

All My Days
STUDY QUESTIONS
Easter/April 2023 (9 April - 6 May)



All My Days

On Easter Sunday we move from **The Third Day** to consider All My Days! What does it mean for Jesus to break into all your days? We will be thinking about our whole lives and how we might live in response to the heartbreaking, world-saving, incredible gesture of love that Jesus demonstrated on that third day.

Our theme for April is the conclusion of our three month sequence that began in February with **Prayers for Living**. We started thinking about personal prayers of preparation and then over Lent explored the bigger picture of how our individual lives connect in a cosmic journey (with the ever resounding events of the gospels through The Third Day). Finally, this month, we turn to the big picture of Easter, thinking about the implications of this journey for the rest of our lives as we live in an ongoing creative tension with the past, drawing inspiration from those early days as our own unfold. Join us as we explore olden days, golden days, unfolding days and emboldened days!

SEEDS TO SOW: Open-ended prompts to inspire creative responses to the themes. Perhaps a song, some drawing, or creative writing! They are short and sweet, simply a starting off place for you and your imagination, be encouraged to tailor and develop as suits you. Often they take the form of a question, to encourage reflection.

*These discussion questions adapt our monthly themes for small Connect Groups or personal Bible study (look up **All My Days Resource Pack** for more information on this month's theme). The questions are divided into 4 parts to correspond with the 4 weeks of the Daily Worship theme. They are offered as a guideline and there is no need to go through all the given questions in a single session, or in the following sequence. Feel free to pick and choose, or adapt to what interests you or your group.*

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Part 1: Olden Days

SEEDS TO SOW: WHAT ARE SOME OF YOUR FAVOURITE 'OLD DAYS' OF OUR FAITH AND HOW DO THEY INSPIRE YOU TODAY?

Read Matthew 28: 1-10

Coming with fresh eyes to the empty tomb — what do you notice? What stands out to you in this reading? Are there any details that you find interesting, intriguing or confusing?

This moment from the 'old days' of our faith is ever-new to us followers of Jesus! Do you see anything new in this text today, a new insight or a new sense of what it means for you today?

Read 2 Corinthians 5: 16-21 & Colossians 3: 1-17

We are new creations called to new lives!

What does it mean in daily life for the peace of Christ to rule in your heart? (See Colossians 3: 15)

How can this reading help us to shape our priorities?

Read Jeremiah 6: 16

This week, as we think about how the old days of our faith inspire our new days of faith, let's think about the various 'new shoes' that can help us find these old paths! Let's walk the walk!

So, what are some examples of 'new shoes' that can help us find the ancient paths? In other words, what are some new things we could try to help us connect with God and where God would have us go? If you're in a group you could share examples from your own life in case they inspire others. It could be trying new habits like praying at the same time every morning, or it could be examples of particular writing, music or art that has recently helped you connect with God.

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Part 2: Golden Days

SEEDS TO SOW: WHY DID THE RESURRECTED JESUS HAVE A SNACK IN FRONT OF THE DISCIPLES? (LUKE 24: 41-43)

Read John 20: 19-31

Thomas testing if this Gold was it the real 24 carat deal! Right at the beginning of the story of the church doubt is part of the story of faith.

What strikes you reading this passage? Is there a verse or a phrase or a single word that leaps out at you? If so, why?

Read Matthew 6: 19-24

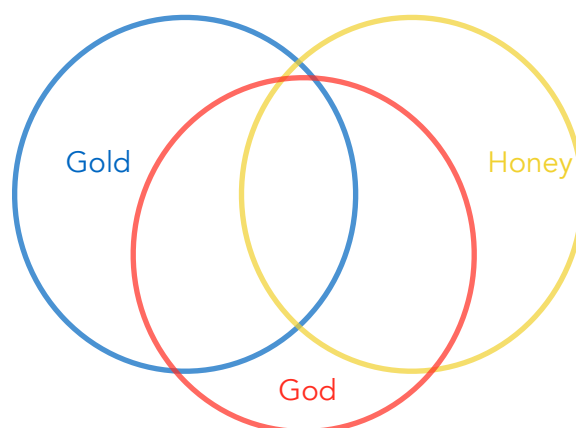
What do you make of that phrase in verse 21: 'For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also'?

What are the things you treasure in your life?

Read Psalm 19

Better than gold, sweeter than honey. Let's unpack this metaphor, what does God's way have in common with gold and honey and in what way does it surpass both?

Try drawing a Venn diagram like so, with overlapping circles for Gold, God and Honey and write in the qualities of the words that overlap:



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Part 3: Unfolding Days

SEEDS TO SOW: **IMAGINE BEING CLEOPAS (See Luke 24: 13-35)**

Read Acts 2:14a, 36-41

“For the promise is for you, for your children, and for all who are far away, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to him.” Our lives are lived in this unfolding promise.

How does it feel to be part of an unbroken chain from then to now? Time is a funny thing to get our heads around. These events happened a long time ago but if a generation is every 25 years than in 2,000 years that's only 80 generations!

Have you ever reflected on the genealogy of your faith? Of how it got from Peter to you reading this now? It seems like an impossibly long gap between now and then but if you were trace one person through each generation who was part of the chain of faith it would be around 80 folk.

Read Psalm 116: 1-4, 12-19

“What shall I return to the Lord for all his bounty to me?” (Verse 12.)

What are some of the key characteristics of the gratitude shown in verses 12-19?

Read Luke 24: 13-35

This is a story of insight taking time to unfold: from dejection to understanding, from understanding to insight, from insight to action.

Why do you think Cleopas and his friend were kept from recognising Jesus earlier? Was it really necessary?

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Part 4: Emboldened Days

SEEDS TO SOW: WHAT DOES AN ABUNDANT LIFE LOOK LIKE?

Read Acts 2: 42-47

A moment from the very early days of the Church. We see a bold countercultural way of living, holding all things together.

What can we learn from these first followers of Jesus?

Read Acts 4: 23-31

What do you make of that final verse where it says “the place in which they were gathered together was shaken”?

Read John 10: 10

As we come to the end of our month thinking about how the Third Day weaves into All My Days we draw a close thinking that it's only early days yet! Our Lord calls us to life and to live it abundantly!

What does abundant life look like for you and your community in 2023?