

MAY 7, 2023
FIFTH SUNDAY
OF EASTER



Learning who God is through Jesus.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

These passages are related to the Lectionary texts for this Sunday.

Sunday	John 14:1-14	Jesus is the way, truth, and life
Monday	Acts 7:55-60	The stoning of Stephen
Tuesday	1 Peter 2:2-10	God's love in Christ Jesus
Wednesday	Colossians 1:15-23	The supremacy of Christ
Thursday	Ephesians 1:15-23	Paul's prayer
Friday	John 3:16-21	God so loved the world
Saturday	Psalms 31:1-5, 15-16	Prayer for deliverance
Sunday	John 14:15-21	The promise of the Holy Spirit

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'?" **John 14:9 (NRSV)**

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

God of steadfast love and faithfulness, help us to see your reign of power and mercy through Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Dear Jesus, with this food we see your goodness. We thank you that you have made of us a chosen race, a royal priesthood, God's own people. Amen. (1 Peter 2:3 and 9)

A Blessing to Give:

May God's face shine on you with steadfast love. (Psalm 31:16)



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HYMN OF THE WEEK

*I Received the
Living God*



WEEKLY MILESTONES

Take a moment to tell or think about a recent mountain high and/or valley low in your life.

CARING CONVERSATIONS



Discuss in your home, small group, or use for personal reflections:

- How would you describe God to someone?
- Where does your understanding of God come from?

DEVOTIONS



Read: John 14:1-14.

John 1:18 states, "No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known." This foundational theme in the Gospel of John is reintroduced in John 14:9: "Whoever has seen me has seen the Father." Society describes God in categories like all powerful and all wise. In Jesus we see a God who deeply wants a relationship with us and therefore Jesus has prepared an eternal dwelling place for us. In Jesus we see the God who brings joy to a wedding, heals the sick, and gives sight to the blind. We also see the one who is the Good Shepherd, bends over to clean dirty feet, and goes to the cross to die for us. Like Philip, we will never fully grasp who Jesus is for us, but in Jesus we see the God who never gives up on us, even when we deny our Lord out of ignorance or fear. Jesus is "the way, and the truth, and the life" (v. 6). He takes truth to be more than facts but a relationship to God filled with love and mercy. That's the path to real life now and always.

Discuss: What does the life of Jesus tell you about God?

Pray: **Almighty and living God, may our lives point to your way, your truth and your life filled with grace and mercy through Jesus, your Son and our Lord. Amen.**

SERVICE



Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Daily Bible Readings for this week, how might you serve others that they may know the way, the truth, and the life of Jesus?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS



1 Peter 2:4-5 describes Jesus as "a living stone" and Jesus' followers "like living stones" to be "built into a spiritual house." Gather some smooth stones. Paint a cross on a large one and names of family and friends on smaller ones. Place the smaller stones around the large one in a visible place in your home. As you continue reading the Gospel of John during the Easter season, think about what it means to be a "spiritual house" where God dwells. After reading, look at the stones and say: **Alleluia! Christ is risen. Alleluia!**



In addition to *Taking Faith Home*, celebrate milestones in your daily life as an effective faith formation tool. Go to: www.milestonesministry.org