

Weekly Study Guide

The week of March 27, 2016

Wish to view the message again? Go to vimeo.com/flcwb. Will you be out of town soon? Watch online at livestream.com/flcwb. Desire to ask Pastor Steve a question about today's message? Contact him at 651.429.5349 x215 or sturnbull@flcwb.org.

Taking Your Next Step

NEXT STEP LUNCH: SUNDAY, APRIL 3, 11:45 AM-1:15 PM

Meet others, hear more about our church, and find out next steps for you at First. Lunch and childcare provided.

FLC101: SUNDAYS, APRIL 17 AND 24, 11:45 AM-2:30 PM

For those interested in learning about our vision, values, or becoming a member. (Attendance is not a commitment to join.) Lunch and childcare provided.

RESTORED2 DISCUSSION GROUP: SUNDAYS, APRIL 10-MAY 1, 10:30 AM-11:15 PM

Want to learn how to tackle recurring bad habits and attitudes? There's hope and help when we look to Jesus. If you're not yet in a group, this is for you!

PURCHASE *THE GOOD AND BEAUTIFUL LIFE* BOOK

Copies of the book referenced in this sermon series are available for purchase in the lobby.

SOUL TRAINING EXERCISES

Option 1:

Christian growth takes practice. Nobody runs a marathon with their first step out the door. Use these weekly "soul training exercises" to help you practice cooperating with the Holy Spirit so that you can hear and walk by the Spirit's leading all throughout your life.

Write a letter to God this week. It can be private, or you can share it with others. Begin this way, "Dear God, The life I most want for myself is..." You can use this letter as an opportunity to reflect on what matters most and how you want to take this journey of restoration with Jesus to the good and beautiful life. Writing this letter may raise questions for you. That's okay too. You can try to learn from those questions over the course of this Restored journey.

Option 1 & 2:

Regular habits of private Bible reading strengthen our relationship with God and teach us how to follow Jesus. In addition to the thematic exercise above, you can use this guide each week to lead you through relevant sections of the Bible.

Daily Readings

MONDAY

Matthew 1:1-17

TUESDAY

Matthew 1:18-25

WEDNESDAY

Matthew 2:1-12

THURSDAY

Matthew 2:13-18

FRIDAY

Matthew 2:19-23

SATURDAY

Matthew 3:1-12

Group Discussion

CONNECT

Do you have any Easter traditions?

THIS WEEK'S LEARNING GOAL

This week we are learning the story of Jesus' resurrection and the Christian belief that resurrection life is both future and present.

LEARNING FROM THE BIBLE TOGETHER

It's important to read the story of Easter and the story of Good Friday together. Start today by reading **John 19:16-42**.

- This is a powerful story; full of many important events. As you read it today, what one thing stands out to you the most?
- It's too easy for us to skip immediately from the end of John 19 to the beginning of John 20, but remember that none of Jesus' first followers could do that. What would it be like to have lived those days without knowing that Easter was coming?

Read the story of that first Easter Sunday morning in **John 20:1-18**.

- Why do you think it took the disciples a while to make sense of what they were seeing and experiencing?
- This weekend's message explained that John 20 is like a story of new creation or re-creation. (Like Genesis, John starts "In the beginning..." This chapter happens in the garden, on the first day of the week, before there was light.) How is the resurrection of Jesus like the start of a new world? What does that make you think or wonder about?

The early Christians believed that if Jesus was alive, then life was different now. Read and reflect on the following passages.

- **Read Acts 2:43-47 and Acts 4:32-37.** This was weird, countercultural behavior. What kind of weird ways of life might Christians be inspired to today?
- 1 Corinthians 15 is a long chapter explaining the truth of Jesus' resurrection. Read the conclusion of this explanation in **1 Corinthians 15:58**. One of the main effects of Jesus' resurrection is to "labor in the Lord," steadfast and immovable. How does the resurrection and vindication of Jesus inspire commitment to life in Jesus now?

SOUL TRAINING EXERCISES

As a group, recall last week's soul training exercise (reflection on Philippians 1:6). Did you learn or experience anything you'd like to share with your group? Now, look at the soul training exercises on the front of this study guide and get ready to practice them this week. Is there a particular time of day or some other specific commitment that would help you succeed in doing these exercises?

PRAY

Share your prayer concerns with one another. Pray for hope and restoration of life by the power of God who even brings life from death.



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WHITE BEAR LAKE, MINNESOTA