

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.