



## REVEILLE'S GPS WEEKLY SCRIPTURE GUIDE

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Explore scriptures and daily devotionals that reflect on this Sunday's sermon message. Sign up to receive the daily devotional email at [www.bit.ly/devotional-rumc](http://www.bit.ly/devotional-rumc).

**April 1-7, 2024**

**SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER**

**UNITED WOMEN OF FAITH SUNDAY**

**Sermon Title: "Practicing Resurrection" by Rev. Katie B. Gooch**

Use the space below to reflect on the questions in this week's devotionals, make class and sermon notes, and write down prayers and concerns.

**Focus Question (Before Sermon):**

When the Kingdom of God is fully present on earth, what do you see?

**Questions for Small Groups and Individuals (After Sermon):**

1. What does the resurrection mean to you and have you ever doubted it? Do you still doubt it?
2. Do you know someone who is clearly living into the gifts God has given them to bring about the Kingdom on earth?
3. Do you have a clear sense of what gifts God has uniquely given you to be a part of the Kingdom on earth?

**Monday, April 1: Read John 20:19-31**

Acknowledging the way we celebrate Easter, we are aware that many of us, like Thomas in today's reading, still have doubts about the resurrection. Today as we continue celebrating the Easter season, which lasts for 50 days (longer than Lent), we are called to celebrate Easter every day through our lives by practicing resurrection. This week we will dive into what celebrating the resurrection looks like in our everyday lives and the difference it can make in our thoughts, actions, and souls. We will examine the benefits living in the resurrection can have right now, granting us the love, peace, and hope many in the world desperately crave.

This week we also prepare to celebrate United Women of Faith Sunday, where we will hear a sermon from guest preacher (though no stranger to many of us) Rev. Katie B. Gooch. For over 150 years, women in the United Methodist Church have been practicing resurrection in a multitude of ways. Our worship on Sunday will be an opportunity to both acknowledge and learn from these church leaders.

- **Relationship Opportunity:** *Discuss with a loved one what the message of the resurrection means to you. What do you believe it has meant to the world? What would the world be like without it?*

## **Tuesday, April 2: Read Acts 4:32-35**

Former Reveille Lead Pastor Doug Forrester once gave a sermon on the evidence of the resurrection. Some of the greatest evidence, he proposed, lies in the behavior of the earliest Christians immediately following the crucifixion. Acts 4 gives a picture of what practicing resurrection looked like for first-century Christians – an unselfish sharing of resources and fearless sharing of the gospel. In the midst of extreme danger and persecution, these people fearlessly lived and often died in order to spread the news of the gospel and live in obedience to Christ’s teachings. Even the greatest cynic is forced to ask themselves, “Why? What happened that they would be willing to do this?” Doug asserted that it’s easier to believe something BIG and REAL happened than to believe everyone would be willing to martyr themselves to protect a great conspiracy or a lie. Have you ever looked for evidence in this way?

- **Study Opportunity:** *Where do you see evidence of great truths reflected in the behaviors of others?*

## **Wednesday, April 3: Read 1 Corinthians 12:4-12**

Living in the resurrection means living life to its fullest- now and forever. One essential element of a full life is recognizing, appreciating, and using our gifts in harmony with others, our truest selves, and all of creation. This life-giving work gives us purpose, joy, and peace. Through the power of the Holy Spirit, available to us all through the grace of God, we will be able to do things with our gifts we cannot currently fathom. Today’s scripture helps us recognize and celebrate the gifts we each have to give in this Kingdom of God, and partner with others in respect of the gifts they bring. What would the world look like if we all truly did this?

- **Discipleship Opportunity:** *VCU’s Pace Ministry takes the model of UWF and the UMC of helping students identify the gifts they have to give in this Kingdom of God that we are called to live into. How can we find ways to support this effort at VCU, in others, and in ourselves?*

## **Thursday, April 4: Read 1 Corinthians 13:1-8a**

The central message of Easter is love - God’s unfailing, unconditional, all-powerful love for the world and each of us. Likewise, our response to Easter is to be love. Today’s scripture (popularly read at weddings) speaks to the central message of love in everything we do. There is no room for hate of any kind in the message of the resurrection. Easter is not an opportunity for us to divide ourselves into camps, sides of the aisle, or platforms to proclaim a monopoly on truth. The message of the resurrection is one of love, inclusion, hope, tolerance, forgiveness, and grace for ALL of us who so desperately need it.

- **Relationship and Discipleship Opportunity:** *Find one person who needs love, hope, acceptance, forgiveness, and grace. Show them all of these the best way you know how.*

## **Friday, April 5: Read Philippians 4:4-7**

Imagine a life free of anxiety. Imagine a life so full of joy that people stop you to ask you what your secret is. Imagine a life where every day is an opportunity to rejoice, be grateful, and experience peace “beyond understanding.” This is life in the resurrection, and we can experience it starting today, even as we wrestle with questions and life and the messiness that comes with being human. One of this author’s favorite descriptions of the Bible is that it asks all the right questions rather than giving us all the easy answers. Keep searching. Keep asking. Keep LIVING. Jesus lived and died to give us life abundantly. Keep living into the abundance, through the love and grace offered to us all.

- **Discipleship Opportunity:** *Pick one small, tangible way to live into the resurrection this week.*

## **Saturday, April 6: SCRIPTURE MEMORIZATION: Philippians 4:4-7**

“Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.”

## **Sunday, April 7: Let us prepare our hearts and minds by praying our Prayer of Common Confession:**

*Creator God, we confess that at times we are skeptics. At times we doubt that You exist because of the evil we have seen in the world. Oppression, marginalization, and plain hate still plague our world, and it is hard to see Your love and light. Sometimes, even those who bear Your name do not walk in Your ways. Help us to see Your goodness in this world. Help us to know Your love. Fill us with Your love and goodness, so that we might love one another, and lift up one another in faith. Amen.*