

August 11

John 10:22-39

In this passage, Jesus makes an astonishing claim about his relationship with God.

Question to Consider:

What does it mean to *you* to know that Jesus and God “are one?”

Prayer:

Loving God, it is difficult for me to grasp that you became a person and lived among us, and yet I believe that you did. Thank you for loving us so much that you would dwell with us, reveal yourself to us, teach us, and save us from our sin. I pray in the name of Jesus, Amen.

August 12

John 11:1-16

This is part 1 of the story of Jesus raising his friend Lazarus from the dead.

Question to Consider:

Jesus told his disciples that he was glad he was not with Lazarus when Lazarus “fell asleep.” Why do you suppose Jesus felt that way?

Prayer:

Almighty God, sometimes, like the disciples, I misunderstand what you are trying to say to me. I may not understand a passage of Scripture or a message from you when I pray. Help me, Lord, to understand you more, and then to give you glory. In Jesus’ name I pray, Amen.

August 13

John 11:17-44

This is part 2 of the story of Jesus raising his friend Lazarus from the dead.

Question to Consider:

Jesus said to Martha, “I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies; and whoever lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?” Do *you* believe those words of Jesus? How does that belief impact the way you live each day?

Prayer:

Merciful God, I do believe that Jesus is the resurrection and the life. Help me to demonstrate that belief each and every day. I pray in the name of Jesus. Amen.

August 14

John 11:45-53

In these verses, we read that the Pharisees and Sadducees concluded Jesus was a threat and needed to be stopped.

Question to Consider:

Which do you think the religious leaders feared more – the threat Jesus posed to their power, or the way he challenged their beliefs?

Prayer:

Merciful God, sometimes Jesus calls me to do something I don't want to do or change something that I don't want to change. Help me to receive his teaching not as a threat, but as a way to make my life more abundant, as you intend it to be. In the name of Jesus I pray, Amen.

August 15

Mark 10:35-45

In this passage, Jesus takes an outlandish request and uses it as an opportunity to teach about service.

Question to Consider:

Jesus says that, "whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant." Does that challenge what you *believe*? Does it challenge the way you *live* each day?

Prayer:

Father God, help me to grow as a servant, and to serve others with a spirit of love and care – the same spirit Jesus demonstrated day after day, even to the day he died on the cross. I pray in His name, Amen.