



# Small Group Study Guide for April 18, 2021

*Our Savior Lutheran Church and School*

**Theme:** On April 18, 1521, Martin Luther took his stand before Emperor Charles V and the assembly of the Holy Roman Empire, convinced by Scripture and held captive by the Word of God. In light of the Easter appearances of Jesus, the disciples were filled with faith and courage to boldly proclaim the Gospel, even in the face of opposition. This same Spirit of boldness and courage fills us as we are witnesses to God's grace and truth in the world today.

## **Getting Started: (sharing with each other)**

1. Who are some people that you admire for the ways they boldly share their faith?
2. What are the forces in our day that would want Christians to concede, back down, stay quiet, or let go of the truths of God's Word?

## **In the Word: Read Luke 24:36-49**

3. Why are the first words that Jesus speaks to the disciples in this moment so important?
4. What did Jesus do so that the disciples could know that it was really Him, and that He had really risen from the dead in a resurrected, glorified body?
5. The "Law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms" is what we call the Old Testament. Jesus said, "Everything must be fulfilled that is written about me." The Old Testament is all about Jesus! And it especially points to the main points of Jesus' life and ministry. What does Jesus say are the main points in verses 46-47?
6. What is Jesus referring to in verse 49, and when was the promise fulfilled?

### **Read Acts 3:12-21**

7. Compare the actions and message of Peter with what Jesus told the disciples in Luke 24:44-48. List all the points of similarity.
  
8. Peter and John would be arrested while they were talking to the people about the man who was healed, and they were taken to the Sanhedrin, the Jewish ruling body that had condemned Jesus to death. Read Peter's words and the Sanhedrin's response in Acts 4:8-20. Read that passage and make comparisons with the Acts 3:12-21 and Luke 24:44-48 passages. What is happening here?

### **Putting it all Together (what we should believe or do as disciples)**

9. Peter and John were filled with great courage and boldness, which shocked the Sanhedrin, as they supposed that the disciples would have been terrified and fearful since their leader had been crucified. In fact, the disciples had been trembling and fearful, hiding behind locked doors as expected until Jesus appeared to them. The apostles displayed great boldness for the rest of their lives, most of them going to their deaths fearlessly testifying to the resurrection of Jesus. How does the witness of the apostles give tremendous credence to the resurrection of Jesus? Why do their words and actions make the resurrection of Jesus more believable?
  
10. From what you know of Martin Luther's trial before the Holy Roman Empire, what was the expectation of Martin Luther and how did he display courage and boldness?
  
11. How do these examples of the apostles and Martin Luther give us confidence and courage today as we proclaim God's grace and truth to the world?
  
12. St. Paul says that as Christians, we "speak the truth in love" (Ephesians 4:4-15). How do we make sure that we are speaking the truth in love, and showing gentleness and respect (1 Peter 3:15), even when we are bold and courageous for the Lord?

**Prayer:** Ask God to send His Holy Spirit on the church so that that we can speak with boldness and courage about the Lord Jesus and the good news we have in Him. Ask God to help us to "speak the truth in love" so that we do not get caught up in the age of outrage, or speak harshly or foolishly, but lovingly and thoughtfully. Ask God to show us those moments when we need to be courageous and bold in faith, hope, and love.

**Next Week:** The Easter Season continues with Good Shepherd Sunday.