

Approaching Easter

A Devotional Series: Week of April 10

“Under Arrest” (Luke 22:1-62)



Day 1 | Read Luke 24:1-12

Appetizer

Have you ever received bad news and then later realized it was a mistake and the opposite was true? Have you ever hoped for something for so long that when you received it, you found it difficult to believe it was real? Why or why not?

Big Idea

Luke includes unique details to show us the difficulty even of Jesus' close followers in believing the resurrection. They had witnessed the crucifixion. Jesus was dead and buried. Perhaps they feared opening their hearts to the possibility of hope again in the midst of great loss. Even beginning to have hope was dangerous because it could have led to further disappointments and despair if it was actually found to be untrue. This passage reminds us of the basis for our hope. The angels remind them that Jesus, himself, told them He would die and rise again (**Luke 9:22, 44; 18:30-34**). So far in this story, we have no sightings of Jesus. We simply have a word of good news (gospel) that is stirring and being remembered by His followers that death was not the end...

Main Course

1. What hinders you from trusting simply in the Word of God? How does the character of the One who gave you His Word begin to bring hope and obedience?
2. **Verse 8** says, "And they remembered His words." What are truths that God has shown you that you need to be reminded of today? What are ways you can continue to bring His Word to remembrance?

Dessert

How can sharing a testimony embolden your own faith in God's Word? Take the time to tell someone your testimony of coming to faith in Jesus and growing in your understanding of being a follower of Jesus. Share it with your grandkids, your family, and your friends. Share a time that you struggled to hope in God's promises (even if current).

Luke 24:1-12

Day 2 | Read Luke 24:13-35

Appetizer

When was a time you thought you knew something and argued it with great certainty and then found out you were wrong? How did you feel when you realized you were wrong?

Big Idea

This passage is the magnum opus of biblical interpretation. Here are two men who miss the point of the Scriptures. Read again **verses 25-27**. Moses and the Prophets were understood as the totality of the Hebrew Bible. Jesus tells them that the point of the Hebrew Bible was to put forward their need for a crucified and risen Messiah. He does not rebuke them for their lack of knowledge of Scripture itself. He mourns the fact that they missed the point of the Scriptures. The point is Jesus. Like the words He spoke to the Pharisees (**John 5:39-40**), Jesus shows us that He alone transforms our life and not simply the Bible. Yes, continue to go to the Bible, but go to find Jesus. And in Him to find eternal life.

Main Course

1. Why do you find it difficult at times to want to read the Bible? How could a change of focus from you to Jesus bring a renewed fervency in this discipline?

Dessert

For a helpful animated resource for you and your family, search for **“The Messiah Bible Project.”**

*Note to parents, please watch beforehand and decide if your kids should watch it with you.

Luke 24:13-35

Day 3 | Read Luke 24:36-49

Appetizer

When was the last time you heard an amazing story that you just had to pass onto someone else? Why was it so exciting to share with other people?

Big Idea

Jesus is most certainly alive!! Luke takes great pains to show the reality of His fully risen physical body (**38-43**), His purpose in coming to fulfill Scripture (**44-45**), and the commissioning of His apostles who would take this good news to the world (**46-49**). Remember that the gospel of Luke is one of two books written by Luke (Acts being the other). Acts continues showing the necessity of the apostles proclaiming a RISEN Savior. Jesus opened their minds to understand the Scriptures (**45**) and eventually they would receive the Holy Spirit (**49; Acts 2**) to be powerful witnesses of Christ. As skillfully as they proclaimed Jesus, they were still unable to convince some people of the truth of the gospel. Yet people were and will be saved!! Salvation is a gracious work of God from beginning to end. Praise God that He has revealed Himself to us through His Word!!!

Main Course

1. As we approach Good Friday and Easter, how can you daily appreciate and be thankful for the work of God in your life? How can you show appreciation to those whom God is using to encourage you?
2. Pick two of the following passages: **Acts 2:22-36; Acts 10:34-43; Acts 13:16-41; or Acts 17:22-31**. Read them noting their connection to the necessity of faith in Christ. How do they move people to understand their need for a Savior? What can you learn from them on how to share Christ with others? Who is someone you are burdened for to come to Christ? Could you invite them to our Good Friday/Easter service?

Dessert

We've been singing a new song at Harvest, "Man of Sorrows" by Hillsong. Listen to it again if you are able, alone or with your family. As you hear the truth of that song, recognize that every part of it is true because of Christ Jesus! Praise Him, Harvest as you prepare to celebrate this Sunday for Easter!!

Luke 24:36-49