



## WEEKLY STUDY

### Week 3

Easter in October? That's what we celebrated this week at Providence (minus the bunnies and eggs). In fact, we celebrate Easter year-round. You might have heard someone say, "Every Sunday is Easter Sunday!" We celebrate resurrection all the time because our life is contained in the life of the risen Jesus. As our year-long journey through the book of John comes to a close, we can be comforted by the knowledge that the story is not actually over. There is more to tell. And through your life, Jesus wants to share it. May you experience the power of the resurrection this week.

Peace of Christ,  
Dr. Mark Youngman  
Pastor of Discipleship

If you are studying with your Providence Small Group or Discipleship Group, you can share from daily readings as well as the additional questions at the bottom of this guide. If you would like to get connected to a Providence Small Group visit [prov.church/smallgroups](http://prov.church/smallgroups).

Find a time each day to read the passage of scripture and follow the daily prayer prompt. Receive this blessing from the Apostle Paul each day as you move into your day as a follower of Jesus.

*May you know Christ—yes,  
May you know the power of his resurrection and participation in his sufferings,  
May you become like him in his death, somehow, attaining to the resurrection from the dead.  
In the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen.*

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## DAILY STUDY

### MONDAY: JOHN 20.1-8

*Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene went to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the entrance.<sup>2</sup> So she came running to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one Jesus loved, and said, "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we don't know where they have put him!"*

<sup>3</sup> So Peter and the other disciple started for the tomb. <sup>4</sup> Both were running, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. <sup>5</sup> He bent over and looked in at the strips of linen lying there but did not go in. <sup>6</sup> Then Simon Peter came along behind him and went straight into the tomb. He saw the strips of linen lying there, <sup>7</sup> as well as the cloth that had been wrapped around Jesus' head. The cloth was still lying in its place, separate from the linen. <sup>8</sup> Finally the other disciple, who had reached the tomb first, also went inside. He saw and believed.

- When we find out that Jesus is no longer in the tomb, like Mary Magdalene we look for logical answers. *They took him!* The resurrection is difficult to comprehend. How can a dead man live again? The two disciples ran to the tomb after they heard the news and didn't believe until they saw the grave clothes lying in the tomb. We've all wished that someone who died would come back to life. It's normal. But finding that our wish has come true could be more disturbing than dealing with the loss. There is no category for resurrection. We can no longer run to the tomb of Jesus 3 days after he was crucified. How do we believe yet not see?
- *Jesus, your resurrection is the best mystery. Come alive in me today! Amen.*

## **TUESDAY: JOHN 20.30-31**

*Jesus performed many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not recorded in this book. <sup>31</sup> But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.*

- The gospel story was written down for us! We can have life because of the faithfulness of those who took time to record the story of Jesus' life, death, and resurrection. What stories are you allowing to inform your life today? Are they good stories? How would you begin to record the signs that Jesus has performed in your life?
- *God, thank you for Jesus who was the ultimate Sign pointing me to you. Amen.*

## **WEDNESDAY: JOHN 21.1-13**

*Afterward Jesus appeared again to his disciples, by the Sea of Galilee. It happened this way: <sup>2</sup> Simon Peter, Thomas (also known as Didymus), Nathanael from Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, and two other disciples were together. <sup>3</sup> "I'm going out to fish," Simon Peter told them, and they said, "We'll go with you." So they went out and got into the boat, but that night they caught nothing.*

<sup>4</sup> *Early in the morning, Jesus stood on the shore, but the disciples did not realize that it was Jesus.*

<sup>5</sup> *He called out to them, "Friends, haven't you any fish?"*

*"No," they answered.*

<sup>6</sup> *He said, "Throw your net on the right side of the boat and you will find some." When they did, they were unable to haul the net in because of the large number of fish.*

<sup>7</sup> *Then the disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, "It is the Lord!" As soon as Simon Peter heard him say, "It is the Lord," he wrapped his outer garment around him (for he had taken it off) and jumped into the water. <sup>8</sup> The other disciples followed in the boat, towing the net full of fish, for they were not far from shore, about a hundred yards. <sup>9</sup> When they landed, they saw a fire of burning coals there with fish on it, and some bread.*

<sup>10</sup> Jesus said to them, “Bring some of the fish you have just caught.” <sup>11</sup> So Simon Peter climbed back into the boat and dragged the net ashore. It was full of large fish, 153, but even with so many the net was not torn. <sup>12</sup> Jesus said to them, “Come and have breakfast.” None of the disciples dared ask him, “Who are you?” They knew it was the Lord. <sup>13</sup> Jesus came, took the bread and gave it to them, and did the same with the fish.

- The story that is told after the story was thought to be over is often the best one. Do you ever get to the end of a great movie, television series, or book and wish that it wasn't over? That's what John gives us at the end of his book. Not only is Jesus alive after death, but he shows up to those who love him. Have you ever felt like you have seen the risen Jesus? What is your reaction to seeing God show up in unexpected places?
- *Jesus, thank you for showing up in my daily life. In moments where I feel like I am failing, you show me the way to abundant life. Amen.*

#### **THURSDAY: ACTS 4.32-34**

*All the believers were one in heart and mind. No one claimed that any of their possessions was their own, but they shared everything they had. <sup>33</sup> With great power the apostles continued to testify to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus. And God's grace was so powerfully at work in them all <sup>34</sup> that there were no needy persons among them.*

- The impact of the resurrection of Jesus Christ has yet to be fully realized. However, we have accounts of the impact that date all the way back to the early church. Here in the book of Acts we can see the radical change that took place in individuals and in the community of believers. How does the resurrection factor into your day to day life? Can others tell that there is something different about you? How do you testify to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus?
- *God, I belong to the community of believers. May my life testify to the resurrection of Jesus. Amen.*

#### **FRIDAY: PHILIPPIANS 3.7-11**

*Whatever were gains to me I now consider loss for the sake of Christ. <sup>8</sup> What is more, I consider everything a loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them garbage, that I may gain Christ <sup>9</sup> and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ—the righteousness that comes from God on the basis of faith. <sup>10</sup> I want to know Christ—yes, to know the power of his resurrection and participation in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, <sup>11</sup> and so, somehow, attaining to the resurrection from the dead.*

- In this week's message, Pastor Jacob mentioned that we can know about the resurrection but still be in a bad spot. In Philippians 3.10 we read that the power of the resurrection is something we can know. When you know the power of something, you know what that thing is capable of. Jesus' resurrection means that our resurrection is possible—that's what it is capable of. In what ways is your life reflecting the power that gives you hope for eternal life?
- *Holy God, guide me to a life that reveals the power of the resurrection. I pray that I may gain Christ and be found in him. Amen.*

## SATURDAY: ROMANS 6.8-11

*Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him.<sup>9</sup> For we know that since Christ was raised from the dead, he cannot die again; death no longer has mastery over him.<sup>10</sup> The death he died, he died to sin once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God.*

<sup>11</sup> *In the same way, count yourselves dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus.*

- We have to remember that Jesus was once susceptible to death. It was the ultimate humility and act of love for God to bring His Son into a fully human life. A fully human life includes death. But Jesus is no longer susceptible to death and we can find our life in him. It's almost too much to fathom, but we are invited to participate in the death and resurrection of Jesus! How could this change your perspective about day to day problems you are facing?
- *Jesus, thank you for making a way for me to experience eternal life with you. May I count myself dead to sin but alive to God in you. Amen.*

## SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION

In a speech in 1986, Pope John Paul II said these words,

“We do not pretend that life is all beauty. We are aware of darkness and sin, of poverty and pain. But we know Jesus has conquered sin and passed through his own pain to the glory of the Resurrection. And we live in the light of his Paschal Mystery – the mystery of his Death and Resurrection. ‘We are an Easter People and Alleluia is our song!’”

- Paschal just means *relating to Easter*, so the lamb sacrificed and the feast itself would be called the paschal lamb and the paschal feast. In the quote you read the phrase, “we live in the light of his Paschal Mystery.” What do you think that phrase means? Is it ok that we don't fully understand everything that happens in the death and resurrection of Jesus? Can you sing Alleluia anyway?
- What would be different if the world saw followers of Christ as Easter People?
- Reflect on your readings and prayers from this week. What stood out to you in a new way?