

WEEK 46 — JESUS' DEATH, RESURRECTION, AND LAUNCHING OF THE CHURCH

Date: about AD 29 to roughly AD 44

The Story: God does his greatest work just when it appears that Jesus has been entirely thwarted. Jesus dies and is buried—but God raises him back to life! After teachings his disciples for a few weeks, Jesus ascends into heaven. Empowered by the Holy Spirit, his apostles share the message of his death and resurrection. The church is born and grows quickly, even as persecutions arise against it. The more the church is persecuted, the more powerfully God works within it to testify to the truth of the good news of Jesus.

* Kids' readings may not align with the daily full readings. Parents, see the content ratings on the back page.

NOVEMBER 13 JOHN 19 • MATTHEW 27:32-66 • MARK 15:21-47

Today's reading shares the story of Jesus' crucifixion and burial from the perspectives of three of the four Gospels. John emphasizes how events beyond Jesus' control fulfilled ancient prophecies (19:24, 19:36). Only Matthew tells us about the strange resurrection that occurred the day Jesus died (27:52-53). In Mark (15:39), the centurion at Jesus' cross is the first non-demon-possessed person to declare that Jesus is the Son of God. Finally, at the cross, people begin to understand who Jesus is!

Date: about AD 29

In a hurry? 10-minute reading: John 19 • Matthew 27:32-66

Kids' Reading*: Matthew 27:32-56 • John 19:16b-37 • Matthew 27:57-66

NOVEMBER 14 LUKE 23:26-56 • MATTHEW 28:1-15 • MARK 16 • LUKE 24:1-49 • JOHN 20:1-23

Today's reading begins with Luke's account of Jesus' death and burial; notice the three gracious statements of Jesus that only Luke records (23:28-31, 34, 43). Then Jesus rises from the dead! We look at the events of that resurrection day. Mark's ends his book with raw amazement (a major theme in Mark) at the news of his resurrection; Matthew tells us what the guards at Jesus' tomb did after he rose; Luke gives us the story of Jesus' appearance to Cleopas and his companion; John describes Jesus' appearance to Mary Magdalene. (Note: Mark originally ended at 16:8. Read the additional verses if you like; someone added them later.)

Date: about AD 29

In a hurry? 10-minute reading: Matthew 28:1-15 • Mark 16 • Luke 24:1-49 • John 20:1-23

Kids' Reading*: Matthew 28:1-10 • John 20:1-18 • Matthew 28:11-15 • Luke 24:36-49

NOVEMBER 15 JOHN 20:24 to 21:25 • MATTHEW 28:16-20 • LUKE 24:50-53 • ACTS 1

Today's reading completes Jesus' ministry with his appearances to his followers after the day of his resurrection. In John, he appears to Thomas and again sometime later to Peter and six other disciples. Matthew closes his Gospel with Jesus sending his followers out to make disciples throughout the world. In Luke, Jesus is suddenly taken up into heaven!—and this is where Luke begins his second volume, the book of Acts. There Jesus ascends and leaves his apostles waiting for what God will do next.

Date: about AD 29

In a hurry? 10-minute reading: John 20:24 to 21:25 • Matthew 28:1-20 • Luke 24:50-53 • Acts 1

Kids' Reading*: John 20:24 to 21:25

NOVEMBER 16 ACTS 2-4

Today's reading tells of the church's birth some fifty days after Jesus' crucifixion. The Holy Spirit comes upon the apostles and they proclaim the good news of Jesus. Many respond, and the church is born. Persecution soon follows. Will this persecution stifle the growth of the new church?

Date: about AD 29 to sometime between AD 29 and 33

In a hurry? 10-minute reading: Acts 2-3 • Acts 4:32-37

Kids' Reading*: Matthew 28:16-20 • Luke 24:50-53 • Acts 1:1-14

DAILY BIBLE READINGS — Summit View Church of Christ

NOVEMBER 17 ACTS 5-7

Today's reading reveals troubles—growing pains, perhaps?—in the young church. Ananias and Sapphira offend God, persecution mounts again, a dispute in the church threatens church unity—and then a rising leader, Stephen, is killed, making him the first Christian martyr. Notice the point of his long speech before he dies: again and again, God has worked through a leader of his people, but the people rejected that leader—and now they have rejected the work of Jesus, “the Righteous One” (7:52), whom they murdered.

Date: sometime between about AD 29 and 33

In a hurry? 10-minute reading: Acts 5:1-11 • Acts 6-7

Kids' Reading*: Acts 2:1-41

NOVEMBER 18 ACTS 8-9

Today's reading picks up after the killing of Stephen which, though it causes the church in Jerusalem to scatter, cannot stop the church's growth. Wherever believers in Jesus go, they spread the word about him. Philip, for example, shares the gospel with Samaritans and an Ethiopian. Then Saul, a prime persecutor of the church, has a surprise encounter with Jesus himself, and his life is changed completely.

Date: sometime between about AD 29 and 39

In a hurry? 10-minute reading: Acts 8-9

Kids' Reading*: Acts 3:1-10 • Acts 4:32 to 5:11 • Acts 8:4-25

NOVEMBER 19 ACTS 10-11

Today's reading focuses around the beginning of the church's outreach to Gentiles (non-Jews). In Acts 10, God himself arranges an angel's appearance to Cornelius, a Roman centurion, and a vision given to Peter which connect the two men. Cornelius and his household believe Peter's message about Jesus and become the first Gentile Christians. In chapter 11, the church first criticizes, then praises God for, Peter's outreach to Gentiles. Soon the church in Antioch shares the message of Jesus with Greeks there, and Saul is brought in to help that church. Notice that “The disciples were called Christians first at Antioch” (11:26).

Date: probably sometime between about AD 35 and 44

In a hurry? 10-minute reading: Acts 10-11

Kids' Reading*: Acts 8:26-40 • Acts 9:1-19 • Acts 9:32-43

Parents' Guide

PG preview for young children

Mt 27:32-54 (T), 35 (V), 38 (V), 44 (V)

Mt 28:4 (T), 5 (V)

Mk 15:21-39 (T), 24-32 (V)

Mk 16:6 (V)

Lk 23:26-48 (T), 26 (V), 29 (S), 32-33 (V)

Lk 24:7 (V), 20 (V)

Jn 19:1-37 (T), 1-10 (V), 15-23 (V), 31-37 (V), 41 (V)

Jn 20:25-27 (V)

Jn 21:18-19 (T)

Acts 1:16 (V)

Acts 2:13-15 (T), 19-20 (T), 23 (V), 27 (T), 31 (T), 36 (V)

Acts 3:13-15 (T, V)

Acts 4:3 (V), 10 (V)

Acts 5:2-11 (T), 18 (V), 26 (V), 28 (T), 30 (V), 33 (V), 36-37 (V), 40 (V)

Acts 6:12-14 (T, V)

Acts 7:6-7 (T), 8 (C), 9 (T), 24-28 (V), 51 (C), 52 (T, V), 58-60 (V)

Acts 8:3 (T, V)

Acts 8:27 (S), 32 (S, T), 34 (S), 36-38 (S)

Acts 9:1-2 (T, V), 14 (V), 21 (V), 23-24 (V), 29 (V)

Acts 10:13 (T), 39 (V), 45 (C)

Acts 11:2-3 (C), 7 (T), 19 (V)

PG-13 preview for under age 13

Acts 1:18-19 (T)

Acts 7:19 (V)

R shocking, graphic, or disturbing

none

C = Circumcision
N = Nudity
S = Sexuality
T = Dark/Sensitive Themes
V = Violence