

Easter Sunday: The Best Is Yet To Come

Mark 8:22-31, Matthew 16:1-7

Prayer Link

Prayers for the Community

American Troops and their families; all families, tribes and nations to know and experience God's peace.
Additional Requests: _____

SUGAR RIVER'S PRAYER MINISTRY IS SEEKING REQUESTS

Did you know that Sugar River UMC has an active E-Prayer Chain? A group of people have covenanted to pray for special requests they receive periodically via email. If you have a request you would like the E-Prayer Chain to pray for, please send it to: amberw@wisconsinumc.org. Amber will send out the request as soon as possible to activate our circle of prayer.

If you would like to become a "Link" on our E-Prayer Chain, please send your email address to Amber at the address listed above. New "links" are always welcome!

Inspirational Link

Thoughts and Insights from Worship

Life after Resurrection

Luke 24: 13-20, 27-31

Study Guide

Questions to discuss at brunch, lunch or supper:

1. What realities have power in your life?
2. What environment might be helpful to your conversation with Christ?
3. Can you remember an experience of "anagnorisis"?

Each week we provide a study guide to help you continue to do your own Bible study and reflection on the themes of the weekend's sermon. This takes about ten minutes per day to complete.

It can also be used for a family devotion or as a guide for you to do Bible study with friends. Enjoy!

Monday, March 24 - This week we will read about the different post-resurrection experiences of followers of Jesus, as well as some encounters with God in the Old Testament. Each one will offer points to ponder. We will start with those encounters experienced right after the resurrection.

Read Luke 24:13-27. Emmaus was not a well-known spot. It was probably like some of the little towns in our region. The two men on the road seem to be trying to get away from the maddening crowd. As the Lord meets them, they are trying to make sense of what had just happened in Jerusalem. During their two or three hour walk, they do not recognize Jesus; this is key. How many times have we not recognized God's presence in our lives? The story reminds us that Christ may come to us disguised. Do we take enough time to retreat, allowing God to visit with us? Notice the interchange. They talk, Jesus listens. Jesus speaks they listen. Both listening and talking

are important as we converse with God and others! If you are physically able, take time to walk. Invite a friend, if you'd like. Be bold...you might even share these scriptures and see how God is present during the walk!

Tuesday, March 25 - Let's finish the Emmaus story today by **reading Luke 24:28-35**. I have intentionally given you less to read today, because these few verses offer to us an invitation to sit with the Lord. Do not hurry this time today...God is calling. As the three in the story shared an ordinary meal, Cleopas and his companion realized the extraordinary experience of having Christ with them. He then immediately vanished. Looking back they remembered their hearts being strangely warmed. Have you ever felt this way? Some call it an awakening. Ponder those experiences. Even now in this quiet time, relax and invite God intentionally into your space. You might read the scripture a couple of times, then allow yourself to be open to God speaking. If you are sharing this time with someone, you might witness to each other God's work in your life, or just sit quietly together after reading. Another captivating post-resurrection meal sharing is found in John 21:1- 14. Notice here that Jesus offers them fried fish, along with some bread. For Jesus, the importance of sharing an ordinary meal cannot be overlooked. Consider the importance of mealtime.

Wednesday, March 26 - Read Acts 9:1-19. This is the story of the conversion of Saul, later known as Paul, the great apostle. There are many things to note and ponder in this scripture. Does the light that flashed from heaven and three days of darkness seem familiar? A good rule of thumb for us in days of darkness is to wait three days. Many times, the light will return to the situation. Notice the faithfulness of Ananias, who participates with the conversion. Can you imagine hearing God with such clarity and being obedient? Lastly, the experience of having the scales fall from his eyes was not unlike that of Cleopas and his walking partner after their experience with Christ. The Greek word for this is anagnorisis, which means the opening of the eyes. **Read Galatians 1:11-12**.

Thursday, March 27 - Read Acts 16:6-15. This text speaks of the "Spirit of Jesus" giving instructions to Paul in his mission. Paul gives us the example of measuring our steps in accordance to God's leading. Verse 14 tells us that the Lord opened Lydia's heart. Post-resurrection encounters with Christ may not mean for us that we see with our eyes the physical presence of the risen Christ, yet we can realize his presence daily. **Read Hebrews 11:1-3**.

Friday, March 28 - Read Genesis 28:10-17, Exodus 33:23, and Job 9:11. These great Bible stories make us aware that God's presence and voice is sometimes elusive and fleeting. Our own faithfulness in seeking connection with the risen Lord is paramount. **Read Psalm 100 and 107**. Inviting Christ into your space, take time to meditate on these scriptures.

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The Spirit Link

God's Action Point for My Life

I feel led by God to...