



# THE WAY OF THE CROSS

WEEK 5— DAY 1

John 12:12–15

## Devotional

The crowd is pumped.

They're waving palm branches like ancient foam fingers. They shout, "Hosanna!" which means "Save us now!"

They want a political Savior.

A military champion.

A national hero.

Instead, Jesus shows up on... a donkey.

Imagine expecting a presidential motorcade and getting a guy riding a Walmart scooter.

Jesus is making a statement:

"My kingdom is not what you think. And My salvation is not what you asked for—it's better."

They wanted rescue from Rome.

Jesus came to rescue them from sin.

Sometimes our disappointment with Jesus is actually because He's saving us in a deeper way than we expected.

## Theological Insight

Jesus fulfills Zechariah 9:9. His humility demonstrates a kingdom not of violence, but peace.

## Reflection Questions

1. Where have you expected Jesus to "ride in" a certain way?
2. How is He saving you in a deeper way?
3. What expectations do you need to release?

## Application Step

Surrender one expectation of how you want God to work.

## Prayer

Lord, save me Your way—not mine. Amen.



# THE WAY OF THE CROSS

WEEK 5— DAY 2

John 12:16–19

## Devotional

Even the disciples didn't understand Palm Sunday.

They celebrated, but they didn't "get it" until after Jesus was glorified.

Sometimes understanding only comes in hindsight.

Right now, you may be in a situation that doesn't make sense... a season that feels messy... a prayer that feels unanswered... a path that feels unclear.

But later?

You'll see God's fingerprints all over it.

## Theological Insight

Revelation is progressive. The Spirit helps believers interpret Jesus' life, death, and resurrection after the fact.

## Reflection Questions

1. What situation do you not understand right now?
2. What has God made clear only in hindsight before?
3. How can you trust Him while you're "in the middle"?

## Application Step

Write a note to your future self describing what you believe God is doing—before you see it.

## Prayer

Jesus, help me trust You even when I don't understand You. Amen.



# THE WAY OF THE CROSS

WEEK 5— DAY 3

Luke 24:1–6

## Devotional

The women go to the tomb expecting to find a body. They bring spices—because when things die, you cover the smell.

But Jesus didn't stay dead long enough to need air freshener.

Two angels appear and say,

**“Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here; He has risen!”**

This is not just good news.

This is *the* news.

This is the mic drop of Christianity.

The resurrection means:

- Your sin doesn't win.
- Death doesn't win.
- Darkness doesn't win.
- Your past doesn't win.
- Fear doesn't win.

Jesus wins.

And because He wins, you can live.

## Theological Insight

The resurrection is God's vindication of Jesus and the inauguration of new creation. It is the foundation of Christian hope.

## Reflection Questions

1. Where do you still act like something Jesus conquered is still in charge?
2. What does the empty tomb mean for the part of your life that feels dead?
3. How does resurrection hope change your daily decisions?

## Application Step

Declare one area of your life where Jesus is making things new.

## Prayer

Jesus, thank You for defeating death. Let resurrection hope fill my heart today. Amen.



# THE WAY OF THE CROSS

WEEK 5— DAY 4

John 20:24–29

## Devotional

Thomas gets a bad rap.

People call him “Doubting Thomas” like he’s the patron saint of skeptics.

But here’s what’s wild:

Thomas wasn’t the only doubter.

He was just the only one honest enough to say it out loud.

Jesus doesn’t shame him.

Jesus doesn’t roll His eyes.

Jesus meets Thomas in his doubt and invites him to touch the wounds.

Christianity is not afraid of your questions.

Jesus is not threatened by your uncertainty.

He invites you closer.

## Theological Insight

The resurrection is God’s vindication of Jesus and the inauguration of new creation. It is the foundation of Christian hope.

## Reflection Questions

1. Where do you still act like something Jesus conquered is still in charge?
2. What does the empty tomb mean for the part of your life that feels dead?
3. How does resurrection hope change your daily decisions?

## Application Step

Declare one area of your life where Jesus is making things new.

## Prayer

Jesus, thank You for defeating death. Let resurrection hope fill my heart today. Amen.



# THE WAY OF THE CROSS

WEEK 5— DAY 5

Acts 1:8–11

## Devotional

The resurrected Jesus gives His disciples their mission: “You will be My witnesses...”

Not:

“You might be.”

“You should be.”

“You’ll be if you pass a background check.”

No—

“You will be.”

Why?

Because resurrection produces mission.

You can’t encounter a risen Savior and stay silent.

Jesus ascends, the disciples are staring into the sky like they just watched a Marvel movie, and the angels basically say, “Stop looking up. Start living it out.”

The same is true for us.

Easter is not the end of the story.

It’s the beginning of your mission.

## Theological Insight

Acts 1:8 outlines the geographical expansion of the gospel and anticipates the Spirit’s empowerment at Pentecost.

## Reflection Questions

1. Where is God calling you to be a witness?
2. What story of God’s work in your life do you need to tell someone?
3. How will you live differently because Jesus is alive?

## Application Step

Identify one person you will pray for and intentionally reach out to this week.

## Prayer

Jesus, send me into the world with resurrection boldness. Use me for Your mission. Amen.