

“And we know that the Son of God has come, and He has given us understanding so that we can know the true God. And now we live in fellowship with the true God because we live in fellowship with His Son, Jesus Christ. He is the only true God, and He is eternal life.” **1 John 5:20 NLT**

- **A purpose to live for**

“And He said, ‘Yes, it was written long ago that the Messiah would suffer and die and rise from the dead on the third day. It was also written that this message would be proclaimed in the authority of His name to all the nations, beginning in Jerusalem: “There is forgiveness of sins for all who repent.” You are witnesses of all these things.’” **Luke 24:46-48 NLT**

“This means that anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun! And all of this is a gift from God, who brought us back to Himself through Christ. And God has given us this task of reconciling people to Him. For God was in Christ, reconciling the world to Himself, no longer counting people’s sins against them. And He gave us this wonderful message of reconciliation. So we are Christ’s ambassadors; God is making His appeal through us. We speak for Christ when we plead, ‘Come back to God!’”

**2 Corinthians 5:17-20 NLT**

- **A power to live on**

“And now I will send the Holy Spirit, just as My Father promised. But stay here in the city until the Holy Spirit comes and fills you with power from Heaven.” **Luke 24:49 NLT**

“I also pray that you will understand the incredible greatness of God’s power for us who believe Him. This is the same mighty power that raised Christ from the dead and seated Him in the place of honor at God’s right hand in the heavenly realms. Now He is far above any ruler or authority or power or leader or anything else—not only in this world but also in the world to come. God has put all things under the authority of Christ and has made Him head over all things for the benefit of the church. And the church is His body; it is made full and complete by Christ, who fills all things everywhere with Himself.”

**Ephesians 1:19-23 NLT**

*Next Week...*

Open To All Who Feel Uninvited



*Mark Hadley*  
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Open To All Who  
Feel Unfaithful

“If we are unfaithful, He remains faithful, for He cannot deny who He is.”  
**2 Timothy 2:13 NLT**

*To those who feel unfaithful, Jesus offers...*

- **A peace to live in**

“Then the two from Emmaus told their story of how Jesus had appeared to them as they were walking along the road, and how they had recognized Him as He was breaking the bread. And just as they were telling about it, Jesus Himself was suddenly standing there among them. ‘Peace be with you,’ He said. But the whole group was startled and frightened, thinking they were seeing a ghost! ‘Why are you frightened?’ He asked. ‘Why are your hearts filled with doubt? Look at My hands. Look at My feet. You can see that it’s really Me. Touch Me and make sure that I am not a ghost, because ghosts don’t have bodies, as you see that I do.’ As He spoke, He showed them His hands and His feet. Still they stood there in disbelief, filled with joy and wonder. Then He asked them, ‘Do you have anything here to eat?’ They gave Him a piece of broiled fish, and He ate it as they watched.” **Luke 24:35-43 NLT**

- **A paradigm to live with**

“Then He said, ‘When I was with you before, I told you that everything written about Me in the law of Moses and the prophets and in the Psalms must be fulfilled.’ Then He opened their minds to understand the Scriptures.” **Luke 24:44-45 NLT**



This Study Guide is designed to help you apply Sunday's message. Join one of our message-based Community Groups to do this study together. Visit the Groups table after service to find a group!

**LESSON AIM: The aim of this lesson is to learn that we can come to Jesus, even when we feel we have been unfaithful.**

BELONG in God's family:

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**CHECK IN:** (optional) Let's briefly share with each other how we've been doing this week.

**OPENING PRAYER**

**ICEBREAKER:** When have you had a "Eureka!" moment, when something suddenly made sense?

BECOME like Jesus:

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1. On Sunday, we saw that God invites all to His table – even those who are flawed and feel unfaithful. How did the message apply to you?
2. Read Luke 24:35-43. The disciples were in hiding, expecting soldiers to come for them next. Jesus knew He needed to reinforce their faith. What evidence did He give to prove He wasn't a ghost and that He had really risen?
3. Now read Luke 24:44-49. Why do you think Jesus taught the disciples prophecies about the Messiah from the Old Testament? The disciples had grown up reading the scriptures and had been with Jesus for three years. And yet John 20:8-9 says they didn't understand. This was the ultimate "Eureka!" moment. The disciples were the first people ever to understand the gospel story from the Old Testament. What do you think Jesus showed them?
4. Many people equate faith with blind faith. But Biblical faith is informed faith. Jesus performed signs and miracles to show who He was. He rose

from the dead to prove He was who He said He was. 2 Timothy 1:12 tells us that Paul's faith was informed by everything he knew about Jesus. What informs your faith?

5. What can we learn about faith from Hebrews 11:1-3? Whose faithfulness are we depending on – our own or God's? Read Deuteronomy 7:9, 1 John 1:7-9 and Romans 8:38-39. What is the hope you have? What strengthens your faith?

BLESS others:

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What does 1 Peter 3:15 tell us? How can we do this? How can we be more ready tomorrow than we are today?

BUILD God's kingdom:

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God has always used flawed humans to do His work and build His kingdom here on Earth. Think of Samson, Jonah, David or Peter. All Jesus' disciples were flawed people, who hadn't understood Jesus perfectly while He was with them. And yet they were the ones Jesus chose to preach the gospel to the world. In 1 Corinthians 3:10-11 and Ephesians 2:21-22 we see a picture of God's kingdom with Jesus as the foundation, and each of us as bricks in the temple where God has chosen to live. Does this picture change how you see your role in God's kingdom?

BELIEVE God and act in faith:

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The life of a Christian is a paradox. We live in a fallen world, in the midst of a spiritual battle, yet we have faith that Jesus has already won the eternal victory. When things don't make sense to us, how can we live in the present while holding firmly to God's eternal future? What are your "anchors in the storm?"

**PRAYER:** What challenge are you facing this week? How can our group pray and support you?

August 26, 2018



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