



## WEEKLY STUDY

### ***Easter Sunday***

Happy Easter! Christ is Risen! Let's celebrate resurrection and our freedom from condemnation all week long!

Please note our prayer focus for the week in the box below. Join us in seeing what God will do as we unite in prayer.

Peace of Christ,  
Pastor Mark Youngman

If you are studying with your Providence Small Group or Discipleship Group, you can share from your own daily reflections and consider the Group Discussion questions below. If you would like to get connected visit [prov.church/smallgroups](http://prov.church/smallgroups).

Prayer Focus:

- Pray for Christians all around the world who share in this rare season of unity—focused on the central story of our salvation.

## DAILY STUDY

### MONDAY: JOHN 20.1-10 (NIV)

*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. <sup>9</sup> (They still did not understand from Scripture that Jesus had to rise from the dead.) <sup>10</sup> Then the disciples went back to where they were staying.

- Don't you love the interplay of the disciples here? Mary Magdalene was the first to find the tomb empty. Peter and John then ran to the tomb. What did they think as they ran in response to Mary's report? Surely the disciples had hope but were also battling a sense of wrong doing. "What did they do with him?" Imagine how your mind might race in such a moment. We have the advantage of knowing how the story turns out. How does the empty tomb increase your confidence in your daily life?
- 
- 
- 
- 

- **Prayer Prompt: But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. <sup>21</sup> For since death came through a man, the resurrection of the dead comes also through a man. (1 Corinthians 15.20-21)**
- *God, I run to the empty tomb this Easter Monday. I'll return as many times as needed. I want to live with the confidence of one who knows resurrected life. Amen.*

## TUESDAY: JOHN 20.11-18 (NIV)

Now Mary stood outside the tomb crying. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb <sup>12</sup> and saw two angels in white, seated where Jesus' body had been, one at the head and the other at the foot.

<sup>13</sup> They asked her, "Woman, why are you crying?"

"They have taken my Lord away," she said, "and I don't know where they have put him."<sup>14</sup> At this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not realize that it was Jesus.

<sup>15</sup> He asked her, "Woman, why are you crying? Who is it you are looking for?"

Thinking he was the gardener, she said, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have put him, and I will get him."

<sup>16</sup> Jesus said to her, "Mary."

She turned toward him and cried out in Aramaic, "Rabboni!" (which means "Teacher").

<sup>17</sup> Jesus said, “Do not hold on to me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father. Go instead to my brothers and tell them, ‘I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.’”

<sup>18</sup> Mary Magdalene went to the disciples with the news: “I have seen the Lord!” And she told them that he had said these things to her.

- The encounter of Jesus and Mary in the garden is one of the most tender moments in the whole story. She was so confused by his absence that she couldn’t see his presence. And it was when she heard him say her name that she realized who he was. The risen Christ knows your name as well, and he wants you to see him and the risen life he wants for you. Can you imagine Jesus speaking your name? What does that mean to you?

---

---

---

---

- **Prayer Prompt: But now, this is what the LORD says—  
he who created you, Jacob,  
he who formed you, Israel:  
“Do not fear, for I have redeemed you;  
I have summoned you by name; you are mine. (Isaiah 43.1)**
- *Jesus, I long to hear you call my name. I am known by you, loved by you, and redeemed by you. Amen.*

### **WEDNESDAY: ROMANS 8.1-4 (NIV)**

*Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus,<sup>2</sup> because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit who gives life has set you free from the law of sin and death.<sup>3</sup> For what the law was powerless to do because it was weakened by the flesh, God did by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh to be a sin offering. And so he condemned sin in the flesh,<sup>4</sup> in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fully met in us, who do not live according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.*

- Those of us who are in Christ Jesus are no longer condemned. We are not unfit for use. God desires to use us even though we are imperfect, and even though we have sin. He has set us free from sin and set us free for a life of freedom. What does it mean for you to be “in Christ Jesus”? How does the law of sin and death still show up in your life today?

---

---

---

---

- **Prayer Prompt: It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery. (Galatians 5.1)**
- *God, your gift of Jesus Christ sets me free from the bondage to sin and death that this world seems to live by. May I choose to live according to the Spirit. Amen.*

**THURSDAY: JOHN 3.17-21 (NIV)**

For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.<sup>18</sup> Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because they have not believed in the name of God's one and only Son.<sup>19</sup> This is the verdict: Light has come into the world, but people loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil.<sup>20</sup> Everyone who does evil hates the light, and will not come into the light for fear that their deeds will be exposed.<sup>21</sup> But whoever lives by the truth comes into the light, so that it may be seen plainly that what they have done has been done in the sight of God.

- These verses fall right after the famous words of John 3.16. "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son..." That move on God's part was not about condemning us like buildings that will never again support life or fulfill their purpose. Thank God. Light has come into the world. We just have to love the light and live by the truth. What are the big and small ways that you choose light over darkness on a daily basis?

---



---



---



---

- **Prayer Prompt: Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. (2 Corinthians 3.17)**
- *Lord God Almighty, I admit that the darkness of this world can be very distracting. I get sidetracked, I forget my love of the light. Burn away the darkness around me and in me I pray. Amen.*

**FRIDAY: 1 JOHN 3.19-20 (NIV)**

*This is how we know that we belong to the truth and how we set our hearts at rest in his presence:<sup>20</sup> If our hearts condemn us, we know that God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything.*

- 1 John offers us a deeper look into the character of God. He wants our hearts to be at rest in his presence and not chasing after our own self-condemnation. He is greater than our hearts! Do you ever struggle with a self-condemning heart? Remember that God is over each of those struggles and that he knows everything...even the way to freedom and rest in him.

---



---

- 
- 
- **Prayer Prompt: now that you have been set free from sin and have become slaves of God, the benefit you reap leads to holiness, and the result is eternal life. (Romans 6.22)**
  - *God, you have done everything to set me free from sin. May I now be bound to you and reap the benefits of holiness. Amen.*

### **SATURDAY: PSALM 40.11-13 (NIV)**

*Do not withhold your mercy from me, Lord;  
may your love and faithfulness always protect me.*

<sup>12</sup>*For troubles without number surround me;  
my sins have overtaken me, and I cannot see.*

*They are more than the hairs of my head,  
and my heart fails within me.*

<sup>13</sup>*Be pleased to save me, Lord;  
come quickly, Lord, to help me.*

- Oftentimes, our self-condemning ways can lead us to despair, much like David felt. But that desperation is a place where we can learn to rely on God's mercy. It turns our prayer of "Lord; come quickly" into a hopeful plea for God's mercy. Where do you need God's mercy to be evident in your life?
- 
- 
- 
- 

- **Prayer Prompt: To the Jews who had believed him, Jesus said, "If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. <sup>32</sup> Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free." (John 8.31-32)**
- *God, I long to be set free from the sins that have overtaken me. Teach me the truth that I might be set free indeed. Amen.*

## **GROUP DISCUSSION**

The day of the resurrection of Jesus changed the world. We all have moments where we can say, “that changed my life” for better or for worse. Pastor Jacob shared a tragic story that changed his life. A day after which nothing would be the same. Make a list of 1-3 days that changed the trajectory of your life in positive or negative ways. Share them with your group and help one another see where God might be up to something in each person’s life.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.