**CROSSWORDS | AS HE SAID | Week 7 | April 12**

Luke 24:1-8; Mark 1:22; John 14:6

These study guides are designed for individual or group study but highly encouraged to be experienced in community with a small group or other friends on the journey with Jesus.

Context: Our walk with Jesus through His final days has looked closely at “CrossWords,” those words Jesus spoke in His final moments on Earth. As we take a step back we can consider those words as well as all the words He spoke and the life He lived and we can ask, “Is that TRUE?”

- Truth and Trust are close cousins. Where in your life has a lie or half-truth shattered your trust in someone?
- As we think about our national emergency today, how do you handle the conflicting reports? How have you decided what and who to trust?

Truly Uncertain: There is, particularly in the midst of evolving facts, a time that is truly uncertain. We don’t have enough data to know. While this is true, it does not inspire trust because it leaves us with uncertainty.

- How do you handle the uncertainty that surrounds us all currently?
- Where do you find truth today?

Enough Truth: Pastor Dan shared, “it is easy to start thinking that there is no truth, or that all truth is relative, or that we don’t have enough truth to really risk ourselves on.”

- Share or journal through when you have had similar thoughts?

Truth Begets Authority: Read Mark 1:22. Jesus’ teaching is contrasted to the teaching of scribes that the synagogue was accustomed to. Jesus spoke with a truth filled authority they weren’t accustomed to.

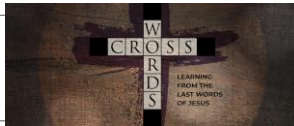
- When you reflect on the teachings of Jesus how do they impact you?
- What do we tell ourselves about the messages we get? Where can we find authority today?

Truth Is Dead: The women at the tomb had followed Jesus, heard the truth of what Jesus taught, they had seen and experienced the authority of Jesus, but now Jesus was dead. Back to square one, dreams stolen, hope gone. Read Luke 24:1-8.

- Place yourself in the sandals of one of the women in Luke 24? What would you be thinking, feeling, asking, and believing at that moment?

We Need THE Truth: The Easter message is NOT - Follow Jesus because Jesus was a brilliant teacher, or follow Jesus because Jesus was a great person, or follow Jesus because Jesus is your way to heaven. Though there’s wisdom in all of that. The central message of Easter is, Follow Jesus because Jesus IS THE Truth! It’s ALL True as Pastor Dan reminded us, “The CrossWords of Jesus means it is possible for me to be forgiven. I can start today new. The debt has been paid. I am part of a whole new family, one that will last for all time. There is a God who thirsts for relationship with me, who will never leave me or forsake me.”

- Which statement stands out to you? Talk about it with the group.
- Pray a prayer of gratitude with your group for how the Truth of Jesus transforms how you live in the everyday moments of your lives.



- Does this prayer of gratitude come easy or hard for you?

Wisdom: How to practically live the truth of Jesus today...

- *Seeds:* pay attention to the little choices and investments we make.
- *Life:* is found not in hoarding but in giving yourself away.
- *Power:* is not control of others but instead stooping to wash their feet.
- *Wealth:* is not earthly treasure but loving relationships.
- *Family:* we are all bound in a web of mutual relationship by which we thrive or perish.
 - How hard or easy do each of these come to you? Why?
 - Which one are you most in need of today? Why?

The WAY: Long ago, a small community of people rooted their lives in the One whose resurrection convinced them that Jesus knew the Way, Jesus was the Truth, and Jesus could give Life. In a time of plague, corruption, and confusion they resolved to live as Jesus said and God used that expanding community to bring about a spiritual and cultural renewal that brought a more abundant and eternal life to millions. Why not again? Why not through us? Wherever you are, you can be part of this movement. You can BE the church. For Christ is risen. He is risen indeed!

- How easy or hard is it for you to believe, receive, and embrace these words as the reality we are now enabled to live through the resurrection of Jesus?

Practices for your week:

- If you have never invited the risen Christ into your life what is stopping you from praying right now? “Jesus, come into my life today. Wipe away the sin of my past. Fill me with Your Holy Spirit and lead me in Your Way, Your Truth, and Your Life from this moment forward.” If you have prayed this for the first time we would love to celebrate what God is doing in your life: Send a note to Pastor Eric Haskins at ehaskins@ChristChurch.us.
- Engage with this passage from a different perspective by using the corresponding Lenten Audio Devotional (ChristChurch.us/lentdevo20).

We'd love to hear from you!

If you have thoughts, questions, comments, ideas on how to make these study guides more meaningful for you or your small group, please let us know.

We also enjoy hearing how God is using these study guides in your lives.

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