

## 5 Day Devotional for the week of April 5, 2026

This five day devotional will be taking a deeper dive into the sermon from this weekend. Together, we will explore the transformative power of the empty tomb and what it truly means to walk in the light of the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Each day, we'll unravel the profound teachings and gain personal insight to enrich our spiritual journey.

### Day 1

*John 20:1-8 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. <sup>2</sup> So she came running to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one Jesus loved, and said, "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we don't know where they have put Him!"*

*<sup>3</sup> So Peter and the other disciple started for the tomb. <sup>4</sup> Both were running, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. <sup>5</sup> He bent over and looked in at the strips of linen lying there but did not go in. <sup>6</sup> Then Simon Peter came along behind him and went straight into the tomb. He saw the strips of linen lying there, <sup>7</sup> as well as the cloth that had been wrapped around Jesus' head. The cloth was still lying in its place, separate from the linen. <sup>8</sup> Finally the other disciple, who had reached the tomb first, also went inside. He saw and believed.*

The first day of our devotional is centered on understanding the significance of the folded handkerchief found in the empty tomb. This simple detail serves as a profound testimony of Jesus' resurrection and symbolizes order, peace, and sovereign control over death. The folded handkerchief is a testament to Christ's deliberate actions and his victory over the grave, affirming our faith and solidifying the truth of his resurrection.

As we reflect on this scripture, we are reminded that Jesus' resurrection is not only a historical event but also an invitation to live in the reality of his power and victory today. His resurrection is the cornerstone of our faith, demonstrating that he is indeed the Son of God and providing us with the assurance that we too are called to a new and eternal life with him.

#### Reflection Questions:

- What does the folded handkerchief in the empty tomb signify to you personally?
- How does understanding the resurrection impact your daily life and faith?

- In what ways can you demonstrate the peace and order Christ offers in your current circumstances?

Prayer Prompts:

- Thank Jesus for his victory over death and what it means for your life.
- Ask for the ability to live in the peace and assurance of his resurrection daily.

## **Day 2**

*John 3:16 For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life.*

Today's focus is on God's immense love for the world, beautifully encapsulated in the well-known verse, John 3:16. This passage reminds us of the ultimate sacrifice God made by sending his only son, not to condemn the world, but to offer eternal life to all who believe. It's a love story that is unparalleled, a God who desires a relationship with each one of us.

Examining this verse, we see a clear invitation to accept this unconditional love, which transcends our past and failures. The resurrection of Jesus not only affirms his divinity but also offers a pathway to redemption and acceptance by the Father. It's a powerful reminder that no matter what has happened, we are desired and loved by God who gave everything to bring us back to him.

Reflection Questions:

- How does God's love as depicted in John 3:16 change your view of yourself and others?
- In what ways have you experienced God's redeeming love in your life?
- How can you share this message of love and hope with those around you?

Prayer Prompts:

- Pray for a deeper understanding of God's love in your heart and life.
- Seek opportunities to demonstrate this love to others in tangible ways.

## **Day 3**

*1 Corinthians 15:14 And if Christ has not been raised, our preaching is useless and so is your faith.*

On this third day, we delve into the importance of the resurrection as the foundation of our

preaching and faith. As Paul declares in 1 Corinthians 15:14, if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching and faith are in vain. This truth underscores the significance of the resurrection as the pivotal point of Christianity.

The resurrection validates our faith, confirms Jesus' teachings, and endows us with hope and purpose. It assures us that Jesus is alive and active in our lives today, empowering us to be his ambassadors. By internalizing this truth, our faith continues to grow and bear fruit, reflected in how we live and communicate the Gospel to others.

Reflection Questions:

- Why is the resurrection so critical to your understanding of your faith?
- How does acknowledging the risen Christ influence your missions or evangelistic efforts?
- What fruits of the Spirit can you identify in your life as evidence of living in resurrection power?

Prayer Prompts:

- Pray for strength and courage to faithfully share the message of the resurrection.
- Thank God for the hope and assurance that comes through Jesus' victory over the grave.

#### **Day 4**

*Romans 6:4 We were therefore buried with Him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life.*

On the fourth day, let's explore the transformative power of the resurrection as presented in Romans 6:4. This scripture highlights that just as Christ was raised from the dead, we too walk in newness of life. This is not just a future hope but a present reality that empowers us today.

The resurrection offers us a fresh start and a new identity in Christ. It enables us to step out of the bondage of sin and into a life of righteousness and freedom. This new life is marked by the indwelling of the Holy Spirit, who helps us to bear witness to God's love and truth daily.

Reflection Questions:

- What does walking in the newness of life look like for you?
- How has the awareness of a new identity in Christ changed your perspective or actions?
- Can you identify areas in your life where you need to embrace this newness more fully?

#### Prayer Prompts:

- Ask God for renewal and strength to walk in the newness of life he offers.
- Pray for the presence of the Holy Spirit to guide you into deeper understanding and application of this truth.

#### Day 5

*Philippians 3:10-11 I want to know Christ—yes, to know the power of His resurrection and participation in his sufferings, becoming like Him in His death, <sup>11</sup> and so, somehow, attaining to the resurrection from the dead.*

Concluding our devotional journey, today we reflect on the profound desire to know Christ and the power of his resurrection, as Paul writes in Philippians 3:10-11. This scripture invites us to a deeper level of intimacy with Christ through experiencing both his resurrection power and the fellowship of his sufferings.

Our spiritual journey is enriched when we pursue knowing Christ more intimately, embracing both the joy and the trials that come with it. The power of the resurrection sustains us through life's challenges, reminding us that we are never alone and that victory is assured in Christ.

#### Reflection Questions:

- What are some ways you can deepen your relationship with Christ and understand the power of his resurrection?
- How can you find strength and comfort in Christ during times of suffering or hardship?
- In what ways has the journey of this devotional strengthened your faith?

#### Prayer Prompts:

- Pray for a deeper longing to know Christ and experience his resurrection power.
- Ask for wisdom and strength to live out your faith boldly, even through trials.