
DAILY DEVOTIONAL

Happy Easter / Week 2

WEEK 2

EASTER MEANS NEW LIFE IS POSSIBLE.

Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene went to **the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the entrance.**

JOHN 20:1 NIV

DAY 1

Have you ever felt stuck or discouraged in life? Something doesn't go according to plan, your faith feels forced, that struggle won't go away, you're lacking motivation or direction for the future—you get the picture! We've all been there, right?

Well, here's the good news: The resurrection of Jesus means a new way is available to everyone. The stone that kept that tomb sealed shut was rolled away. Think of that picture in your mind when you feel stuck. Just as the stone was rolled away from the tomb that first Easter, Jesus rolls away the stones that are holding us back from what He wants to do in our lives. Is there an area of your life where you feel stuck or discouraged? **Today, pray and ask God to help you move what's holding you back and give you fresh hope to go forward this week.**

They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, but when they entered, **they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus.**

LUKE 24:2-3 NIV

DAY 2

When Mary Magdalene walked into the tomb and didn't see the body of Jesus, she was most definitely confused! Can you imagine what she must have been thinking? Did a grave robber take the body? Did they need to move Jesus to another tomb? Where did He go?! But moments later, an angel would confirm exactly what happened: Jesus was gone because He rose from the grave.

No one expected a resurrection, but it changed everything. Because of the resurrection, we can be confident in Jesus. We can walk confidently that He is who He says He is and what we believe in—our faith—is real and true. Is there an area of your faith where you struggle to believe? A place where you have doubts? **This week, talk to a trusted friend or Small Group Leader about how knowing that Jesus is who He says He is can help you in that doubt.**

“He is not here; he has risen, just as he said. **Come and see the place where he lay.**”

MATTHEW 28:6 NIV

DAY 3

Have you ever tried to explain a crazy story to someone who wasn't there? No matter how many details you share, often times you're left thinking, *you just had to be there*. That's because sometimes, an experience is better than an explanation.

When Mary and Mary Magdalene got to the tomb after Jesus' death, an angel met them there and told them the incredible news: Jesus had risen. But in that moment, the explanation wasn't enough. So, the angel invited them to come and see—to experience the truth of what Jesus had just done for them. And once they experienced it, they knew it was true. Who is someone in your life who might need an invitation to come and see? To experience what Jesus is really all about? **This week, take the step to invite them to church with you.**

For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that **Christ died for our sins** according to the Scriptures, that he was buried, that **he was raised on the third day** according to the Scriptures.

1 CORINTHIANS 15:3-4 NIV

DAY 4

The message of the Gospel is this: Christ died for our sins and rose from the grave. Though we may have heard this simple sentence before, the implications of it are massive. Sin eternally separated us from God, but because of the death and resurrection of Jesus, it no longer has the power to do that!

That's amazing news! Knowing that's true makes the simple sentence of the Gospel message—the truth that Jesus died for our sins and rose again—a lot bigger and more important! Is there a sin in your life that you feel is holding you back? A struggle you can't break free from? **This week, take some time to pray over that thing and turn it over to God. Ask Him to remind you of the truth and power of the Gospel message for your life. Let what Jesus did for you set you free.**

If you **declare with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord,”** and **believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead,** you will be saved.

ROMANS 10:9

DAY 5

We spend so much time and energy trying to earn things in life—a good grade, a spot on the team, a paycheck, or even a college acceptance letter. None of those things are bad goals to have or things to strive for, but if we aren't careful, the mentality that we must work hard to earn everything we want in life begins to seep into our faith.

Being a Christian can quickly become about trying to earn God's love, but the beauty of the Gospel is that you don't have to be good enough for God to love you and save you. There's nothing you can do to earn His love. All you have to do is believe and receive it. **So, this week do just that! Thank God for the free gift of His love and let Him know you not only believe it, but receive it in your life.**