

Jesus' Final Teachings in Gospel of John

Monday, 4/27/09 – Read John 13:34-35

My Observations _____

A Question to Answer: In the Gospel of John, chapters 13-17, we have an extended section of Jesus' teachings. The setting is the night before his crucifixion, and yet the tone often sounds like the Risen Lord. So, this week, before we leave the resurrection accounts, we'll read through some of these teachings. ... Jesus gives a new commandment: love one another, love as I have loved. What strikes you about the way Jesus loved? What examples would you cite? How could you love like that?

Tuesday, 4/28/09 – Read John 14:1-3

My Observations: _____

A Question to Answer: Is your heart sometimes troubled? What troubles you? Jot down some of the things that trouble you? ... Sometimes our "trouble" seems much harder because we feel like we're dealing with it all alone. How might Jesus' promise to be present to you and take you to himself -- how might this promise help you deal with your troubled heart?

Wednesday, 4/29/09 – Read John 14:8-14

My Observations: _____

A Question to Answer: What is God like? How could we possibly know what God is like? ... The central Christian

conviction has always been that Jesus shows us what God is like. Is this true for you? Do you know something more about God because of Jesus? What is it about Jesus that, most importantly, shows you what God is like?

Thursday, 4/30/09 – Read John 14:15-21

My Observations: _____

A Question to Answer: One of Jesus' final promises was to be with us -- always -- forever. The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of God, and sometimes the Bible also describes the Holy Spirit as the Spirit of Jesus. ... Do you have a sense of God's Spirit being present to you here and now? If so, what's that like? Jot down one example. ... Do you ever have a sense that the Spirit makes Jesus present here and now? Does that make sense to you? Why or why not?

Friday, 5/1/09 – Read John 15:1-5

My Observations: _____

A Question to Answer: The metaphor Jesus proposes in today's reading is simple. Think of a tree trunk and the branches of a tree. A tree branch can live, flourish, grow leaves, produce fruit only as long as it is connected to the trunk. All its nourishment -- all its life -- comes from the trunk. Jesus is saying that we can have that kind of relationship with him. We can "abide" in him and draw our LIFE from him -- just like a tree branch draws its life from the trunk. ... How would you

“abide” in God, in Jesus? Specifically, how would you do that?
What action or attitude would you need to adopt?

Saturday, 5/2/09 – Read John 15:12-17

My Observations: _____

A Question to Answer: Jesus says that we are his friends if we do what he tells us -- and what he tells us is to love one another. Think for a moment about how all this ties together: being related to Jesus, following Jesus (doing what he says), loving each other. Does that make sense to you? That loving each other is relating to Jesus as friend? ... How do you need to express this love in your life today. Write down just one thing you will do today.

Sunday, 5/3/09 – Read John 17:20-22

My Observations: _____

A Question to Answer: One of Jesus’ deepest desires was that his followers would find unity in their relations with each other -- the same kind of unity that Jesus has with the Father. Do you experience unity with other Jesus followers? Are there some Jesus followers that you feel separated from? What separates you from them? What is one thing you can do about that?

My Faith Journal, April 26, 2009

Easter 3

Bread Breaking

What do I hear God saying to me today?

Luke 24:13-35

What action do I intend to take this week?

Each day this week, take a few minutes. Begin with PRAYER. Then READ through the Bible passage indicated on the inside of this guide. WRITE down your own thoughts, reactions, observations. ANSWER THE QUESTION to begin connecting the Bible with your life. Use additional paper or your own notebook if you need more space to write.