



REVEILLE'S GPS WEEKLY SCRIPTURE GUIDE

Explore scriptures and daily devotionals that reflect on this Sunday's sermon message.
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April 21-27, 2025

Sermon Series: "Living a Resurrection Life"

Sermon Title: "Beyond Reasonable Doubt" by Rev. Dr. Peter Moon

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.

Questions for families, small groups, and individual reflection:

1. Doubt typically has a negative inference throughout the Scriptures. Can you think of any good things that rise out of doubt?
2. Can you name stories of people who have been stuck in the dwelling place of doubt? Here is a harder question. How do we move from the house to the ladder?
3. In our reading from John, Jesus talked about you and me when he said, "blessed are those who have not seen and yet believed." Describe what that blessing looks like.

Monday, April 21: Read John 20:19-25

Some people come into the faith after a journey of doubt. Others never have to deal with it. Where are you on this spectrum? On the tails of celebrating Easter Sunday, we may find ourselves empathizing with Thomas in today's gospel reading, who famously refused to believe in Jesus's resurrection unless he saw him with his own eyes. This week, we begin our preparation for next Sunday's sermon, "Beyond Reasonable Doubt," with a reassurance that there is nothing inherently wrong with questions and doubt. In fact, doubt and skepticism are often seen as a sign of intellectual acuity and discernment. Methodist pastor and author Adam Hamilton has recently written that our country would be in a better place if both political sides were willing to doubt their leaders and themselves more. Doubt can be an important stop on the journey to faith, but it is not a place to live. As we journey through our common lectionary readings this week, we will explore how moving from a place of doubt to a destination of faith yields blessings that yield both immediate and eternal benefits. The key is being willing to start exploring.

- **Discipleship Opportunity:** *Reflect on what you believe to be the difference between healthy doubt vs. doubt that keeps us from fully receiving blessings in our lives. Where have you seen this?*

Tuesday, April 22: Read John 20:26-31

Some things need investigation and irrefutable proof. Others need faith without requiring proof. In today's scripture, Jesus gives Thomas the proof he requested, but followed it by saying, "Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe." (John 20:29b) For the past two thousand years, not a single person has had Thomas's opportunity to physically see and touch Jesus's resurrected body in order to believe, yet have received the joy that comes with accepting God's unconditional love and forgiveness and the peace that comes an assurance of eternal life. Do you feel these blessings in your life?

- **Relationship Opportunity:** *Discuss with your family, friends, or small group where you have seen blessings that come from believing without seeing.*

Wednesday, April 23: Read Revelation 1:4-8

The oft-misunderstood book of Revelation gave hope, guidance, and courage to early Christians struggling with unimaginable persecution and physical danger from the Roman Empire. It helped them see that not only was their current situation not their eternal situation. They were already free from the bondage of sin and death through the grace of God brought to them through the life, death, and resurrection of Christ. What they were able to do with that hope and assurance changed the world. What would we be able to do with this degree of faith?

- **Study Opportunity:** *Take a few minutes to research the basics of the early spread of Christianity. Where do you see the power of faith?*

Thursday, April 24: Read Acts 5:27-32

The book of Acts immediately follows the book of John in the Bible and chronicles the earliest acts of faith and discipleship of Jesus's disciples after Jesus's resurrection and ascension. The same Peter who cowered in the shadows and denied knowing Jesus during the crucifixion is now bravely teaching out Jesus despite direct orders and threats against him. What changed? Why is Peter now so courageous? Could it be that he witnessed something truly miraculous that changed everything? Can we be witnessing something wonderful through his acts and words that can give us hope and courage today?

- **Discipleship Opportunity:** *Think of times when you were encouraged and empowered by someone's eyewitness account of something incredible. How can you be a witness to others of the hope and peace you receive through faith in Jesus?*

Friday, April 25: Read Psalm 118:14-29

Words have power. When we spend time praising God for who God is, what God has done, and what God is currently doing in our life and world, we deepen our faith, deepen our relationship with God and others, and deepen our joy, love, and peace. Today, we are encouraged to make a commitment to filling our minds, hearts, and mouths with God's word, allowing it to transform our faith and transform our life.

- **Discipleship Opportunity:** *Speak aloud the verses from today's psalm that resonate most with you.*

Saturday, April 26: SCRIPTURE MEMORIZATION: John 20:29b

"Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe."

Sunday, April 27: Let us prepare our hearts and minds for worship with our Prayer of Confession:

Almighty God, we give you thanks for your grace in our doubts, but confess that they all too often become our dwelling place instead of a ladder. Our doubts all too often become our excuse. We celebrate questions and minimize our need to trust. As we worship this day, draw us into that circle of faith which Jesus describes, this blessing for those who have not seen and yet believe. This we ask in the name of Jesus. Amen.