

March 30/31, 2024
"The Resurrection"
Pastor Aaron Buer



SPEND DAILY TIME WITH GOD AS YOU READ, THINK, PRAY + ACT.

2024 Challenge: Finding Jesus in the Old Testament

April: Read Exodus to see how people, situations and events point to Jesus

Day 1 Exodus 12:1-14 | Jesus in Exodus

The blood will be a sign for you on the houses where you are, and when I see the blood, I will pass over you. No destructive plague will touch you when I strike Egypt. Exodus 12:13

We have been reading the Old Testament to see how God's plan always included Jesus saving us from our sins. This month, we study Exodus to see how this critical time in history points to Jesus.

The Israelites' dramatic departure from Egypt and God's defeat of Pharaoh foreshadow Jesus's defeat of Satan and how he will rescue people from slavery to sin. The Israelites grumble, disobey and wander in the wilderness for forty years. For forty days, Jesus is tempted in the wilderness but does not sin. Israel receives the law on Mount Sinai and then breaks it immediately. On another mount, Jesus re-gives the law in his most well-known sermon. In every way the Israelites fail to obey God, Jesus obeys completely.

The tabernacle represents the presence of God dwelling among the people. Jesus comes and "tabernacles," or dwells among people as a human ([John 1:14](#)). The blood on the door posts, which save people from death during Passover, point to Jesus's death (which happens during Passover) and the blood spilled on the cross to save us. When poisonous snakes enter the Israelite camp due to their rebellion, people are saved by looking at a bronze snake lifted on a pole. Jesus says he is lifted up the same way ([John 3:14-15](#)). When people look to him, they are saved from the poison of sin.

Moses represents a [type](#) of Christ. Throughout Exodus, Moses's role and importance grow as he mediates between God and the Israelites. He speaks God's words to the people, delivers the law on Mount Sinai and represents the people before God. Jesus is our ultimate mediator. He gives us the Father's words and now sits at God's right hand, interceding on our behalf ([Romans 8:34](#)).

TODAY: Exodus is rich with types, stories and symbols that point to Jesus. Commit to reading the book prayerfully this month, asking God to open your eyes to all the ways this Scripture points to Jesus.

JESUS IN THE OLD TESTAMENT: Read [Exodus 1](#). Highlight anything that points to Jesus.

Day 2 Luke 24:13-35 | The Road to Emmaus

Now that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem. They were talking with each other about everything that had happened. Luke 24:13-14

Massive crowds gather to welcome Jesus of Nazareth into Jerusalem at the beginning of Passover. Many believe he is the long-awaited Messiah, the one promised in the Jewish Scriptures. The entire city is stirred, and

everyone is talking about Jesus. Yet, in just five short days, everything flips. The crowds turn against Jesus, and he is arrested and killed. It is shocking and confusing for all who had followed and put their hope in him.

It's in this sad and confusing state that two followers of Jesus leave the city and travel about seven miles to Emmaus. They put their hope in Jesus but now walk away disappointed. On the way, Jesus meets them, travels with them and shows them who he really is. Unfortunately, we all find ourselves in a similar place from time to time, where we are confused, disappointed or have lost hope. As we study this encounter, we will see that Jesus is close to those who have lost hope. He wants to be accepted for who he is—the true source of our hope. May our gracious God use this story to remind us of our hope and challenge us to see Jesus for who he really is.

TODAY: As you study this passage, pray and ask God to teach you this week. With a posture of humility, invite him to challenge and surprise you. Ask him to remind you of the hope you have in him and reveal areas where you need to grow in understanding of Jesus.

JESUS IN THE OLD TESTAMENT: Read [Exodus 2-3](#). Highlight anything that points to Jesus. Note Moses's miraculous birth and rescue from the water.

Day 3 Luke 24:17-24 | We Had Hoped

“The chief priests and our rulers handed him over to be sentenced to death, and they crucified him; but we had hoped he was the one who was going to redeem Israel. And what is more, it is the third day since all this took place.” Luke 24:20-21

Jesus walks with these two disciples and learns they are downcast about what happened. They even admit they “had hoped” Jesus would redeem Israel. These words capture their heartbreaking disappointment. [Psalm 34:18](#) says “The Lord is close to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit.” This story seems to illustrate this same character quality in Jesus. He would later challenge and teach these two. But here, he walks with, listens to and cares about these disciples as they travel.

Jesus's interaction with these two reveals something about God's character. As [Psalm 34:18](#) says, God is close to those who have lost hope and are brokenhearted. It was true in ancient Israel when the Psalm was written, and it was true on the road to Emmaus. It's still true today in the situations we face. Some of us may have hoped our marriage would improve, we would be out of debt, that test results would be different, or a job would be a good fit. Whatever we are facing, God is with us, close to us and cares for us.

TODAY: Memorize [Psalm 34:18](#) and bring it to mind during the coming days and weeks. May this Psalm remind you of the character of God. He is with you, he is close to you and cares for you.

JESUS IN THE OLD TESTAMENT: Read [Exodus 4](#). Highlight anything that points to Jesus. Note how Moses represents God to the people, how God hears them and speaks through Moses.

Day 4 Luke 24:25-27 | He Explained to Them

He said to them, “How foolish you are, and how slow to believe all that the prophets have spoken! Did not the Messiah have to suffer these things and then enter his glory?” And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself. Luke 24:25-27

After walking with and listening to the travelers for some time, Jesus starts to challenge them. He calls them foolish and asks how slow they are to believe what the Old Testament said about the Messiah. Then, he goes through the Old Testament. Jesus challenges them with the truth about himself and points out what they had been missing in the scriptures.

There are many common misconceptions about Jesus, which we could fall into as well. One is that Jesus just wants us to be happy and supports us no matter what we believe or do. However, the Bible teaches that Jesus is more than just a good teacher or a supportive friend. He is our Savior, Lord *and* King. So, we should expect him to challenge our beliefs and behaviors when they are out of alignment with his character and teaching.

TODAY: Consider what you might need to do to get acquainted with Jesus. For some of us, this might mean starting a reading plan through one of the accounts of Jesus's life (Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John). For others, it might mean joining a group and studying scripture together. Simply studying the truth is a great way to determine if your view of Jesus is out of alignment.

JESUS IN THE OLD TESTAMENT: Read [Exodus 5-6](#). Highlight anything that points to Jesus. Note God's promised deliverance.

Day 5 Luke 24:28-32 | Our Hearts Burning

When he was at the table with them, he took bread, gave thanks, broke it and began to give it to them. Then their eyes were opened and they recognized him, and he disappeared from their sight. Luke 24:30-31

At the end of the journey, Jesus goes into their home, and they eat together. At the meal, two things happen that point back to the resurrection of Jesus in a powerful way. First, the phrases Luke records about breaking bread and giving thanks are the same as those used in the story of the Last Supper ([Luke 22:19](#)). There, Jesus shares what was about to happen to him. Here, Luke completes the powerful message of the cross with the resurrection's completion and victory.

The passage also says, "Their eyes were opened." This phrase points back to [Genesis 3:6-7](#) when Adam and Eve ate the fruit and "their eyes were opened." Adam and Eve's eyes opened because they sinned. It was a sign that creation had been broken. Here, these same words signal Jesus's restoration of creation.

This week, we saw two hopeless people walking away from Jerusalem. Yet, at the end of their journey, they learned about the true source of their hope—Jesus Christ. Through his death and resurrection, we find forgiveness and restoration. That is the message of Easter—Jesus has risen. He has defeated sin and death, and he invites us into his victory and the restoration of all things.

TODAY: Listen to the Ada Bible Worship Team sing "[Resurrecting](#)." Worship Jesus for who he is and what he accomplished through his death and resurrection. Allow the song to remind you of where our true hope comes from.

JESUS IN THE OLD TESTAMENT: Read [Exodus 7-8](#). Highlight anything that points to Jesus. Note how each plague defeats the enemy and God's protection for his people.