

the Royal

MAKING SENSE OF THE BIBLE

"But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light." 1 Pet. 2:9

Week 9: "Giant Killer"

WOW!!! What a great sermon this past Sunday. I hope as we listened to the sermon we all took a time to examine our own hearts and determine if we have the faith to be a "Giant Killer". This sermon was jam packed with application that doesn't require a whole lot of further study. So in our groups this week we hope you have more of a dialogue and time of reflection for the Sunday study portion, and be able examine the necessity of the resurrection in the biblical narrative in Luke 24.

Two major objectives this week:

1. Respond to the sermon, as much as possible get the group to talk about the sermon, and encourage them to be as transparent as possible. The best way to overcome fear is to repent from it. Only the Lord can forgive sin, but repentance is something we can do to help mend relationships and move forward in our walk with God. We need to remove fear!
2. Look at Luke 24 as a biblical narrative. Specifically the theme of the chapter which is the resurrection. Often times as sinful humans we fail to take a back seat and admire the risen Lord. Jesus' death, burial, and resurrection is the most important thing we can understand pertaining to our faith, because without or faith is useless (cf. 1 Cor. 15:14).

Even if you are unable to follow the entire curriculum, or answer any of the questions, you are encouraged to be aware of the study notes and facilitate discussions that will meet these two objectives above.

In Him,

Rock Church Small Group Team

Part 1: Opening/Recap Weekly Challenge/Small Group Sermon Discussion

Opening:

- Open in Prayer
- Worship (optional)
- Recap Week 8 Homework
- Small Group Sermon Discussion

Recap Week 8 Weekly Challenge:

- 1. Recite Psalm 51:1.**
- 2. Discuss experiences practicing the Discipline of Study (Biblical Narrative wrap up).**

Small Group Sermon Discussion:

- 1. The story of David and Goliath is always inspiring, but after reviewing the story closer (1 Sam. 17), discuss how likely you are to follow David's model and become a "giant killer". Try to explain why you would or would not be a "giant killer".**
 - ▶ This should be just an open discussion where the group can discuss certain fears, or objections they have had in being bold and stepping out in the face of adversity.
- 2. Discuss some new insights you learned from Miles' sermon on Sunday.**
 - ▶ I would suggest reading through the chapter again in case some did not attend service on Sunday.

Part 2: Read, Reflect, and Respond – Luke 24

Read Luke 24:

Christ was convicted of crimes He didn't commit, sentenced to scourging by a cat of 9-tails, and condemned to die on a cross (Lk. 22-23). Upon the announcement of His death, Joseph of Arimathea was permitted to bury Jesus' body in a tomb that he owned. However, the possibility of ever seeing the living Christ alive again was far from their thoughts. This leads us to Luke 24 and the resurrection. The following footnotes highlight important information to consider in the study of chapter 24, specifically the resurrection.

Part 2: Read, Reflect, and Respond – Luke 24

(continued)

Historical Information Concerning the Resurrection

- ▶ Our faith is dependent upon the resurrection (cf. 1 Cor. 15:12-15).
- ▶ Sadducees didn't believe in the resurrection at all (cf. Matt. 22:23-28; Acts 23:6, 8).
- ▶ Christ preached and affirmed the necessity of the resurrection (cf. John 5:28, 29, 6:39-40, 44).
- ▶ The resurrection was taught in the Old Testament (cf. Is. 26:19; Dan. 12:2-3, 13).
- ▶ The resurrection was explained away by false teachers (cf. 2 Tim. 2:18).
- ▶ The resurrection of Christ was foretold in the Psalms (cf. Ps. 16:10-11; Acts 13:34-35).
- ▶ Christ announced His own resurrection (cf. Mk. 9:9-10; John 2:19-22).
- ▶ The resurrection of Jesus was proclaimed by the Apostles (cf. Acts 2:32; 3:15).

Proof and Purposes of the Resurrection of Christ

- ▶ The tomb is empty (cf. John 20:1-9).
- ▶ The testimony of His enemies that the tomb was empty (cf. Matt. 28:5-7).
- ▶ There were many infallible proofs (cf. John 20:20, 27; Acts 1:3).
- ▶ It was a fulfillment of Scripture (cf. Lk. 24:45, 46).
- ▶ It was to forgive sins (cf. 1 Cor. 15:17).
- ▶ Provided justification for the sinner (cf. 1 Cor. 15:18-19).
- ▶ The resurrection of Christ proves His Sonship to the Father (cf. Ps. 2:7; Rom. 1:4).
- ▶ His resurrection seals our (believer's) resurrection (cf. Acts 26:23; 1 Cor. 15:20,23).

These verses listed above give us insight into the importance for the resurrection. When we study this chapter and this topic specifically, we need to put our selfish interests aside and focus strictly on the glory of God through the power of the raising of the dead.

- ▶ Read Luke 24 as a group.
- ▶ It is suggested to read Acts 1 as well. This chapter is a continuation from Luke 24 and shows the outpouring of the Holy Spirit on the first Church.

Reflect Luke 24:

The reflection of this chapter is going to center around the experience of the disciples that saw His presence.

1. What was the state of the disciples on the third day?

- ▶ The women were terrified when they saw the angels reveal that Christ was raised (cf. 24:5-10).

Part 2: Read, Reflect, and Respond – Luke 24

(continued)

- ▶ The disciples thought the women's testimony was nonsense (cf. 24:11).
- ▶ Peter ran to the tomb and marveled at what he saw (cf. 24:12).
- ▶ Jesus explained the Scriptures to Cleopas and his friend, as they were walking from Emmaus to Jerusalem (cf. 24:13-27).
- ▶ Christ appeared in their midst and revealed His pierced hands and feet. They were in complete joy and amazement He was speaking and breaking bread for them (cf. 24:36-45).
- ▶ He opened their minds to the truth of the Scriptures and the fulfillment of the cross and His raising from the dead (cf. 24:46-49).
- ▶ After He ascended they returned to Jerusalem with great joy and constantly were in the temple praising God (cf. 24:50-53).

2. In 1 Cor. 15:12-15, Paul stresses the importance of the resurrection as the foundation of our faith. He doesn't mention anything else, but the resurrection. Start a discussion as to what Paul's basis is for this.

- ▶ Read/study 1 Cor. 15.
- ▶ Highlight verses 17-18, when Paul mentions that we are still in our sins and then tie together that with the resurrection.

Respond 2 Samuel 11:

1. As a Christian, how much of an emphasis have you put on the necessity of the resurrection?

- ▶ Many people focus only on the cross, which is extremely important, but fail to recognize the importance of Christ being raised.
- ▶ This should hopefully be a time of adoration to God for His power in raising Christ from the dead.

2. 1 Thess. 4:13-18 describes what is commonly known as the rapture. Is our hope in our future unity with Christ and other believers, or in other aspects of the Christian faith?

- ▶ The reason for this question is that many people are placing hope in the wrong things in general. Whether it be on signs and miracles, or superstitions related to the faith, we want to really make clear the importance of the cross, but again more importantly Christ risen.

Part 3: Weekly Challenge

- ▶ **Scripture Reading Guide:** Go through the devotions that correspond with each day. These are given to everyone in their lesson plan every week. (June 28-July 4)
- ▶ **Scripture Memory:** "...and He said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Christ would suffer and rise again from the dead the third day, and that repentance for forgiveness of sins would be proclaimed in His name to all the nations, beginning from Jerusalem"." **Luke 24:46-47 (NASB)**
- ▶ **Bible Study Tool:** Navigate through www.oneplace.com and discover the great resources available for free for your personal gain.
- ▶ **Spiritual Formation Practice:** Each week we will introduce a "spiritual discipline" that each person can try to adapt to their personal devotion. This week is the **Discipline of Solitude.**

The discipline of solitude is simply the need to retreat from noise and distraction for the purpose of spending time alone with the Lord. This also goes hand in hand with the discipline of silence. Silence usually denies any distraction whatsoever. However, the reason we choose solitude is because we desire certain "distractions" for the purpose of growing closer to our Lord Jesus Christ. During our time of solitude we want to always meditate upon His Word, so having a Bible with you is essential. We also want to be in prayer. Staying constant communication with our Lord is something we never want to forsake. So the challenge this week is the following:

- ▶ Select a passage of Scripture to study everyday of the week. It can be one chapter, one book of the Bible, or go through a Psalm a day for the whole week.
- ▶ Study whatever you select and become familiar with the themes and dwell upon His Word.
- ▶ Spend at least 30 minutes a day in fellowship with Him alone. Turn off phones, computers, T.V., etc.
- ▶ Pray in accordance with what you are reading. This means constant praise and adoration to Him. Allow Him to minister to you, rather than constant petition to Him for what you want.

Hopefully this will renew your heart and passion for fellowship with Him. Next week come back to small group to share how He has moved and what you may have learned through this discipline.