

UNLEASHED!

DAY 1— Know Jesus as Our Living Savior

Acts 1:1-3

Time Alone with God

Prayer

Claim Psalm 119:105 in prayer. Ask God to send the Holy Spirit to make the written Word a light for your faith walk.

Explore the Word

1. Read Acts 1:1–3. What does this passage teach you about Jesus?
2. Explore the four Gospels to see how many times Jesus revealed Himself ALIVE to His followers after His resurrection. (See Matt. 28:9–20; Mark 16:9–20; Luke 24:13–53; John 20:14 to 21:25.)

Insights from Ellen White:

For forty days Christ remained on the earth, preparing the disciples for the work before them and explaining that which heretofore they had been unable to comprehend. He spoke of the prophecies concerning His advent, His rejection by the Jews, and His death, showing that every specification of these prophecies had been fulfilled. He told them that they were to regard this fulfillment of prophecy as an assurance of the power that would attend them in their future labors. “Then opened He their understanding,” we read, “that they might understand the Scriptures, and said unto them, Thus it is written, and thus it behooved Christ to suffer, and to rise from the dead the third day: and that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in His name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem.” And He added, “Ye are witnesses of these things.”

During these days that Christ spent with His disciples, they gained a new experience. As they heard their beloved Master explaining the Scriptures in the light of all that had happened, their faith in Him was fully established. They reached the place where they could say, “I know whom I have believed.” 2 Timothy 1:12. They began to realize the nature and extent of their work, to see that they were to proclaim to the world the truths entrusted to them. The events of Christ's life, His death and resurrection, the prophecies pointing to these events, the mysteries of the plan of salvation, the power of Jesus for the remission of sins—to all these things they had been witnesses, and they were to make them known to the world. They were to proclaim the gospel of peace and salvation through repentance and the power of the Saviour. (*The Acts of the Apostles*, pp. 26, 27)

Prayer Focus

Take a few moments to think over your life. Tell God some ways Jesus has shown you that He is alive! Thank God that Jesus Christ has revealed Himself through answers to prayer as the living Savior.

Family/Friend Circle

Connect Activity

Invite each friend or family member to briefly describe something without naming what it is. Give one reason why you know it is alive. Everyone should try guessing what you are describing. (For example: It has wings and is attracted to beauty in the fields. I know that it is alive because it flutters without a breeze!)

Prayer for the Holy Spirit

Pray together for the Holy Spirit. Claim the promise of Luke 11:13.

Explore the Word

1. Read Luke 1:1–4 and Acts 1:1–3. Why did Luke write the Gospel of Luke and the book of Acts?
2. How does Luke's account in Luke 24:36–43 illustrate Acts 1:3?

Insights from Ellen White:

Before ascending to heaven, Christ gave His disciples their commission. He told them that they were to be the executors of the will in which He bequeathed to the world the treasures of eternal life. You have been witnesses of My life of sacrifice in behalf of the world, He said to them. You have seen My labors for Israel. And although My people would not come to Me that they might have life, although priests and rulers have done unto Me as they listed, although they have rejected Me, they shall have still another opportunity of accepting the Son of God. You have seen that all who come to Me confessing their sins, I freely receive. Him that cometh to Me I will in no wise cast out. To you, My disciples, I commit this message of mercy. It is to be given to both Jews and Gentiles—to Israel, first, and then to all nations, tongues, and peoples. All who believe are to be gathered into one church. (*The Acts of the Apostles*, pp. 27, 28)

Prayer Focus

Pray together that each person in your family and friendship circle will know Jesus as the living Savior. After praying this for each other, pray by name for family and friends who do not know Jesus in a personal, living way.

Church Family**Procedure for First Evening Meeting**

On the first night of 10 Days of Prayer, form participants into multi-generational groups of six or fewer people. Each group will be led by one adult and one young person, as described in the leader's guide. Participants can remain in the same groups for all 10 days. (If new people attend on later nights, help them get connected to an existing group, or start a new group if necessary.)

Each night, participants can sit with their groups while a prayer leader guides everyone through prayer and activities from up front. Small-group leaders will facilitate discussion in their own groups when prompted. Sometimes all participants will interact together, sometimes they will pray and discuss with members of their small group, and sometimes they will be prompted to pray silently. A flexible, tactful prayer leader can move smoothly between activities and adapt material for local needs.

Welcome**Worship in Prayer**

LEADER TO EVERYONE: Sit with your small groups. Our prayer team will invite your small group to pray through the Word of God together. After praying for a few minutes, you will hear the prayer team begin to sing one stanza of a song. When you do, please transition from prayer to song.

Praise:

1. (SMALL GROUPS) With your Bibles open to Isaiah 53, look for specific qualities of Jesus. Give God praise for each quality of Jesus.

2. (EVERYONE) Sing a song of praise.

Confess:

1. (SMALL GROUPS) Read Isaiah 53:5. Take time for private confession of sins.
2. (EVERYONE) Sing a song of God's grace.

Ask:

1. (SMALL GROUPS) Read John 16:13. Pray for the Holy Spirit to come and teach us the truth.
2. (EVERYONE) Sing a song of the Holy Spirit.

Connect Activity

LEADER TO EVERYONE: Team up in twos or threes. Ask each other, "What three things would you like people to know about you?" Share with each other for several minutes. We all have many interesting facts we could learn about one another. After Jesus died on the cross and was resurrected from the grave, He had something special He wanted everyone to know about Himself.

Worship in Word

(SMALL GROUPS)

1. Read Acts 1:1–3. Please notice in verse 3 something that Jesus wanted everyone to know. Jesus "presented Himself ALIVE after His suffering, by many convincing proofs."
2. Read Luke 24:13–32. Especially notice verse 27. What did Jesus do to reveal Himself to the two disciples?
3. Notice verse 32. What was the personal testimony of the two disciples after they realized they had been with the living Savior?

Insights from Ellen White:

Thus Christ discoursed to His disciples, opening their minds that they might understand the Scriptures. The disciples were weary, but the conversation did not flag. Words of life and assurance fell from the Saviour's lips. But still their eyes were holden. As He told them of the overthrow of Jerusalem, they looked upon the doomed city with weeping. But little did they yet suspect who their traveling companion was. They did not think that the subject of their conversation was walking by their side; for Christ referred to Himself as though He were another person. They thought that He was one of those who had been in attendance at the great feast, and who was now returning to his home. He walked as carefully as they over the rough stones, now and then halting with them for a little rest. Thus they proceeded along the mountainous road, while the One who was soon to take His position at God's right hand, and who could say, "All power is given unto Me in heaven and in earth," walked beside them. Matthew 28:18. (*The Desire of Ages*, p. 800)

Prayer Focus

LEADER TO EVERYONE: Sometimes as Christians, we act as if Jesus Christ were still in the grave! Jesus spent 40 days after His resurrection personally reassuring His faithful followers that He was the LIVING Savior.

Let's pray in our groups that we will not be blind to our living Savior. Let's pray that God would open our eyes to know Jesus is alive and present in our lives by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Appeal

LEADER TO EVERYONE: Who here tonight is convicted of their need to recommit their hearts to the living Savior and to know Him more each day? I invite all who want to recommit their hearts to Jesus as the living Savior to kneel right where you are.

24-Hour Challenge

LEADER TO EVERYONE: Sometime in the next 24 hours, turn off all electronics for 10 minutes. Read Psalm 46 privately—just you and God. Praise Jesus Christ for being the living God! Ask the Holy Spirit to put one person on your heart, and share with that person one reason that you know Jesus is alive. Read Acts 1:6-8 in preparation for tomorrow.