

## DAILY BIBLE READINGS:



These readings are related to the Lectionary readings for this Sunday. We invite you to take time each day to read the assigned Bible passage.

Sunday	John 20:19-31	Thomas sees and believes
Monday	Genesis 32:22-32	Jacob wrestles with God
Tuesday	Judges 6:36-40	Gideon and the fleece
Wednesday	2 Corinthians 5:1-10	We live by faith, not by sight
Thursday	Hebrews 10:35 – 11:1	The nature of faith
Friday	1 Peter 2:21-25	Healed by his wounds
Saturday	Isaiah 33:5-6,20-24	Look upon Zion
Sunday	Luke 24:13-35	On the road to Emmaus

## SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK:

Again Jesus said, "Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you."

*John 20:21 (TNIV)*

## SAY, PRAY AND BLESS:

### A Prayer for the Week:

Risen Lord Jesus, please give us the Holy Spirit. Lead us to share your good news of forgiveness with others. Amen.

### Mealtime Prayer:

*Risen Lord Jesus, we praise you for the gifts of this table and our feast of Easter joy. Fill us with your love and life. Amen.*

### A Blessing to Give:

May the Risen Lord Jesus replace your doubts with faith, your fears with boldness, and your sadness with joy. Amen.

## CARING CONVERSATION:

Discuss in your household or small group:

- Thomas found it difficult to believe that Jesus had risen from the dead until he saw him with his own eyes. In what ways are you like Thomas?
- Jesus said: *"Blessed are those who believe without seeing me"* (John 20:29). What helps you to believe in Jesus without seeing him in the flesh?

At times, people, especially children, may ask us questions about God or faith that challenge or unsettle us. How should we respond? Here is some advice to consider:

- Always answer honestly, even if the answer is "I don't know." It's OK to admit there are things we don't understand – in fact, it helps to illustrate that faith is not about "knowing it all" but trusting Christ in spite of what we do not know.
- Take every person's question seriously. If it matters enough to them to ask, it should matter enough for us to answer thoughtfully.
- Help people to think further by asking follow-up questions. It's better to encourage people to think for themselves than to give them all the answers.
- Use questions as a chance to learn together. Open your Bibles and discover together!

## DEVOTIONS:

In your home devotion times this week pray for people (by name if possible) who are struggling to believe in Jesus. Ask for God's help to share Jesus' love with them.

## SERVICE:

When Jesus first appeared to his disciples, Thomas was not with them. He must have felt like an "outsider", not having the same experience as his friends. Is there a person who is a newcomer to your community or church who may feel like an "outsider" at times? Invite them to your home to share a meal with you, or to a church function with you. Introduce them to others and help them feel more at home.

## RITUALS AND TRADITIONS:

The risen Lord Jesus appeared with the disciples and said *"Peace be with you."* When you gather as a family this week, use these words to "pass the peace" to one another with handshakes, kisses or hugs.