

Weekly Study Guide

The week of April 5, 2015

Daily Readings

Monday	John 18:1-14	Tuesday	John 18:15-27	Wednesday	John 18:28-19:16
Thursday	John 19:16-27	Friday	John 19:28-42	Saturday	John 20:1-18

My notes on this week's readings...

Next Week in Worship

Join us next week for the start of a new series called *Walking with God*. Now that we've celebrated the resurrection of Jesus, we're going to focus on following the living Jesus as he leads us in life and mission. Join us for contemporary or traditional worship at 9 and 10:30 a.m.

first lutheran church

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Group Discussion

Connect

Do you have any favorite Easter memories or Easter traditions?

Learn

Today's study guide is different than many other weeks. As we celebrate Jesus' resurrection, we are going to read through the whole story of his death and resurrection to appreciate the victory of Easter.

Read and discuss **John 18:1-14**. What stands out to you about Jesus' arrest? What do these events tell you about Jesus?

Read and discuss **John 18:15-27**. Jesus was denied by one of his most passionate followers. Why would Peter do that? What does this tell you about Jesus and about following Jesus?

Turn to **John 18:28-19:16**. Before you read, try to imagine that this story is brand new to you - that you don't even know the names or backstory. What does this man named Jesus seem to be on trial for? What about this trial seems significant to you?

Read and discuss **John 19:16-27**. Notice that the sign over Jesus' head reflects the accusation and content from his trial. Jesus was crucified for trying to be king. What did Jesus do at the end of this passage? What does that say about people who follow Jesus?

Read and discuss **John 19:28-42**. Describe the death and burial of Jesus. What were the key events in those moments?

The Bible tells us nothing about what happened on the day after Jesus' death. Try to put yourselves in the position of Jesus' followers on that day. What do you think they were experiencing?

Now read **John 20:1-18**.

- What must the first visitors to the empty tomb have been thinking and feeling?
- If the crucifixion was the world's verdict that Jesus was a failed king, what does it mean that God raised him from the dead?
- Having seen this victory, is it any surprise that these disciples became passionate and courageous witnesses to Jesus in the face of all opposition?

Apply

Is there a dark or hopeless situation where you need Easter-strength hope? Consider sharing it with your group and turning it over to God who is stronger even than death.

Pray

Pray today for people who don't know that King Jesus is alive. Pray that the good news of the Gospel will reach them and give them life.