



REVEILLE'S GPS WEEKLY SCRIPTURE GUIDE

Explore scriptures and daily devotionals that reflect on this Sunday's sermon message.
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May 12-18, 2025

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Sermon: "The Resurrection Diet" 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. Repentance is often seen as painful and dutiful. And yet, the last verse of our reading treats it as a gift: So then, even to the Gentiles God has granted repentance that leads to life." (Acts 11:18). How do you define "repentance"? Do you see it in this positive light?
2. The Greek term for repentance is "metanoia." It literally means to turn. In our reading this week, it is turning from my truth to the truth. All the main characters who "turn"; Cornelius, Peter, and the early church, make a turn to see themselves and their work through God's eyes. Talk about a time when your eyes were opened and you too "turned."
3. Sometimes folks will ask the question about why we don't follow the biblical laws about kosher foods any longer. How would you explain to a new person in our church why it is now ok to eat pork and shellfish when the Bible seemingly instructs us not to?

Monday, May 12: Read Acts 10

We begin this week with a two-day reading of the story of the conversion of Cornelius, a Roman Centurion and a Gentile. The simple fact that Luke, the writer of Acts, spent one and a half precious chapters on this story should grab our attention. But as we read, we will notice this story is about so much more. It's about the fundamental question presented to the early church: who can be a Christian? The earliest Christians were Jews – people who had adhered to strict dietary and societal rules and were proud of it. Now, Peter is called to bring the Gospel message to the uncircumcised, the pork eaters, the "unclean." The early church is called to turn from an inward focus to an outward focus, called to "not call anything profane that [God has] made clean" (Acts 10:15). This week, we are called to examine our own "diet" of beliefs, practices, and priorities and measure them against God's call to be outwardly focused and more concerned with making extra seats at the table, following Jesus's desire to be everyone's Lord, allowing all to come under his loving grace and care.

- **Relationship Opportunity:** *How might we need to go through a similar conversion, as individuals and a church, as Peter? Do we need to be more outwardly or inwardly focused?*

Tuesday, May 13: Read Acts 11:1-18

As we look at Acts 10 and 11 and all the drama that's unfolding, we should note that no human being is the initiator of all the events. The entire operation, from the vision of Cornelius to the vision of Peter, and the work of the angels is all orchestrated and initiated by God. God is the primary actor in the event. What does this say about God's will and plan for the church? Peter was immediately criticized for dining with Cornelius, but when he explained his divine inspiration and guidance, the Jewish apostles and believers listened, and "had no further objections and praised God, saying 'So then, even to Gentiles God has granted repentance that leads to everlasting life.'" Is this how decisions are made in our church today?

- **Discipleship Opportunity:** *Take time to examine how you hold onto and change your beliefs and practices. Where does the voice of God come in? Where should it?*

Wednesday, May 14: Read Isaiah 55:1-5

Throughout Israel's history, prophets served as God's voice, offering both comfort through the hard times and tough-love condemnation of evil practices when the nation and its leaders turned from God. Today, we can read these beautiful words from Isaiah to gain comfort and assurance for ourselves. We can also, however, use them to challenge ourselves to examine our own beliefs on who is being invited to the waters. Who are the thirsty? Who has no money? Who deserves to be endowed with splendor?

- **Discipleship Opportunity:** *Spend time in prayer today with this passage. How are you thirsty, destitute, tired? How are you able to provide water, food, and rest to others and lead them here?*

Thursday, May 15: Read John 13:31-35

It's so tempting to complicate the message of Christ. We have set up an elaborate set of rules, traditions, and regulations, many of which bring much-needed structure and offer comfort and discipline to its followers but are not fundamental to Christ's teachings. What is? To love one another. Love. This is the plumb line against which we should be measuring everything we say, do, and believe. Are we loving one another? Are we loving everyone? Is everyone invited to this table?

- **Relationship Opportunity:** *Love one another in a way that everyone will know Jesus.*

Friday, May 16: Read Psalm 136:1-9. 23-26

We end with a psalm of humility and praise, recognizing God for everything God has done, is doing, and will do throughout the world and universe, as well as everything God has done for us during the times when we were the wandering, the lost, the outsider, the sinner. Today, we celebrate God for remembering us "in our low state" and raise our voice so everyone recognizes their exalted and cherished place in God's kingdom.

- **Study Opportunity:** *Research other verses that praise God for God's inclusivity for humanity.*

Saturday, May 17: SCRIPTURE MEMORIZATION: Acts 10:34b-35

"I now realize how true it is that God does not show favoritism but accepts from every nation the one who fears him and does what is right."

Sunday, May 18: Let us prepare our hearts and minds for worship with our Prayer of Confession:

Almighty and gracious God, as we gather this day, we humble ourselves before you. Too often, it has been about me, and all about us as the church. Like the early church of whom we read today, we too need to be converted. Turn us, O Lord, from looking inward to looking outward. Remind us that our ultimate purpose is not only to worship you, but also to reach and serve those who are not with us today. Inspire and send us this day, for we ask it in the name of Jesus. Amen.