

# THE JOURNEY

## Bible Reading Schedule

April 13	1 Samuel 13, 14	Luke 14:1-24
April 14	1 Samuel 15, 16	Luke 14:25-35
April 15	1 Samuel 17, 18	Luke 15:1-10
April 16	1 Samuel 19, 20, 21	Luke 15:11-32
April 17	1 Samuel 22, 23, 24	Luke 16:1-18
April 18	1 Samuel 25, 26	Luke 16:19-31
April 19	1 Samuel 27, 28, 29	Luke 17:1-19

## The Resurrection [Matthew 28:1-20]

How do you think the women felt on their way to the tomb?

- Sad  exhausted  sentimental  expectant  worried  other

When they found the stone rolled back and saw an angel sitting on it, how do you think they felt?

- scared to death  
 wondering who took the body  
 overcome with grief – They could not take any more heartache  
 overcome with joy – they knew Jesus would come back

Why did the chief priests and elders want to spread the rumor that Jesus' disciples came and stole the body?

- He was a threat to them  
 He might file charges against them for falsely accusing him.  
 The Resurrection would prove he really was the Son of God.  
 They saw him as a troublemaker and they wanted to keep the peace.

What attitude do the people around you have toward the Resurrection?

- belief  unbelief  doubt  mockery  curiosity

What difference does the Resurrection of Christ make in your everyday life?

- Not much  quite a bit  a great deal  mockery  clueless

Easter Sunday: Heroes  
First United Methodist Church

# NEW BEGINNINGS

BECOMING A HERO...

- (1) Lives a life beyond the ordinary
- (2) Risks everything to save those who cannot save themselves
- (3) Stand for what's right, regardless of the consequences

▶ We all need a **Savior**

**The greatest tragedy is not death, but a life without meaning.**

“Be pleased, O LORD, to save me; O LORD, come quickly to help me.”  
Psalm 40:13

▶ Jesus is the only **Savior**

“Now, listen to what I have to say about Jesus from Nazareth. God proved that he sent Jesus to you by having him work miracles, wonders, and signs. All of you know this.” Acts 2:22 (CEV)

**Miracles** – supernatural power, NT records 36 separate miracles

**Wonders** – once seen, it is never forgotten.

**Signs** – Finger print of God, fulfillment of 61 separate prophecies

▶ I can still be **Saved**

**Grace** – God giving what I do not deserve.

**Faith** – receiving and living what God has provided

▶ Experience the Power of **Grateful Heart**

Thomas said to him, "My Lord and my God!" John 20:28

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## John 20:24-31 (NIV)

<sup>24</sup>Now Thomas (called Didymus), one of the Twelve, was not with the disciples when Jesus came. <sup>25</sup>So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord!"

But he said to them, "Unless I see the nail marks in his hands and put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into his side, I will not believe it."

<sup>26</sup>A week later his disciples were in the house again, and Thomas was with them. Though the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!" <sup>27</sup>Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe."

<sup>28</sup>Thomas said to him, "My Lord and my God!"

<sup>29</sup>Then Jesus told him, "Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."

<sup>30</sup>Jesus did many other miraculous signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not recorded in this book. <sup>31</sup>But these are written that you may<sup>[a]</sup> believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

***"One who is often reprov'd, yet remains stubborn, will suddenly be broken beyond healing." Proverbs 29:1***

## PARDON

An item in the May 2, 1985, Kansas City Times reminds us of a story you may be able to use in an evangelistic message. The item had to do with the attempt by some fans of O. Henry, the short-story writer, to get a pardon for their hero, who was convicted in 1898 of embezzling \$784.08 from the bank where he was employed. But you cannot give a pardon to a dead man. A pardon can only be given to someone who can accept it. Now, for the story:

Back in 1830 George Wilson was convicted of robbing the U.S. Mail and was sentenced to be hanged. President Andrew Jackson issued a pardon for Wilson, but he refused to accept it. The matter went to Chief Justice Marshall, who concluded that Wilson would have to be executed. "A pardon is a slip of paper," wrote Marshall, "the value of which is determined by the acceptance of the person to be pardoned. If it is refused, it is no pardon. George Wilson must be hanged."

For some, the pardon comes too late. For others, the pardon is not accepted.