaps make the story connect more strongly with our own situation?**

3 Experience



Option 1

Divide the group into two smaller groups, by gender or in any other fashion. In the groups, consider each of the following events from today’s story and work to create a Twitter (140 characters maximum) or Facebook entry for the event as if experiencing it live and sharing it with friends:

The disciples experiencing the Last Supper with Jesus

3. Adapted from “Commentary on Luke 24:1–12,” accessed September 12, 2016, http://www.workingpreacher.org/preaching.aspx?commentary_id=558.

The crucified thief who asked for and received forgiveness from Jesus

The women discovering the empty tomb and encountering the two men in dazzling apparel

Peter's excursion to the tomb (v 12)

After your group has created the entries, share them with the whole group.

Option 2

Select three pairs to portray married couples or best friends. The members of each pair should respond, in character, to the following question: **What event in your relationship resulted in your spouse or best friend saying, "I told you so!"?** Participants should be creative in dramatizing their responses.

After completing the activity, discuss the emotions experienced when someone we care about does not believe us.

4 Apply



Invite someone to read the following aloud as the others present record their responses in the space provided.

The messengers at the tomb encouraged the women to remember the words of Jesus regarding the events surrounding his death. Their point was clear—living people do not reside in tombs!

Jesus is risen—no longer entombed, restricted, or limited by the flesh. He is not corralled by temple rituals or confined by the Law. The whole universe is his home, but even it cannot contain his magnificent presence.

People will not always find Jesus in the “typical” places. Some may not find him in the temple because they rarely visit there. Some may not find him in Christian music because they prefer other sounds.

The Risen Lord can be found among living, breathing people who consistently practice their faith in numerous ways and in every walk of life. That is the nature of the kingdom of God—the risen Christ living in us. He will be found digging ditches, enforcing laws, bagging groceries, mopping floors, teaching school, and engaging in thousands of activities that connect with people in looking for love.

As you are willing, share your response with a partner.



In one form or another, you may have considered the question, “What are some places I could find Jesus and point him out to others?” But something else to consider might be, “What is a place I could *not* find Jesus and would therefore not encourage others to seek him there?”

Consider your answer to the second question above, and discuss with the group. You may wish to use a flip chart to take notes. **Is there *any* place where Jesus cannot be found? What is hindering him from being found? What might it take to introduce the presence of Christ in such places? What responsibility do we have in making his presence known? What might happen if the risen Lord would visit some of these places?**

As you close in prayer, challenge one another to wrestle with the idea that perhaps the issue is not one of Jesus being absent but one of awareness—that instead the people and situations of this world are in need of the people of God to bring awareness to the reality of the love of God.

Daily Bible Readings Week 5	<i>Sunday</i> Luke 22:1–27; 23:32–47; 24:1–12 <i>The Righteous Shall Live</i>	<i>Monday</i> Luke 24:36–53 <i>Jesus Appears to the Disciples</i>	<i>Tuesday</i> Acts 1:12–26 <i>Matthias Chosen</i>
	<i>Wednesday</i> Acts 2:1–13 <i>The Holy Spirit</i>	<i>Thursday</i> Acts 2:14–33 <i>Peter Preaches</i>	<i>Friday</i> Acts 3:1–10 <i>Peter Heals</i>