



Lesson #6 "Jesus Wept"

Daily Devotions for the Week of November 5-10

Monday, November 5 Read Psalm 24

This is probably a processional psalm, song as the people approached the temple in Jerusalem at the beginning of a festival. Take a moment to imagine the scene and reflect on its purpose. What are those who sing this psalm supposed to know about God? _____

_____ About themselves? _____

_____ Why might this be a necessary first step in everybody's worship and a foundational attitude for our discipleship? _____

Tuesday, November 6 Read Isaiah 25:6-9

This is a beautiful promise of God's ultimate victory and of God's plan to fulfill our deepest needs. Take a moment to reflect on the empty promises made by human achievement, consumerism and social approval. What are some concrete ways we can take our focus off such transient things and draw closer to God? _____

_____ What things distract you from God? _____

_____ Discuss this in prayer with God today.

Wednesday, November 7 Read John 11:1-44

This story obviously serves as a reminder of exactly who Jesus is and of his power, but it also calls our attention to God's passion and empathy for us. An early prayer of the church reminds us that "in the midst of life we are in death." How does this story of Jesus' compassion and power shape our own attitudes towards how we live our lives, prioritize our resources and, ultimately, face death? _____

Thursday, November 8 Read Hebrews 11:1-3 & 39-40; 12:1-2

We are part of a long line of faithful people seeking to serve God. It's fair to argue that we wouldn't be where we are if not for the work, sacrifice, teaching and service of those who have gone before us. Take some time to say a prayer of thanks for the specific people who have shaped your faith life. What legacy are you personally leaving for generations yet to come? _____

Friday, November 9 Read 1 Corinthians 15:50-58

We put a great deal of effort into maintaining things of earth, of "flesh and blood (v.50." How does Paul respond to this tendency in this passage? _____

_____ We must accept our own mortality and the temporary nature of this life so that we can respond to the "therefore" in v.58. What should be our response to understanding that we are "happily terminal?" _____

Saturday, November 10 Read Psalm 119:1-8

Can you read this psalm through as your own personal prayer? What about it reflects your own faith experience and what in it challenges you to grow? _____

_____ Reflect on what it would look like in your day to day life to "walk in the law of the Lord."

Small Group Discussion Guide

Session #6 “Jesus Wept”

Part 1– Life Signs

Read Psalm 24 aloud to the group and say: *“This is probably a processional psalm, sung as the people approached the temple in Jerusalem at the beginning of a festival.”* Discuss these questions from Monday’s readings:

- What are those who sing this psalm supposed to know about God?
- About themselves?
- Why might this be a necessary first step in everybody’s worship and a foundational attitude for our discipleship?

Part 2– Fully Functional

- Read with the group (perhaps with each person reading a few verses) the entire story of the raising of Lazarus (John 11:1-44) and discuss the following questions:
 - In Sunday’s sermon Larry suggested that Jesus’ weeping shows God’s empathy for our struggles. Do you agree or disagree and why?
 - Look at Jesus’ conversation with Martha. Why is it important for us to trust in Jesus’ divine power? How does such trust shape our lives and priorities?

- For many people, death is the ultimate mystery, greatest fear and final defeat. How do you think Mary, Martha, Lazarus and Jesus might respond to those fears?

Part 3– Abundant Living

- Read 1 Corinthians 15:50-58 aloud and discuss the questions from Friday, 11/9.
- How might our fear of death contribute to our lack of generosity and sacrificial giving?

Lap #6



Take a few moments to talk about the “Crossing the Finish Line” pledge cards. Discuss whether or not your group intends to be a part of the campaign and

what positive feelings and hesitations they might have towards it. If there is time, discuss the following:

- ⇒ *Is it important for us to leave a sound financial church legacy for future generations? What responsibility do we have toward such a legacy?*

