



Small Group Study Guide for April 14, 2024

Our Savior Lutheran Church and School

Theme: The disciples saw Jesus alive and they believed that He really was the Messiah, the Son of God. Jesus told them that they were witnesses to the world of His salvation plan. All disciples of Jesus continue to be His “witnesses” as we give testimony to what God has done in our lives and in the world through Jesus. We join Jesus on His mission as we learn, live, and especially share the good news of our risen Savior.

Getting Started: (sharing with each other)

1. What is your favorite part of spring and this time of year?

2. Who is someone that you have been praying for lately that they would go to church and hear the Gospel - at least just once! We all have someone (or several people) that we pray would finally accept the invitation or find a church where the word of God can grab a hold of their heart.

In the Word: Read Luke 24:36-49

3. This account from Luke’s Gospel is a parallel to what we heard last week in John 20 when Jesus appeared to the disciples behind locked doors. While Luke’s account doesn’t mention the Thomas incident, what similarities are there between this passage and John 20:19-29? See how many points of comparison you can find.

4. Notice in the Luke passage how the disciples think Jesus is a ghost, perhaps come back to haunt them. What does Jesus say and do to persuade them that He is not a ghost, and that He is actually resurrected?

5. In verse 44, Jesus said that everything must be fulfilled that was written about Him in Moses and the prophets and the Psalms. The phrase “Moses/prophets/psalms” is the way the Jews referenced what we now call the Old Testament. Jews today still call it the Torah/Prophets/Writings. Can you think of any examples of the Old Testament writings that were fulfilled in Jesus’ death and resurrection? (if you need help, check out Isaiah 53 and Psalm 22).

Putting it all Together (what do we believe or do as disciples?)

6. Jesus' commission of the disciples in verses 46-49 goes from 1) the Old Testament prophecies to 2) the witness of the disciples, and to 3) the power of the Holy Spirit. Our witness to Jesus today is grounded in the Scriptures as God's true word, and gives testimony to what Jesus has done and continues to do. Why do we need the Holy Spirit to help us with all of this?

7. As a congregation, we give witness collectively to Jesus and His life giving power in so many powerful ways during Lent, Holy Week, and Easter. List several of the ways our church gives witness to Jesus, and the impact you think it might have on people.

8. Individually, we give witness to Jesus in the way we live, what we say, and our invitation to learn, live, and share Christ. How do we give witness to Jesus simply by the way we live as Christians, and how do we reflect the reality of the resurrection in our lives to others?

9. What are the challenges that we have as a church today, and as individuals, in giving witness to Jesus to our modern world?

10. Despite all the challenges, we have the Holy Spirit to help us give a bold, powerful, true testimony to Jesus Christ and His ongoing work in the world today. The Church has faced many challenges throughout the centuries, and we are still more blessed than any Christian generation to give witness to our living Lord. Take some time to discuss new ways that you can give witness to Jesus as individuals and that we could perhaps do as a church (OSL or the church as a whole) to give an even bolder witness to Jesus in today's world.

Prayer: Pray for the individuals you named above, and that the Holy Spirit would someday draw them to God's Word and the grace and truth of Jesus. Ask for the Holy Spirit's help in giving a bold witness to Christ in word and deed, so that more and more people might know the joy of resurrection life and the hope of eternal life with Him.

Next Week: Jesus is our Good Shepherd who leads and cares for us through life. We will also talk about the importance of pastors and church workers, and how we can pray to the Lord to raise up the next generation of church leaders to serve as under shepherds of the Good Shepherd. The fields are white for harvest!