



THE STORY *continues...*

*Join us each week as God weaves His Story into the fabric
of our daily lives.*

Chapter 25 Jesus, the Son of God

Listen to *The Story*

Read **Chapter 25** of *The Story*

Right at the beginning of this week's chapter we should all take a minute to hear Jesus' words to Peter:

"You do not have in mind the concerns of God, but merely human concerns. Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow Me."

This chapter is filled with demonstrations of how Jesus literally and spiritually "takes up our cross" and follows God the Father. Write down a few of those moments for personal reflection.

Learn *The Story*

*Look for ways in which God's story and your story
connect this week.*

The season of Lent is about reflection. Not just reflection on how sinful we are or how much Jesus suffered. But reflection on what it means to be a follower of Jesus. Following Jesus means we struggle with death much differently than those who have no resurrection hope.

Re-read the story of Jesus resurrecting Lazarus (p. 358), and then spend time in prayer, thanking God for the resurrection life He has given those in your life who have already "fallen asleep."

Love *The Story*

Intentionally take a step forward in faith.

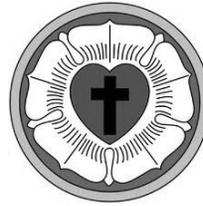
At the Jewish festival we hear the many rumors about Jesus and who people think He is. It might seem odd, that after everything Jesus has said and done people still don't understand who He is. The question, "Who do you believe Jesus is?" is a powerful question.

Select five people you know and ask them this question. Listen to what their answers are, and discuss with them the Jesus you know and the Jesus they know.

Luther's Explanation

Jesus made a lot of I AM statements.

I AM the gate, I AM the bread of life, I AM the way, the truth and the life, I AM the light of the world.



And then, the big one: I AM the resurrection and the life.

With these statements, Jesus was trying to help us understand who he is – both human and divine. If I may say so, it isn't that easy to understand.

When Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead, he was telling and showing us, and all the people gathered around Lazarus' tomb that the promise of resurrection and eternal life is real. He prayed out loud, thanking God for hearing him, and then shouted to Lazarus "Lazarus, come out! – and Lazarus hears his voice.

But what does this mean? When we die, do we even want to be resurrected to life on earth, only to die again? Don't we only hope for the resurrection to eternal life?

The story of Lazarus' resurrection reminds us that with Jesus, resurrection is a daily thing. In a very real way, we die to our sins each day. Our lives are dead and worthless through our constant sin and rebellion. However, in the act of continual forgiveness granted through God's grace in Jesus, we are reborn new, forgiven, resurrected humans. *This is an actual resurrection.*

Our sins kill us, but God's forgiveness makes us alive again. Every day. Amen!

PROMISE

This week, cling to God's promise for you:

"I have heard your praises. I have seen your tears. Yet, My power does not change."

The EXTRA Mile



Watch Holy Moly—Jesus and the Children on www.youtube.com

(<http://youtu.be/J8hZQpb8Ns4>)

Talk about what it means with each other.