

Grow – Pray - Study

Hastings United Methodist Church



Grow
Pray
Study

Adventure By The Park

April 5^h Luke 24:1-11

The Gospel of the Nobodies “The Worst Thing is Never the Last Thing”

Day	Read	Theme
MONDAY 4.6.15	Luke 24:1-12	He isn't here, but has been raised
TUESDAY 4.7.15	Luke 24:13-24	Puzzled followers: “They didn't find his body”
WEDNESDAY 4.8.15	Luke 24:25-32	Weren't our hearts on fire?
THURSDAY 4.9.15	Luke 24:33-49	You are witnesses
FRIDAY 4.10.15	Luke 24:50-53	Wait for God's power
SATURDAY 4.11.15	Acts 1:9-14	Not the end – but a beginning

Monday – “Peter ran to the tomb ... he saw only the linen cloth. Then he returned home, wondering what had happened.” Surely if Luke invented this, it would say something like, “Peter saw the linen cloth and cried, ‘Yes — Jesus is risen!’” (And it would make no sense for grave robbers to take time to unwrap the body, leaving the cloth behind.) Luke showed clearly that not one disciple expected Jesus to rise, though Jesus had told them just that (cf. Luke 9:22). How vital to your faith are the eyewitness reports that Jesus told his disciples in advance what would happen, as well as the eyewitnesses who saw Jesus alive?

Tuesday – Cleopas, like the other disciples, was still in the grip of preconceived ideas of what the Messiah would be and do (cf. Luke 9:44-45). In what ways can preconceived ideas today make it harder for you to trust the Bible's testimony? When have you found greater joy and peace after letting God alter or overturn some fixed idea you may have held for years?

Wednesday – Scholar William Barclay said this story “tells us of the ability of Jesus to make sense of things... Jesus came and talked with them, and the meaning of life became clear and the darkness became light... It is only in Jesus that, even in the bewildering times, we learn what life means.” Can you recall any “aha!” moments when something painful and puzzling suddenly made more sense in the light of Jesus' love and grace?

Thursday – Jesus' summary of his message in verse 47 was “the Christ will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, and a change of heart and life for the forgiveness of sins must be preached in his name to all nations.” In what ways does believing that Christ rose from the dead change your heart and life? How does the resurrection make credible for you Jesus' claim to have the divine authority to forgive your sins?

Friday – Jesus ordered his disciples “not to leave Jerusalem but to wait for what the Father had promised.” We Americans tend to be driven and impatient people. How would you react if Jesus told you not to try to do important work for him on your own, without God's power? What spiritual risks can “going it alone” pose for a Christ - follower?

Saturday – The CEB Study Bible notes that verse 14 is like the opening note of a theme that runs through the story of the early Christians in Acts: “The spirit of unity and the practice of prayer are major features of community life (cf. Acts 2:1, 42-44; 3:1; 4:23-32; 6:6; 13:1-3; 16:13, 16; 20:36-37; 21:5).” Remember, some of this company were arguing about which of them would be the greatest at the Last Supper (cf. Luke 22:24), and they would have disagreements in the years ahead (e.g. Acts 15). What was their spirit of unity based on? That same spirit of unity is as crucial for us to carry out the mission Jesus gave us as it was for them. In what ways can you cultivate a spirit of unity, not of division, in your service to God?

April 12th Luke 24:36-40,46-49

The Gospel of the Nobodies “The Discouraged and Disbelieving”