

APRIL 19, 2015
THIRD SUNDAY
OF EASTER

taking⁺ faith home

The risen Jesus sends us out to witness for him.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

These readings are related to the Lectionary readings for this Sunday. We invite you to take time each day to read the assigned Bible passages.

Sunday	Luke 24:36b-48	Witnesses of these things
Monday	Acts 1:1-8	You will be my witnesses
Tuesday	Acts 5:17-32	The apostles share the message of new life
Wednesday	Acts 10:34-43	The witness of the apostles
Thursday	Acts 13:13-31, 38-39	Paul's proclamation in Antioch
Friday	Acts 18:1-11	Paul gives witness in Corinth
Saturday	Psalms 150	Praise the Lord
Sunday	John 10:11-18	The Good Shepherd

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

You killed the one who gives life. But God raised him from the dead. We are witnesses of this. Acts 3:15

SAY, PRAY AND BLESS:

A Prayer for the Week:

Lord Jesus, please open our minds to understand the Scriptures, and our mouths to speak of you. Amen. (Luke 24:45,48)

Mealtime Prayer:

God bless our food, God guide our ways, God give us strength to declare your praise. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May the Lord Jesus give you peace, faith, and power to tell others about him. Amen.

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CARING CONVERSATIONS

Discuss in your household or small group:

- Who first told you about Jesus? Who and what have helped you learn about him over time?
- Jesus said that his disciples would be “witnesses” for him (Luke 24:48). What is a witness?
- In what ways are you a witness for Jesus to others? Share about your joys and your challenges in speaking to others about Jesus.

DEVOTIONS

Jesus calls his followers to be his witnesses, to share with others their faith in him (Luke 24:46-47). In your household prayer times this week, pray for relatives, friends, or neighbors who are not Christians. Ask for God's help to share Jesus with them in word and deed.

SERVICE

April 22 (Tuesday) is observed across the world as EARTH DAY. For Christians, Earth Day is an occasion to thank God for creation and reflect on how we might better care for what we have been given. Discuss ways in which your household can act to better protect the environment, such as using less power at home, recycling waste, planting trees and collecting litter. Commit to one act of environmental care this week.

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

Psalms 4:8 says, *“In peace I will lie down and sleep, for you alone, O Lord, will keep me safe.”* The end of the day is a good time to slow down, reflect on the day, and focus on God's place at the center of our lives. Rituals that help us do this can have a powerful “witnessing” influence in our home lives. Consider incorporating these ideas into the bedtime routine:

- Share the “highs” and “lows” from the day.
- Read a Bible story or a brief Bible passage.



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