

# **Bible Study: Easter 8**

## **Preparation**

We will be reading the following lectionary readings set for Sunday (24<sup>th</sup> May).

- **Acts 1:6-14**
- **1 Peter 4:12-14; 5:6-11**
- **John 17:1-11**

There is a YouTube introduction - [Introduction to Bible Study 20th May](#)

We are entering Ascensiontide on Thursday – the period between the celebration of Jesus’ ascension and the day of Pentecost. The Sunday in between, this year is May 24<sup>th</sup>, which is also a special day for Methodists as it was the day that John Wesley felt his heart “strangely warmed”. We refer to 24<sup>th</sup> May as Aldersgate Sunday, because it was in the chapel in Aldersgate Street in London that Wesley’s experience occurred. When you read the Bible readings, maybe you could reflect on Wesley’s words from his diary on 24<sup>th</sup> May 1738.

“In the evening I went very unwillingly to a society in Aldersgate Street”

Despite his unwillingness, God touched his heart in a deep and significant way that evening.

Sometimes our presence (at a Bible study for example) is sufficient to lead us into God’s presence, even if we don’t feel like we are giving it 100%. So, you are here, in this space reading these words. It is sufficient! Allow the readings to do the work. Allow the Bible to speak within you. Allow God to touch your heart.

As previously, when exploring these readings you may wish to follow the pattern below:

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**Pray** first: (just a simple prayer or the *Our Father* if you find that easiest)

**Read** a reading (one at a time. Don't feel you have to read them all!)

**PAUSE** and reflect on the readings

- Did anything touch you in the reading?
- Did you gain any insights? Were there any challenges?
- What did you understand best?

If anything particular has struck you, you may want to return to it and reflect more on that part of the reading. You might also want to write something down.

After your reflection, you can move on to another reading but you don’t have to do them all! When you have finished, pray the final prayer:

**Final Prayer:**

Risen Christ we look to you, as Pentecost approaches. Prepare us for the Holy Spirit’s transformation. Bless us with the comfort of your love and place fire within our hearts. **Amen.**