

A Foot Race with a Surprise Finish

1. Peter and John Race to the Tomb Sunday Morning.

2. Because Jesus Is the Christ, He *Had* to Rise from the Dead.

3. What Does It Mean to Have Life in Jesus' Name?

CONCLUSION: Sunday morning Jesus wasn't dead anymore. The reality of His resurrection was just beginning to dawn on His followers and it would change them forever. It would give them life. What about you and me? We cannot see Him as they did, but we have their testimony and more importantly Jesus is still alive! He is the Christ. We are to believe and have life in His name.

Matthew 16: 21

From that time Jesus began to show his disciples that **he must** go to Jerusalem and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and **on the third day be raised**.

John 10: 7 – 15

⁷ So Jesus again said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep. ⁸ All who came before me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not listen to them. ⁹ I am the door. If anyone enters by me, he will be saved and will go in and out and find pasture. ¹⁰ The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. *I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.* ¹¹ I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. ¹² He who is a hired hand and not a shepherd, who does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and flees, and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. ¹³ He flees because he is a hired hand and cares nothing for the sheep. ¹⁴ I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, ¹⁵ just as the Father knows me and I know the Father; and *I lay down my life for the sheep.*

Romans 4: 13 – 25

¹³ For the **promise** to Abraham and his offspring that he would be heir of the world did not come through the law but through the righteousness of faith. ¹⁴ For if it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. ¹⁵ For the law brings wrath, but where there is no law there is no transgression.

¹⁶ That is why it *depends on faith*, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his offspring—not only to the adherent of the law but also to *the one who shares the faith of Abraham*, who is the father of us all, ¹⁷ as it is written, “I have made you the father of many nations”—in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist. ¹⁸ In hope he believed against hope, that he should become the father of many nations, as he had been told, “So shall your offspring be.” ¹⁹ He did not weaken in faith when he considered his own body, which was as good as dead (since he was about a hundred years old), or when he considered the barrenness of Sarah’s womb. ²⁰ No unbelief made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, ²¹ fully convinced that **God was able to do what he had promised**. ²² That is why his faith was “counted to him as righteousness.” ²³ But the words “it was counted to him” were not written for his sake alone, ²⁴ but for ours also. *It will be counted to us who believe in him who raised from the dead Jesus our Lord,* ²⁵ who was delivered up for our trespasses and raised for our justification.

Taking Gathered Worship Home

Christ is risen! He is risen, indeed. Allelujah! Allelujah! Does the resurrection of Jesus give you hope? Why or why not? Let's look at His resurrection together this week and explore the greatest event in all of history.

Please use the devotional material below each day this week to praise Christ. Ask Jesus to teach us His ways that we may walk in them to accomplish His purposes.

Sunday Morning

READ **John 20:1-9; 30-31; Romans 4:13-25; Psalm 80:1-19**. DISCUSS, Why did Jesus have to die? Be specific. Why did He have to rise from the dead? What did He accomplish through His resurrection? Is His life now the grounding of all your hope in this life and the next? PRAY "Jesus, You are Lord of all. Please help us to submit to You in every aspect of our lives, individually, in our families, and together as a congregation at FCCW."

Sunday Evening

Young Adults Fellowship at **6:00** pm. *Please come to FCCW's Library!*

Monday

READ **John 2:18-22; 17:22-23; 20:1-9; 30-31; Matthew 16:21-25; 27:63**. DISCUSS, How did Jesus talk about His impending death before going to Calvary? Why is this significant? Why did Jesus die? What did His resurrection from the dead on the third day prove? MEDITATE on **John 2:22**. PRAY, "Lord, You have come just as You promised to do what only You could do as fully man and fully God."

Tuesday

READ **John 20:1-9; 30-31; Matthew 12:38-42; Jonah 1:17-3:10**. DISCUSS, what is the relationship between Jesus and Jonah? What is the significance of three days? God the Father returns both of them from the depths. Why? MEDITATE on **John 2:22**. PRAY, "Jesus, thank You for conquering death for us. Please enable us to repent."

Wednesday

READ **John 10:7-18; 20:30-31; 7:1-10** DISCUSS, Jesus says repeatedly, "I lay down my life ..." Why? What is the significance of His taking it back up again? How does this explain what is going on in His resurrection? MEDITATE on **John 2:22**. PRAY, "Jesus, thank You for fulfilling all that You promised. *You are a good and faithful Lord!* Help us serve you well."

Thursday

READ **John 5:24-40; 20:30-31; Acts 4:8-12**. DISCUSS, Eternal life with Christ is more than just unending life. What is life in Christ? How does our life in Christ now differ from others? How will it differ eternally? MEDITATE on **John 2:22**. PRAY, "Lord, teach us to walk in Your ways. Guide us in Your truth. Enable us to enjoy eternal life with You."

Friday

READ **John 20:1-9; 30-31; Romans 4:13-25; Psalm 80:1-19**. DISCUSS, How has God been teaching you from these passages this week? MEDITATE on **John 2:22**. PRAY for faithfulness at FCCW and revival throughout the area.

Saturday

PREPARE today for the worship service tomorrow. *Both live-stream & in-person services are available.*

READ **Acts 17:1-34**. Remember to invite your friends and neighbors to the worship service!

John 2: 22

"When therefore [Jesus] was raised from the dead,
his disciples remembered that he had said this,
and they believed the Scripture
and the word that Jesus had spoken."