

SMALL GROUP WEEKLY
DEVOTIONAL MATERIAL



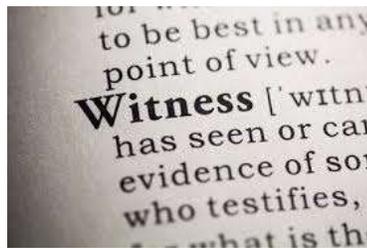
Week 3
18 - 24 April 2021

Daily Bible readings, a memory verse and a prayer for individual contemplation
Weekly worship song, reflection and small group questions

THIS WEEK AND UPCOMING WEEKS:

Lectionary year B – Easter to Pentecost – 4 April to 29 May

- Week 3: Sunday 18 April - Witnesses**
- Week 4: Sunday 25 April - The good shepherd
- Week 5: Sunday 2 May - The vine and the branches
- Week 6: Sunday 9 May – Love each other
- May 13 – ASCENSION DAY
- Week 7: Sunday 16 May – Jesus prays for His disciples.
- Week 8: Sunday May 23 – PENTECOST – The work of the Holy Spirit
- Week 9: Sunday 30 May - Trinity Sunday – Jesus teaches Nicodemus



WEEK 3: 18 APRIL Witnesses

DAY	FIRST READING	PSALM	SECOND READING	GOSPEL
Third Sunday of Easter April 18, 2021	*Acts 3:12-19	Psalm 4	I John 3:1-7	Luke 24:36b-48



Luke 24:36-48
New International Version - UK
Jesus appears to the disciples

³⁶ While they were still talking about this, Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, 'Peace be with you.' ³⁷ They were startled and frightened, thinking they saw a ghost. ³⁸ He said to them, 'Why are you troubled, and why do doubts rise in your minds? ³⁹ Look at my hands and my feet. It is I myself! Touch me and see; a ghost does not have flesh and bones, as you see I have.' ⁴⁰ When he had said this, he showed them his hands and feet. ⁴¹ And while they still did not believe it because of joy and amazement, he asked them, 'Do you have anything here to eat?' ⁴² They gave him a piece of broiled fish, ⁴³ and he took it and ate it in their presence. ⁴⁴ He said to them, 'This is what I told you while I was still with you: everything must be fulfilled that is written about me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms.' ⁴⁵ Then he opened their minds so they could understand the

Scriptures. ⁴⁶ He told them, 'This is what is written: The Messiah will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, ⁴⁷ and repentance for the forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. ⁴⁸ You are witnesses of these things.

WORSHIP

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O7dnde73Uwk>

Because He Lives (Lyrics)

FOR REFLECTION:

DAILY DEVOTIONS, REFLECTIONS AND SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS WRITTEN BY REV KEDIBONE MNTAMBO

In today's gospel reading we hear another episode of the Risen Christ appearing to his disciples. Jesus appeared to them and said, "Peace be with you." They thought they were seeing a ghost and were scared half to death. But he reassured them, don't be upset, and don't let all these doubting questions take over. Look at my hands; look at my feet; it's really me. Touch me. Take my hand. Look me over from head to toe. A ghost doesn't have muscle and bone like this. Jesus was still Jesus they knew but they still couldn't believe what they were seeing. It was too much; it seemed too good to be true! We have this idea that the Resurrection of Jesus is somehow the end of the story. Maybe because it comes at the end of the gospels, but this is just the beginning. This is something new, which has reshaped our world forever, the entire creation... Enhanced... Renewed... Restored... Resurrected. It has already begun, here and now. In all the messiness of life, we can see glimpses of glory. In pain we can find hope. In desolation, we can find consolation because He is risen... despite the darkness and cruelty in today's life, the defense of the status quo and the poverty and pain around us.

The fact of the resurrection should radically reshape our hearts, minds, and worldview because the new creation is here, right under our noses. And we should begin to live in the light of that knowledge and hope. As a church, let's take Christ at his word. Put our hand into his, and fearlessly be the resurrection church in our community. A beacon of hope. A people whose song is "Christ is Risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia!"



SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS:

1. How do we know that the disciples were worthy and honourable witnesses to Jesus' Resurrection?
2. Why is the Resurrection important? What does it mean to you personally?
3. How can you live out the hope of the Resurrection in your family, small group and community this next week?



It is important for parents to take time to lead the conversations of family time and to be honest with their children in these conversations.

BY JENNY BLAKE – CHILDREN'S PASTOR
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Sunday 18th April

Pray daily: Set up family time for prayer and devotions and stick to this arrangement. All devotions should always begin by with a prayer. Ask a family member to pray or one of the children.

Scripture Reading: Luke 24:36-48

Allow children/teens to read out loud for the family.

Activity/Family Moment:

This scripture talks a lot about doubts like last week. One way we can overcome our doubts is to remember the creeds. The word creed come from the Latin word Credos which means "I believe". The creeds are a summary of what we Christians believe. There are a few creeds. The one below is the Nicene Creed. Read it out as a family and talk about what your family thinks about it.

The Nicene Creed

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, light from light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father [and the Son], who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the Prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

START YOUR DAY WITH
Devotionals Daily

- **Monday, April 19, 2021:** [Psalm 150](#); [Jeremiah 30:1-11a](#); [1 John 3:10-16](#)
Memory Verse: "Let everything that has breath praise the Lord!" Praise Him! Breathe, so you connect with your soul.
Prayer: Lord, I lift my hands, and I lift my voice to praise You. I will not sing a song of sadness and despair, but I will sing a song of hope and expectation, because You are with me. Amen
- **Tuesday, April 20, 2021:** [Psalm 150](#); [Hosea 5:15-6:6](#); [2 John 1:1-6](#)
Memory Verse: "As surely as the sun rises, Yahweh will appear. He will come to us like the rain, like the spring rain that waters the earth" (v. 3b).
Be assured of the renewed life that will come with Yahweh's presence.
Prayer: Dear Lord, I am your child and I love You for loving me first, for knowing me intimately, even the very number of hairs on my head, for forming me in my mothers' womb. Fill me with Your awesome presence...let me know that You have come to me, where I am, in my brokenness, in my loneliness...in whatever condition we may be. Let me feel You nearby. In Jesus' holy name, we pray, Amen.
- **Wednesday, April 21, 2021:** [Psalm 150](#); [Proverbs 9:1-6](#); [Mark 16:9-18](#)
Memory Verse: "Walk in the way of understanding" (v. 6b) Accept the wisdom to gain insight and cease to be foolish.
Prayer: For all the challenging and confusing issues you face each day, keep going back to Jesus. With his wisdom you will find nourishment for your faith and your strength for life's challenges. Accept the invitation to come to Jesus and learn wisdom, love wisdom, and live wisdom. May the God of peace, equip you with everything good for doing his will, and may he work in us what is pleasing to him. Amen.
- **Thursday, April 22, 2021:** [Psalm 23](#); [Genesis 30:25-43](#); [Acts 3:17-26](#)
Memory Verse: "Walk in the way of understanding" (v. 6b) Accept the wisdom to gain insight and cease to be foolish.
Prayer: For all the challenging and confusing issues you face each day, keep going back to Jesus. With his wisdom you will find nourishment for your faith and your strength for life's challenges. Accept the invitation to come to Jesus and learn wisdom, love wisdom, and live wisdom. May the God of peace, equip you with everything good for doing his will, and may he work in us what is pleasing to him. Amen.
- **Friday, April 23, 2021:** [Psalm 23](#); [Genesis 46:28-47:6](#); [Acts 4:1-4](#)
Memory Verse: "I will go down to Egypt with you, and I will bring you back again" (Gen 46:4) Look at Jacob and know, whatever low or dark valley we are called into at any time, that the Lord God is with us and will surely bring up us someday to glory.
Prayer: Lord God, your mercies have touched every part of my soul. Thank You for all You have done so that I might have the gift of peace. I Praise you for always sustaining me and creating new hope within me. Lord God, you gave Your resurrected Son Jesus Christ to save, heal and give me new life. Glory be to You for the energy and transforming power of the Holy Spirit. AMEN
- **Saturday, April 24, 2021:** [Psalm 23](#); [Genesis 48:8-19](#); [Mark 6:30-34](#)
Memory Verse: 'As he went ashore, he saw a large crowd and he had compassion on them' Mk 6:34 He always sees with the eyes of the heart and with deep emotions in whom God's care is made flesh.
Prayer: Jesus, our Good Shepherd, help us to become shepherds of your flock; and to be your hands tending to the needs of the most in need as you continue to bless us. Amen.