



THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO LUKE

LESSON 20 - STUDY QUESTIONS

LUKE 24:1 - 53

DAY ONE

1. From last week's lesson (Lesson 19, Chapter 22:63-74 and Chapter 23), was there a Connection question that stayed with you? If so share your thoughts on this question with your small group.

Read Luke 24:1-12

2a. As this week's lesson begins, Jesus has been crucified and laid in the tomb. The coming of the Sabbath had prevented the women of Galilee from preparing His body. At early dawn "on the first day," they came to the tomb, taking the spices that they had prepared. What did they find (verses 2-3)?

b. They were perplexed. Suddenly, "two men in dazzling clothes" appeared before them (verse 4). Briefly summarize the following examples in the Bible of God's messengers who appear as men.

Acts 1:10-11

Genesis 18:1-2

3a. How did the women react to the "two men" (beginning of verse 5)?

b. The "two men" asked them why they were looking for the living among the dead because "He is not here, but has risen" (verse 5). Of what did they remind the women that Jesus had told them while he was still in Galilee (verses 6-7)?

4a. At that point the women remembered Jesus' words (verse 8). Returning from the tomb, they told all this to the eleven and to all the rest (verse 9). Name the women who told this to the apostles.

b. Why did the apostles not believe these women (verse 11)?

5. What did Peter do (verse 12)?

6. CONNECTION: Pope Francis, in a weekly audience, called Jesus' resurrection "our greatest certainty, ... our most precious treasure." Jewish law at the time of Jesus did not consider women as credible witnesses, so it is beautiful that Christ should use these holy women to convey the miraculous news of His resurrection. Considering this passage, Pope Francis has pointed out how appropriate the choice of women was to spread the great news. "This is the mission of women, of mothers and women, to give witness to their children and grandchildren that Christ is risen," he said. "Faith is professed with the mouth and heart, with the word and love." Share with your small group an example of how you or someone you know has shared "with the mouth and heart, with word and love" the good news of Jesus' resurrection. (*CNS POPE-AUDIENCE Apr-3-2013*)

Read and record Job 19:25 and resolve even more firmly to spread the good news of His resurrection.

DAY TWO

Read Luke 24:13-21

7. On that same "first day" of the week (Sunday), two of Jesus' disciples (not members of the 11 apostles) were walking to a village about 7 miles from Jerusalem. Name the village and describe what the disciples were doing (verses 13-14).

8. While they were talking and discussing, Jesus Himself came along side of them and joined their walk. Did they recognize Him, and if not, why not (verses 15-16)?

NOTE: "A consistent feature of the resurrection stories is that the risen Jesus was different and initially unrecognizable (Lk 24:37; Mk 16:12; Jn 20:14; 21:4)." USCCB.

9a. What question did Jesus ask the two disciples (beginning of verse 17)?

b. Jesus' question brought them to a standstill. How did they react (end of verse 17)?

10a. Record the question with which one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answered Him (verse 18).

b. When He replied, "What things?" they responded with the description of Jesus as "a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people" (verse 19). Read and record Stephen's description of Moses in Acts 7:22 and note the similarity.

11. They recounted in verse 20 how the chief priests and leaders handed Him over to be condemned to death and crucified Him. What was their hope (first part of verse 21)?

THINK: How did their answers in verses 19-21 reflect their preconception of the Messiah as an earthly leader who would save them from Roman oppression?

12. CONNECTION: "But we had hoped that He was the one to redeem Israel." The disciples explained that their "rabbi Jesus" in whom they had such great hopes had died by crucifixion. Hopes dashed! Ironically they were telling this to the very One on whom they had pinned their hopes. Perhaps blinded by their loss and dashed expectations, the disciples did not recognize Jesus. Do you ever start complaining about the "cross" you have to bear, only to discover after thinking and praying that God's answer was right in front of you all along? Share some thoughts with your small group.

Write a prayer today reflecting your confidence in God, including within it a verse of your selection from Job 5:8-16.

DAY THREE

Read Luke 24:21-27

13a. In today's lesson Cleopas and the "other disciple" continued on the road to Emmaus telling Jesus (whom they did not recognize) about what had taken place in Jerusalem. How long did they say it had been since the things they spoke of took place (verse 21)?

b. What are your thoughts on the significance of the "third day?"

14a. They also related to Him that some women of their group had astounded them because they had not found the body at the tomb. What did they say the women told them (verses 22-23)?

b. How was this corroborated by others of their group (verse 24)?

15. Jesus then exclaimed in frustration. In your own words what did He say to them (verse 25)?

16a. Record His question to them (verse 26).

b. Put Jesus' question in verse 26 into your own words.

17a. How did Jesus then explain to them the significance of what happened in terms of salvation history (verse 27)?

b. Later, Paul presented to the Jews in the synagogue the truth that Jesus fulfilled the Messianic prophecies contained in the Old Testament. Read and record Acts 17:2-3.

18. CONNECTION: In this passage Jesus taught the two disciples (who feared that Jesus' Messiah-ship had failed) how His passion and death was part of the Father's plan to redeem mankind. Jesus showed them how the scriptures both prophesied the Messiah and foreshadowed His life, death and resurrection. How comforting to the disciples to know that God had so carefully planned Israel's redemption! We too have a "Bible study instructor and life coach" in Jesus. Through prayer He shows us how every good or bad experience in our lives ultimately works together for good. Pick a particularly challenging experience from your life and pray about it. Can you look back now and see how God's plan worked for good? Share some thoughts with your small group.

Read and record Psalms 3:5 and recognize that each new day is a gift of God.

DAY FOUR

Read Luke 24:28-35

19a. In today's lesson, unbeknownst to the two disciples, they were walking and talking with Jesus Himself. As they neared Emmaus, what did Jesus do (verse 28)?

b. The disciples tried to keep Him with them (verse 29). What did they say to Him and what was the result?

THINK: Can this verse become a prayer that sustains you as each day ends?

20a. Inside at table what did Jesus do (verse 30)?

b. Note the verses in Luke Chapter 22 containing these same words which describe Jesus' actions at the Last Supper and record them.

21a. At the "breaking of the bread" what happened to the disciples and what did Jesus do (verse 31)?

b. In verse 32 the disciples said to each other, “Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?” In your own words describe what had happened to the two of them on the road.

22. That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem and found the eleven (apostles) and their companions gathered together. What did the apostles and their companions say to them (verse 34)?

23. What did the two disciples tell the larger group in verse 35?

NOTE: The Eucharist is a door; it is a threshold between God and man. In it Jesus’ flesh and blood, soul and divinity is encountered in a loaf of bread and a cup of wine. www.patheos.com Billy Kangas, “My Own Encounters with the Eucharist in the Catholic Church”

24. CONNECTION: “Then their eyes were open and they recognized him.” Theophany is defined as the manifestation of God in a way that is tangible to our senses. In this passage Jesus in His resurrected body appeared to the disciples, walked and talked with them. But it was when He celebrated the Eucharist with them that their eyes were opened and they recognized Him. We are blessed with the gift of the Eucharist in which we receive the Lord. Let us pray that each time we receive Him that our eyes will be opened and that we will recognize His divine presence. Was there a time when you experienced the Eucharist in a particularly moving way? Share some thoughts with your small group.

Read Ephesians 1:17-19 and with some of the words of this beautiful scripture begin your prayer asking that God open your eyes to His miraculous presence.

DAY FIVE

Read Luke 24:36-43

25a. In today’s lesson the 11 apostles and some of the disciples had met and were talking about seeing Jesus when Jesus himself stood among them and spoke to them. Record His words to them.

b. For what reason do you think Luke mentioned twice that there were only 11 apostles?

26. Describe their reaction (verse 37).

27. What did Jesus ask them and what does this reproach tell you about the apostles and disciples (verse 38)?

28. In order to reassure them, He told them to look at His hands and His feet. Record the rest of the verse.

29. While in their joy they were disbelieving and still wondering, He said to them, “Have you anything here to eat?” What did they give Him and what did He do (verses 42-43)?

30. CONNECTION: What a joyous occasion! Jesus was back in the midst of His apostles and disciples, touching them, asking them for food and eating it in front of them. He is incarnate. Think of the followers overflowing with happiness to see their dear Rabbi who has come back to life. In this passage Jesus appeared in His glorified Body, not as a spirit or a ghost, but as living proof of His resurrection and hope for our own resurrection. In the Nicene Creed, it says, “I look forward to the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come.” Have you thought about that day and your own resurrected body? Share some thoughts with your small group.

As Catholics we believe in the resurrection of the body. Read and record 1 Corinthians 15:12-13 and let these thoughts lead you into prayer.

DAY SIX

Read Luke 24:44-53

31a. As our last day’s lesson in our study of Luke begins, Jesus came into the midst of the apostles and started to teach them. How did He begin (from the first part of verse 44)?

b. Select and record one of the following passages from Luke in which Jesus predicted His suffering.

Luke 9:22

Luke 9:44

Luke 18:32-33

32a. What did Jesus say must be fulfilled (end of verse 44)?

b. Jesus then “opened their minds to understand the scriptures” (verse 45). What did He explain to them in verse 46?

33. What two things did Jesus say must be proclaimed in His name to ALL the nations beginning from Jerusalem (verse 47)?

34a. Jesus then told the apostles that they were “witnesses of these things” and that He would send upon them what His Father promised (verse 49). Read Acts 1:4-5 and identify what was to happen to them according to the promise.

b. Jesus told them to stay in the city until they were clothed with power from on high. Read Acts 2:1-4 and describe how this happened.

35a. Then he led them out as far as Bethany, and, lifting up his hands, he blessed them. What happened while he was blessing them (verse 51)?

b. Describe the apostles’ reactions from verses 52-53.

36. CONNECTION: In November 2013, Pope Francis wrote the beautiful apostolic exhortation, “Evangelii Gaudium” (meaning “The Joy of the Gospel”). In it he repeated the need for Jesus’ message of repentance and forgiveness to be proclaimed to all the nations. Reminding us that Jesus loved us first, the pope said that “each of us should find ways to communicate Jesus wherever we are. All of us are called to offer others an explicit witness to the saving love of the Lord, who despite our imperfections offers us his closeness, his word and his strength, and gives meaning to our lives.” (121) After studying the beautiful Gospel of Luke, what are ways in which you, too, may offer to others an “explicit witness to the saving love of the Lord?”

Read and record Matthew 28:18-20 and let these thoughts lead you into prayer.

Blessings on your Journey!

After completing this lesson, read pages 153-158 in the *The Gospel According to Luke* by Michael F. Patella, O.S.B. The Cornerstone Catholic Scripture Study acknowledges that scripture quotations in this study are from the New Revised Standard Version Bible: Copyright © 1989, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

©Copyright 2015. The Cornerstone Catholic Scripture Study

thecornerstonescripturestudy.org

