

October 11

John 20:24-31

Jesus appeared to the disciples again a few days later, and this time Thomas was with them.

Question to Consider:

Maybe you've heard the expression "doubting Thomas." It comes from this passage. How do you react to Thomas in this story? Do you have faith-related doubts yourself?

Prayer:

Father God, sometimes I do not understand your ways and sometimes I have questions, maybe even doubt. I thank you for giving me the freedom to ask questions and for loving me even when I have some struggles. Even though I won't always understand, I pray that I never doubt you. I pray in Jesus' name, Amen.

October 12

Matthew 28:16-20

This passage is known as "The Great Commission."

Question to Consider:

In this short passage, Jesus gave his followers (including us) our job description. We are to make and grow disciples of Jesus. How can *you* carry out that calling?

Prayer:

Loving God, you have given me a job – reach out to people in the name of Jesus. Through your Holy Spirit, please put the courage and commitment in my heart, and the words in my mouth to carry out that responsibility. In Jesus' name I pray, Amen.

October 13

John 21:1-14

These verses describe yet another appearance of Jesus to his disciples.

Question to Consider:

Initially, the disciples did not realize that the person they were encountering was Jesus. Think of a time when you initially did not recognize someone, but then realized who it was. Who was it? What were the circumstances?

Prayer:

Almighty God, I know that there are many times that you move and act in my life, but I fail to see it. Help me to open my eyes so that I am better able to recognize you. I pray in the name of Jesus, Amen.

October 14

John 21:15-25

This passage tells of Peter's redemption as he and Jesus visited by the Sea of Galilee.

Question to Consider:

Jesus asked Peter three times, "Do you love me?" Why do you suppose he asked him *three* times? (Hint: read Luke 22:54-62). How would you answer the question if Jesus asked you, "*(your name)*, do you love me?"

Prayer:

Merciful God, I pray that I am always able to answer "Yes, Lord, you know that I love you," when I am asked whether or not I love Jesus. I know that he loves me because he went to the cross and gave his life that I might have eternal life. In my Savior's name I pray, Amen.

October 15

Acts 1:1-11

The book of Acts was written by Luke and it continues the story told in the gospels. Acts tells the story of the earliest days of the church. In this passage, the disciples see the risen Christ for the last time.

Question to Consider:

Try to put yourself into that scene, there with the disciples as Jesus spoke to them one more time and then ascended into heaven. What would you think? What would you feel?

Prayer:

Forgiving God, I know that Jesus is with you now and I also know that you are still present with me through your Holy Spirit. I pray that I am always open to your presence and that my spirit will always be open to your Spirit. In Jesus' name I pray, Amen.