

BEFORE WE GO

A podcast sharing years of wisdom, insights and humor from the ministry team of David & Karen Mains.

SCRIPTURE & REFLECTION QUESTIONS –WK8

Read John 16:16–20

1. Jesus spoke these words in the Upper Room before His arrest. How would the events of the next three days show the difference between human expectations and the plans of God?
2. Recall a time God pleasantly surprised you in a most-unexpected manner.
3. In what specific situation would you like Him to once again demonstrate His ability to pleasantly surprise you?
4. In verse 22, Jesus tells His disciples that when He sees them again, they will be “filled with a joy that no one can take away.” Do you believe that this joy is available to you in your present situation?
5. Do you believe that tracking the ways God brings you joy would be a good discipline to begin to master? Be specific.

Read John 20:1–18

1. What three words do you think describe the mood of Jesus' disciples immediately after the Resurrection?
2. Do you think any of the followers of Jesus expected Him to rise from the grave? Explain.
3. In verses 10–14, Mary's grief changed to joy after recognizing the risen Lord. When in your life have you recognized Christ's amazing presence and responded with joy?
4. What does the Resurrection say about God's power, and how does this affect the way you view your present circumstances?
5. What is a step you can take to place your hope in the God of surprising outcomes?

Read John 20:19–31

1. Why do you think Thomas doubted the words of the other disciples?
2. If the disciples had told Thomas that the body of Jesus had been stolen, do you think he would have believed that? Why is it sometimes easier to believe things that have natural explanations rather than supernatural ones?
3. Jesus is risen. Do you live as though you believe that? What is one area of life where you need to be more of an “I believe” person?
4. Jesus said to Thomas, “Because you have seen me, you have believed.” What is one way you can celebrate being one of Christ’s “I believe” persons today?
5. Finish this sentence: When I don’t always know what to do, I will...

Read 1 Corinthians 1:18–31

1. According to this passage, how has God’s plan of salvation through the death and resurrection of Jesus turned the wisdom of the world upside-down?
2. Sometimes we expect God to respond to our needs according to our own agenda. What is an area of your life in which you would do well to set aside your expectations and trust God to work in a surprising way?
3. James 1:5 reads, “If any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God ... and it will be given to him.” In what specific area of your life do you need to ignore the world’s wisdom and find God’s wisdom?
4. Read further in 1 Corinthians 2:9–10. Just as God brought salvation to the world in a surprising way, He also brings surprising outcomes to other situations in our lives. Based on that confidence, what “I believe” statement can you make today? “I believe...”
5. Today’s reading shows that salvation doesn’t come through human works or wisdom. Think about your salvation and what it cost God. Then spend some time in worship before the Lord.

Read 1 Peter 1:3–9

1. Name someone you know who appears to manifest the joy of the Lord as described in this passage.
2. What might this person be able to teach you about the way joy manifests itself in the life of faith?
3. Is it surprising to you in verse six that suffering and greatly rejoicing, in some strange way, go together? Explain your answer.
4. In your personal experience, have you seen this mixture of opposites show itself? When?
5. Take a moment to thank the Lord for times of both tears of joy and tears of sorrow.