

GROWING IN FAITH



John 21:15-17

¹⁵ When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, “Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?” He said to him, “Yes, Lord; you know that I love you.” Jesus said to him, “Feed my lambs.” ¹⁶ A second time he said to him, “Simon son of John, do you love me?” He said to him, “Yes, Lord; you know that I love you.” Jesus said to him, “Tend my sheep.” ¹⁷ He said to him the third time, “Simon son of John, do you love me?” Peter felt hurt because he said to him the third time, “Do you love me?” And he said to him, “Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you.” Jesus said to him, “Feed my sheep.”

For More Information Contact:
Rev. Josh Attaway,
Edmond Campus Pastor
jattaway@stlukesokc.org

STARTING OUT

Begin with a prayer. You can offer your own prayer or use the one below.

God of hope, we are so grateful that we get to walk the journey of life with You. You are the One who sustains us, strengthens us, and gives us hope in times of need. Send Your Holy Spirit to be with us and lead us deeper into a relationship with You and with one another. Amen.

Read the Easter story from John’s gospel together. Try to listen to the story with fresh ears. Read John 20:1-18. This is the final lesson in this series looking at the last 12 chapters of John’s gospel.

PLAY THE VIDEO

GOING DEEPER

Josh talked about his grandmother and the difference she made in his life, and the sense of peace and hope that came when she passed away.

Who has made a difference in your life that has now entered life eternal?
How does knowing the Easter story help in times of loss?

The disciples had been through a roller coaster of emotions in just one week. It started with a triumphal entry into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday and ended a few days later with the crucifixion and death of Jesus on Good Friday.

What do you think the disciples would have been feeling at this point?

Even though Jesus told them he would rise again, why do you think the disciples were still confused by what took place?

How do you think you would have responded if you had been in their shoes?

Josh said that he didn’t think Christianity would exist today if it weren’t for the Easter story. Do you agree or disagree? Why?

Read the story of Jesus encountering Thomas in John 20:24-29.

Why do you think John included this story?

Thomas said he needed to put his finger in the mark of the nails and put his hand in his side in order to believe, but even when Jesus offered, Thomas didn’t do that. He just believed. Why did he not put his finger and hand in the holes? Why did he still end up believing even without that?

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GOING DEEPER

Read together the story of Jesus coming to the disciples who had been out fishing in John 21:1-14.

Why did the disciples go back to Galilee?

Why did they decide to go fishing after everything they had experienced?

What would you have done if you had been in their shoes?

What is the significance of all the fish they caught?

When Jesus came to the disciples he didn't say "I told you so!". He simply made them breakfast and offered redemption and love.

Do you think Jesus asked Peter if he loved him because he wasn't sure, or because he wanted to make sure Peter really knew for himself?

Why do you think Jesus always follows up Peter's proclamation of love with a command to "feed my sheep."?

How are loving and serving connected together?

How was encountering the risen Christ different from encountering the empty tomb for the disciples and their future?

Throughout this series we have looked at how Jesus' life, death, and resurrection give us hope, meaning, and purpose in life.

Based on what we have read and studied in John's gospel, what do you think it means to "live as Easter people"?

Share specific ways that each of you can share the good news of Easter with others.

Follow up with each other and hold one another accountable to your commitments.

Love's redeeming work is done, Alleluia!

Fought the fight, the battle won, Alleluia!

Death in vain forbids His rise, Alleluia!

Christ hath opened paradise, Alleluia!

(Charles Wesley, "Christ the Lord is Risen Today!" 1739)

Closing

Take time to lift up joys and concerns in your group before closing in prayer. You can offer your own prayer or use the one below.

God of life and resurrection, You are the One who came to conquer death and offer us the gift of eternal life. Thank You for Your amazing grace and the love You have shown us. Send us out to be Easter people who find new ways to share your love and bring hope to the world. Amen.