

Lesson 5 in Unite, Renew, Revive Series
Theme of Lesson: Revive

“The stone the builders rejected has become the capstone; the LORD has done this, and it is marvelous in our eyes. This is the day the LORD has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it. O LORD, save us; O LORD, grant us success. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the LORD. From the house of the LORD we bless you. The LORD is God, and he has made his light shine upon us. With boughs in hand, join in festal procession up to the horns of the altar. You are my God, and I will give you thanks; you are my God, and I will exalt you. Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; his love endures forever.”
Psalm 118: 22-29 (NIV)

Jesus quoted this psalm, using it to proclaim himself as the true foundation. Peter also references this passage and Isaiah 28:16 to show that the Messianic prophecy is fulfilled in Christ.

Question: How is this “marvelous in our eyes”?

Question: How can we share this good news?

We rejoice in every day the Lord has made but many Biblical scholars think this is not a reference to a 24 hour day, but refers to the day we were delivered from sin and death by Christ’s death and resurrection.

Question: What do you think of the different interpretations?

Question: Why do we open our worship services with this verse?

The psalmist asks God to “save us”. This psalm was used for processions and is quoted on Palm Sunday when Jesus was greeted with “Hosanna” (literally “save us”) and “blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord”. Even though Christ has already died for us, our need for salvation never diminishes. A host of adversities threaten to undo us. We beg for God to give us “success”.

Question: What type of success is meant here?

Question: What does it mean to come “in the name of the Lord”?

The words used to say “the Lord is God” also mean “God is mighty”. We offer him all that we have and all that we are. It is not human nature to freely give of ourselves; we rely on the Holy Spirit to give us both the desire and the spiritual energy to follow through.

Question: Since God is mighty, what does that say about our need for him?

Question: How does the Spirit revive us?

God is good. God pursues us persistently and loves us unconditionally. We are his children and he is our Abba/Father.

Question: How do we reflect God’s goodness in our ministry and mission?

Question: How can we take the news of God’s love into the world?