



DAILY DEVOTIONAL

## **Series Title: Resurrection Is a Beginning**

**Big Idea:** Easter isn't the end of Jesus' story—it's the beginning of a new way of living, loving, and transforming the world.

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### **Week 1 — Easter Sunday: Love Refuses to Stay Dead**

**Text:** John 20:1–18

**Focus:** Resurrection begins in grief, confusion, and love—not certainty

*Resurrection does not erase grief—it meets us inside it. Love does not wait for clarity. It rises anyway.*

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### **Day 1 – Sunday, April 5 – Easter Sunday – Love Shows Up First**

**Scripture:** John 20:1

#### **Reflection:**

Mary Magdalene comes to the tomb *while it is still dark*. That detail matters. Resurrection does not begin in light, clarity, or celebration. It begins in grief. In disorientation. In love that refuses to stay away—even when hope seems gone.

Mary is not expecting resurrection. She is coming to mourn. To tend. To be present to what has been lost. And that is where Easter begins—not in certainty, but in devotion.

Too often, we imagine resurrection as triumph that overrides sorrow. But John's Gospel tells a different story. Love does not bypass grief. It walks straight into it. Mary's presence at the tomb is itself an act of faith—not belief in resurrection, but faithfulness in love.

And that is where God meets her. Not after she figures it out. Not after she feels hopeful again. But right there, in the dark.

Easter does not begin with answers. It begins with love that keeps showing up.

#### **Prayer:**

God of resurrection, meet me in the places that still feel dark. Help me trust that love matters, even when I cannot yet see what You are doing. Amen.

#### **Spiritual Practice:**

Show up somewhere today—not because you feel hopeful, but because you choose love anyway.

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## **Day 2 – Monday, April 6 – When the Stone Is Already Moved**

**Scripture:** John 20:1–2

### **Reflection:**

Mary arrives and immediately notices something is wrong—the stone has been rolled away. Her first assumption is not resurrection, but loss: *“They have taken the Lord...”*

This is deeply human. When something unexpected happens, we interpret it through the lens of fear or past experience. Even when God is at work, we may not recognize it right away.

Resurrection does not always look like good news at first. It can look like disruption. Confusion. Even distress. The world has shifted, but we do not yet know how to interpret what we are seeing.

Mary runs—not toward understanding, but toward community. She tells Peter and the beloved disciple. Resurrection begins to unfold in shared searching, not solitary certainty.

Faith after Easter is not about instantly recognizing what God is doing. It is about staying engaged, asking questions, and refusing to walk away.

### **Prayer:**

God of mystery, help me stay present when I don’t understand what You are doing. Give me courage to keep seeking, even in confusion. Amen.

### **Spiritual Practice:**

Notice something in your life that feels uncertain or unresolved. Instead of fixing it, name it and stay curious.

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## **Day 3 – Tuesday, April 7 – Weeping at the Tomb**

**Scripture:** John 20:11

### **Reflection:**

Mary stands outside the tomb, weeping. She does not leave when the answers don’t come quickly. She stays.

This is a sacred posture. In a world that rushes grief, Mary lingers. She allows herself to feel the full weight of loss. She does not yet know that resurrection is unfolding—but she does not abandon love.

The angels ask her, *“Why are you weeping?”* It’s not a dismissal. It’s an invitation. A recognition that her grief matters enough to be spoken aloud.

Too often, we treat grief as something to overcome quickly—especially in religious spaces. But resurrection does not invalidate sorrow. It dignifies it.

Mary's tears are not a lack of faith. They are evidence of love.

**Prayer:**

God who honors grief, receive my sorrow without rushing me past it. Help me trust that You are present even in my weeping. Amen.

**Spiritual Practice:**

Give yourself permission to name one grief honestly today—without trying to resolve it.

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**Day 4 – Wednesday, April 8 – Not Recognizing Jesus**

**Scripture:** John 20:14–15

**Reflection:**

Mary turns and sees Jesus—but she does not recognize him. She mistakes him for the gardener.

This moment is profoundly important. Resurrection is present, but unrecognized. God is near, but not yet understood.

We often assume that if God were truly present, we would know immediately. But Scripture tells a different story. Resurrection often comes disguised—in ordinary encounters, unexpected people, quiet moments.

Mary is not wrong for failing to recognize Jesus. She is human. Recognition takes time. It takes relationship.

The question is not whether God is present. The question is whether we are open to seeing God in ways we did not expect.

**Prayer:**

Risen Christ, open my eyes to recognize You in unexpected places. Help me remain open, even when I don't understand what I'm seeing. Amen.

**Spiritual Practice:**

Ask yourself today: *Where might I be overlooking God because it doesn't look how I expected?*

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**Day 5 – Thursday, April 9 – Called by Name**

**Scripture:** John 20:16

**Reflection:**

Everything changes with a single word: “*Mary.*”

Jesus does not explain resurrection. He does not offer proof. He speaks her name. And in that moment, recognition happens.

Resurrection is relational. It is not first a doctrine to believe—it is a voice that calls us, personally and intimately. Mary knows Jesus not because she understands everything, but because she is known.

This is the heart of Easter: we are called by name. Seen. Known. Loved.

In a world that reduces people to labels, roles, or expectations, resurrection restores identity. It reminds us who we are—and whose we are.

**Prayer:**

Jesus, who calls me by name, help me hear Your voice above all others. Remind me that I am known and loved by You. Amen.

**Spiritual Practice:**

Sit quietly and imagine God speaking your name—not with judgment, but with love.

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**Day 6 – Friday, April 10 – Holding On and Letting Go**

**Scripture:** John 20:17

**Reflection:**

Jesus tells Mary, “*Do not hold on to me.*” This can sound harsh—but it is actually an invitation.

Mary cannot cling to Jesus as he was. Resurrection changes the relationship. What was once physical becomes expansive. Jesus is not leaving her—he is becoming present in a new way.

Resurrection often requires letting go of how we thought things would be—so we can receive what is becoming.

Faith after Easter is not about holding onto the past. It is about trusting that God is still at work in ways we cannot fully control.

**Prayer:**

God of new life, help me release what I am trying to hold too tightly. Teach me to trust what You are doing now. Amen.

**Spiritual Practice:**

Name one thing you need to loosen your grip on—an expectation, fear, or image of how things “should be.”

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**Day 7 – Saturday, April 11 – Go and Tell**

**Scripture:** John 20:18

**Reflection:**

Mary becomes the first witness. The first preacher of resurrection. The one sent to tell the others: *“I have seen the Lord.”*

This is not incidental—it is intentional. The first voice of Easter comes from someone whose testimony would not have been valued in her cultural context. Resurrection lifts marginalized voices.

Mary does not have all the answers. She has an encounter. And that is enough.

Resurrection people do not wait until they understand everything. They share what they have seen, what they have experienced, what love has done.

Easter is not the end of the story. It is the beginning of a witness.

**Prayer:**

Sending God, give me courage to share what I have experienced of Your love. Use my voice, even in its imperfection. Amen.

**Spiritual Practice:**

Share one story this week—however small—of where you’ve seen love bring life.

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## **Series Title: Resurrection Is a Beginning**

### **Week 2 — Peace in Locked Rooms**

**Text:** John 20:19–31

**Focus:** Jesus shows up in fear and trauma, not after it's resolved

*Resurrection does not wait for us to feel brave. It enters locked rooms, anxious hearts, and unfinished faith—and speaks peace there.*

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#### **Day 1 – Sunday, April 12 – Peace in the Middle of Fear**

**Scripture:** John 20:19

##### **Reflection:**

The disciples are hiding. The doors are locked. Fear has settled into their bodies. Whatever hope they had has been shaken by violence, loss, and uncertainty.

And this is where Jesus shows up. Not after they regain courage. Not after they understand resurrection. Right in the middle of fear.

This is one of the most important truths of Easter: resurrection does not require emotional readiness. Jesus does not wait for them to unlock the door. He enters anyway.

And his first words are not correction, not explanation, not even instruction—they are: *“Peace be with you.”*

Not peace as calm circumstances, but peace as presence. Peace as God standing in the middle of fear and saying, *You are not alone.*

Resurrection begins here—in locked rooms, with trembling people, receiving a peace they did not create.

##### **Prayer:**

Risen Christ, enter the places in me that feel closed off and afraid. Speak Your peace where I need it most. Amen.

##### **Spiritual Practice:**

Notice one “locked room” in your life—fear, anxiety, avoidance. Imagine Jesus standing there, speaking peace.

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#### **Day 2 – Monday, April 13 – Showing the Wounds**

**Scripture:** John 20:20

**Reflection:**

Jesus does not hide his wounds. When he appears, he shows them—his hands, his side.

Resurrection does not erase suffering. It transforms it. The scars remain—not as shame, but as testimony.

This matters for how we understand healing. Healing is not pretending the wound never existed. It is allowing the wound to be held within a larger story of life.

For the disciples, seeing the wounds is what makes joy possible. Not denial of pain, but recognition that pain is not the end.

A wounded Christ is a trustworthy Christ—because he meets us honestly in our own woundedness.

**Prayer:**

Wounded Healer, help me trust that my pain is not disqualifying. Hold my wounds within Your greater story of life and restoration. Amen.

**Spiritual Practice:**

Name one wound you carry—not to fix it, but to acknowledge it in God's presence.

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**Day 3 – Tuesday, April 14 – Sent as We Are**

**Scripture:** John 20:21

**Reflection:**

Jesus says, *“As the Father has sent me, so I send you.”*

This is striking. The disciples are still afraid. Still unsure. Still processing everything that has happened. And yet—they are sent.

Resurrection does not wait until we are fully healed, fully certain, or fully ready. It sends us as we are—still carrying fear, still asking questions, still learning.

Mission is not about perfection. It is about participation.

We are sent not because we have it all figured out, but because we have encountered something real. Something alive.

Faith after Easter is not about waiting to become someone else. It is about living faithfully as we are, trusting that God works through imperfect people.

**Prayer:**

Sending God, help me trust that I am enough for what You are calling me into. Use me, even in my uncertainty. Amen.

**Spiritual Practice:**

Take one small step of faith today—not because you feel ready, but because you are willing.

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**Day 4 – Wednesday, April 15 – Breath as New Creation**

**Scripture:** John 20:22

**Reflection:**

Jesus breathes on them. This is not just symbolic—it echoes Genesis, where God breathes life into humanity.

Resurrection is not only about Jesus rising. It is about new creation beginning. The same breath that formed life now renews it.

In a room filled with fear, Jesus offers not just reassurance, but transformation. The Spirit is given not after everything is resolved, but in the middle of uncertainty.

God's life enters fragile places. Breath meets fear. Spirit meets exhaustion.

Resurrection is not just something we believe—it is something we receive.

**Prayer:**

Breathing God, fill me with Your Spirit. Renew what feels tired, fearful, or worn in me. Amen.

**Spiritual Practice:**

Take a few slow breaths today. With each inhale, pray: *“Come, Spirit.”* With each exhale: *“Renew me.”*

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**Day 5 – Thursday, April 16 – Thomas Is Not Left Out**

**Scripture:** John 20:24–25

**Reflection:**

Thomas was not there the first time. He missed it. And when the others tell him, he cannot simply accept their experience. He needs his own.

Thomas is often labeled “doubting,” but what he shows is honesty. He refuses to pretend belief he does not feel.

And here's what matters: he stays. He remains with the community, even in his uncertainty.

Faith does not require suppressing doubt. It invites us to bring doubt honestly into relationship—with God and with others.

Thomas reminds us that belonging is not reserved for the certain. It includes those who are still asking.

**Prayer:**

God of honest faith, help me bring my doubts into relationship rather than hiding them. Keep me connected, even when I am unsure. Amen.

**Spiritual Practice:**

Write down one question you carry about faith. Let it exist without needing to answer it.

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**Day 6 – Friday, April 17 – Jesus Comes Back**

**Scripture:** John 20:26–27

**Reflection:**

A week later, Jesus returns. Specifically for Thomas.

He does not say, “You should have believed sooner.” He does not shame him. He offers exactly what Thomas asked for.

This reveals something essential about God: Jesus meets us where we are—not where we think we should be.

If you have ever felt like you missed your moment, or that your doubt has disqualified you—this story says otherwise. Jesus comes back.

Grace is patient. Presence is persistent.

God does not give up on those who struggle to believe.

**Prayer:**

Patient Christ, thank You for meeting me where I am. Help me trust that You have not passed me by. Amen.

**Spiritual Practice:**

When you feel “behind” spiritually, remind yourself: *Jesus comes back.*

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**Day 7 – Saturday, April 18 – Blessed Without Certainty**

**Scripture:** John 20:29

**Reflection:**

Jesus says, *“Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.”*

This is not a rebuke—it is a blessing for those who live after the resurrection story, who must trust without physical proof.

Faith today often lives in this space—not seeing clearly, not knowing fully, but still choosing to remain open.

Blessing is not reserved for certainty. It is given to those who continue seeking, trusting, and staying in relationship.

Resurrection faith is not about having all the answers. It is about staying connected to the living Christ—even in mystery.

**Prayer:**

God of unseen presence, bless my seeking. Help me trust that I am held, even when I do not fully understand. Amen.

**Spiritual Practice:**

End this week with this prayer:

*“God, I don’t see everything—but I am willing to trust You here.”*

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## **Series Title: Resurrection Is a Beginning**

### **Week 3 — Recognizing Jesus Again**

**Text:** Luke 24:13–35

**Focus:** Resurrection often goes unrecognized in real time

*Resurrection is not always obvious. It walks beside us, listens to our disappointment, and reveals itself in ordinary acts—conversation, Scripture, and shared meals.*

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#### **Day 1 – Sunday, April 19 – “We Had Hoped…”**

**Scripture:** Luke 24:21

**Reflection:**

Few phrases carry more quiet grief than this one: *“We had hoped…”*

The disciples on the road to Emmaus are not confused about what happened—they are confused about what it means. Their hope has collapsed. What they believed about Jesus no longer fits the reality they are living in.

This is a deeply honest moment. Faith is not always lost through rejection—it is often unsettled by disappointment. We had hoped for healing. We had hoped for justice. We had hoped for something different.

And yet, even in this disappointment, they keep walking. They keep talking. They do not abandon the story—they wrestle with it.

Resurrection begins here—not in restored certainty, but in honest naming of what has been lost.

**Prayer:**

God of broken hopes, receive the places where my expectations have collapsed. Meet me in my disappointment, and walk with me through it. Amen.

**Spiritual Practice:**

Complete this sentence in writing: *“I had hoped…”* Offer it to God without trying to resolve it.

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#### **Day 2 – Monday, April 20 – Jesus Walks Beside Them**

**Scripture:** Luke 24:15

**Reflection:**

As they walk and talk, Jesus comes near—but they do not recognize him.

This is one of the most comforting and frustrating truths of resurrection: God is often present before we are aware of it.

The disciples are not failing. They are human. Their grief shapes their perception. Their expectations limit what they can see. And still—Jesus walks with them.

God does not wait for us to recognize divine presence before drawing near. God meets us in confusion, mid-conversation, mid-journey.

Faith after Easter is not about always recognizing Jesus—it is about trusting that he is present, even when we do not.

**Prayer:**

Walking God, help me trust that You are near, even when I cannot recognize You. Stay with me in my confusion and questions. Amen.

**Spiritual Practice:**

As you move through your day, quietly ask: *“Where might God be walking beside me right now?”*

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**Day 3 – Tuesday, April 21 – Telling the Story Again**

**Scripture:** Luke 24:17–24

**Reflection:**

Jesus asks them what they are discussing—and they tell the story. They recount what happened, what they believed, and what they have heard.

This retelling matters. Before understanding comes narration. Before clarity comes honesty.

Faith often deepens when we are willing to tell our story again—not as a fixed script, but as something still unfolding. The disciples do not yet understand resurrection, but they keep speaking the story aloud.

Sometimes healing begins not when we find answers, but when we find language.

**Prayer:**

God of my story, help me tell the truth about where I am—without fear, without pretending. Meet me in the telling. Amen.

**Spiritual Practice:**

Tell a piece of your faith story today—to God, a journal, or a trusted person.

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## Day 4 – Wednesday, April 22 – Scripture Reimagined

**Scripture:** Luke 24:27

**Reflection:**

Jesus begins to reinterpret Scripture—not by replacing it, but by reframing it. The same texts now point toward something the disciples had not yet seen: a suffering Messiah, a love that goes through death, not around it.

This is a turning point. Resurrection does not discard the past—it reshapes how we understand it.

Faith often grows this way. We revisit what we thought we knew. We discover deeper meanings. We realize that God was present in ways we did not recognize before.

This can feel unsettling—but it is also sacred. Faith that never changes is faith that never deepens.

**Prayer:**

God of living truth, open my understanding. Help me engage Scripture with humility and openness to new life. Amen.

**Spiritual Practice:**

Read a familiar passage today and ask: *What might I be seeing differently now?*

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## Day 5 – Thursday, April 23 – Hearts Burning

**Scripture:** Luke 24:32

**Reflection:**

Afterward, the disciples say, *“Were not our hearts burning within us?”*

They did not recognize Jesus at the time—but something in them responded. Something stirred. Something came alive.

Faith is not only about intellectual clarity. It is also about resonance. The quiet sense that something is true, good, or alive—even before we fully understand it.

Pay attention to what stirs your heart—not with fear, but with compassion, curiosity, or hope. That may be where God is speaking.

Resurrection is often recognized not in the moment, but in reflection.

**Prayer:**

God of holy fire, help me notice where my heart is stirred. Teach me to trust the quiet ways You are revealing Yourself. Amen.

**Spiritual Practice:**

Notice today what gives you a sense of life or meaning. Reflect on why.

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**Day 6 – Friday, April 24 – Known in the Breaking of Bread**

**Scripture:** Luke 24:30–31

**Reflection:**

The disciples finally recognize Jesus at the table—in the breaking of bread.

Not in a miracle. Not in a grand revelation. But in an ordinary act, shared together.

This is the pattern of resurrection: revealed in relationship, in presence, in the everyday rhythms of life.

We often look for God in extraordinary moments—but Scripture reminds us to look at the table, the conversation, the shared meal.

Resurrection is not far away. It is often closer than we think.

**Prayer:**

Christ at the table, open my eyes to recognize You in ordinary moments. Teach me to see the sacred in the everyday. Amen.

**Spiritual Practice:**

Pause during a meal today and give thanks—not just for food, but for presence.

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**Day 7 – Saturday, April 25 – Turning Back Toward Community**

**Scripture:** Luke 24:33–35

**Reflection:**

Once they recognize Jesus, the disciples immediately return to Jerusalem. They go back—not because everything is resolved, but because they have something to share.

Resurrection sends us back into community. Not isolated, not self-contained—but connected, bearing witness together.

Faith is not meant to be held alone. What we experience, we share. What we discover, we bring back.

The journey of resurrection always leads us toward others.

**Prayer:**

Sending God, help me return to community with what I am learning. Give me courage to share honestly and listen deeply. Amen.

**Spiritual Practice:**

Share one insight, question, or experience of faith with someone this week.

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## **Series Title: Resurrection Is a Beginning**

### **Week 4 — Breakfast on the Shore**

**Text:** John 21:1–19

**Focus:** Restoration after failure

*Resurrection does not erase failure—it meets us in it, restores us through love, and sends us forward with purpose.*

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#### **Day 1 – Sunday, April 26 – Going Back to What We Know**

**Scripture:** John 21:1–3

**Reflection:**

After everything—resurrection appearances, confusion, hope—the disciples go fishing. Back to what they know. Back to what feels familiar.

This is not regression. It is human. When life becomes overwhelming or unclear, we return to what feels steady. Peter, especially, carries the weight of failure. Denial still lingers in his memory. Perhaps fishing feels safer than calling.

But even here, resurrection meets them. Jesus does not wait for them to return to perfect faith or clarity. He shows up on the shore of their ordinary lives.

This is good news: God meets us not only in spiritual highs, but in the routines we retreat to when we're unsure what comes next.

**Prayer:**

God of the ordinary, meet me in the places I return to when life feels uncertain. Help me trust that You are present even there. Amen.

**Spiritual Practice:**

Notice one routine in your life today. Pause and invite God's presence into it intentionally.

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#### **Day 2 – Monday, April 27 – Empty Nets**

**Scripture:** John 21:3

**Reflection:**

The disciples fish all night—and catch nothing.

This echoes an earlier story in Luke, but now it carries different weight. These are seasoned fishermen. They know what they're doing. And still—the nets come up empty.

Failure has a way of compounding. Peter has already failed publicly. Now even the thing he knows best yields nothing.

Empty nets are more than inconvenience—they are disorientation. They force us to confront our limits.

And yet, in Scripture, emptiness is often the place where God begins something new. Not when we feel competent, but when we recognize we are not.

**Prayer:**

God of the empty places, meet me in my failures and frustrations. Help me trust that emptiness is not the end of the story. Amen.

**Spiritual Practice:**

Name one “empty net” in your life—a place where effort hasn’t produced results. Offer it to God without judgment.

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**Day 3 – Tuesday, April 28 – Listening Again**

**Scripture:** John 21:4–6

**Reflection:**

At dawn, a voice from the shore calls out: “*Cast the net on the right side.*”

The disciples don’t recognize Jesus—but they listen. And that small act of openness changes everything.

Resurrection often comes through small acts of trust. Not dramatic leaps, but quiet willingness to try again.

After failure, it’s easy to close off—to assume nothing will change. But faith invites us to remain open, even when we don’t fully understand the voice calling us forward.

The miracle is not just the catch. It is the willingness to listen again.

**Prayer:**

God who calls gently, help me stay open to Your voice. Give me courage to try again, even when I feel discouraged. Amen.

**Spiritual Practice:**

When faced with resistance today, ask: *Where might I be invited to try again, even in a small way?*

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## **Day 4 – Wednesday, April 29 – Recognizing Jesus in Abundance**

**Scripture:** John 21:7

### **Reflection:**

The beloved disciple is the first to recognize what is happening: *“It is the Lord!”*

Recognition comes not through explanation, but through abundance. The nets overflow. Something shifts.

And Peter—impulsive, passionate Peter—jumps into the water and swims toward Jesus.

This is what restoration looks like: movement toward Christ, even after failure. Not hesitation. Not hiding. But desire strong enough to overcome shame.

Resurrection does not require us to prove ourselves first. It invites us to come as we are.

### **Prayer:**

Jesus, help me move toward You, not away from You, in my moments of failure. Give me courage to trust Your welcome. Amen.

### **Spiritual Practice:**

Notice where shame causes you to pull back—from God or others. Gently take one step toward connection instead.

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## **Day 5 – Thursday, April 30 – Breakfast Prepared**

**Scripture:** John 21:9–13

### **Reflection:**

When they reach the shore, breakfast is already waiting.

Jesus does not demand explanation. He does not confront Peter immediately. He feeds them.

This is grace. Before correction, there is nourishment. Before calling, there is care.

The disciples bring fish—but Jesus already has food prepared. Their contribution matters, but it is not the source of the meal.

Resurrection reminds us that God’s provision is not dependent on our performance. We are invited to participate—but we are not responsible for sustaining everything.

**Prayer:**

God of provision, thank You for meeting my needs before I even ask. Help me receive Your care without striving to earn it. Amen.

**Spiritual Practice:**

Receive something today—a meal, rest, kindness—without trying to justify or repay it.

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**Day 6 – Friday, May 1 – “Do You Love Me?”**

**Scripture:** John 21:15–17

**Reflection:**

Jesus asks Peter three times: *“Do you love me?”*

This is not punishment—it is restoration. Peter denied Jesus three times. Now he is given three opportunities to respond in love.

But notice what Jesus does not ask: he does not ask Peter to prove himself, defend himself, or explain himself. He asks about love.

Failure is not the end of Peter’s story. Love is.

And each time Peter responds, Jesus gives him a calling: *“Feed my sheep.”* Love is not abstract—it becomes action. Care. Responsibility.

Resurrection restores not just relationship, but purpose.

**Prayer:**

Restoring Christ, meet me in my failures without shame. Help me trust that love is still possible—and that You still call me forward. Amen.

**Spiritual Practice:**

Reflect on this question today: *“Do you love me?”* Let your response shape one act of care for someone else.

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**Day 7 – Saturday, May 2 – Love Becomes Action**

**Scripture:** John 21:17–19

**Reflection:**

Jesus connects love directly to action: *“Feed my sheep.”*

Faith is not only belief—it is embodied care. It takes shape in how we treat others, how we show up, how we live.

Peter's calling is not erased by his failure. It is clarified through it. He will lead not from perfection, but from experience—knowing both failure and grace.

This is the pattern of resurrection: love restores, and restored people become agents of love in the world.

We are not called because we are flawless. We are called because we are loved.

**Prayer:**

God of calling, help me express love through action. Use my life—imperfect as it is—to care for others. Amen.

**Spiritual Practice:**

Take one intentional action today that reflects love—practical, tangible, and specific.

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## **Series Title: Resurrection Is a Beginning**

### **Week 5 — You Will Be My Witnesses**

**Text:** Acts 1:1–8

**Focus:** Resurrection faith moves outward into the world

*Resurrection is not something we keep—it is something we live. The risen Christ sends us, not with certainty, but with the Spirit.*

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#### **Day 1 – Sunday, May 3 – The Story Isn't Over**

**Scripture:** Acts 1:1–3

**Reflection:**

Luke begins Acts by reminding us that his Gospel told what Jesus *began* to do and teach. Began.

Resurrection is not the conclusion—it is the continuation. Jesus is still teaching, still forming, still revealing himself to his followers after Easter. The story is not wrapped up. It is opening outward.

This reframes how we understand faith. Christianity is not primarily about looking back at what Jesus did. It is about participating in what Jesus is still doing.

The disciples are in a liminal space—no longer in the shock of Good Friday, but not yet sure what comes next. And Jesus meets them there, not with a finished plan, but with presence and promise.

Faith after resurrection is not about closure. It is about calling.

**Prayer:**

Living Christ, help me see my life as part of Your ongoing story. Open my eyes to where You are still at work. Amen.

**Spiritual Practice:**

Reflect on this question: *Where might God still be writing resurrection in my life right now?*

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#### **Day 2 – Monday, May 4 – Letting Go of Control**

**Scripture:** Acts 1:6–7

**Reflection:**

The disciples ask a familiar question: *“Is this the time when you will restore the kingdom?”*

They want clarity. Timing. A roadmap. It’s a natural question—but Jesus does not answer it directly. Instead, he redirects them: *“It is not for you to know...”*

This is one of the hardest invitations of faith—letting go of control over outcomes and timelines. We want to know how things will unfold. God often invites us instead to trust the One who is unfolding them.

The disciples are not wrong to ask—but they are being invited into a deeper trust. Not certainty, but participation.

Faith after Easter is not about knowing everything. It is about being available.

**Prayer:**

God beyond my control, help me release my need to know everything. Teach me to trust You with what I cannot see. Amen.

**Spiritual Practice:**

Name one outcome or timeline you are trying to control. Offer it to God and practice releasing it.

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**Day 3 – Tuesday, May 5 – Power That Looks Like Presence**

**Scripture:** Acts 1:8a

**Reflection:**

Jesus promises power—but not the kind the disciples might expect. This is not political dominance or social control. It is the power of the Holy Spirit.

Spirit power does not coerce—it empowers. It does not dominate—it animates. It strengthens courage, deepens compassion, and sustains hope.

In a world that equates power with control, the Spirit offers a different vision: power as presence. Power as the ability to love, to endure, to speak truth, to act with courage.

This is the power the disciples will need—not to conquer, but to witness.

**Prayer:**

Spirit of God, fill me with Your power—the power to love, to endure, and to act with courage. Amen.

**Spiritual Practice:**

As you face challenges today, pause and pray: *“Spirit, strengthen me.”*

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## **Day 4 – Wednesday, May 6 – You Will Be My Witnesses**

**Scripture:** Acts 1:8b

**Reflection:**

Jesus does not say, “You will have all the answers.” He says, “*You will be my witnesses.*”

A witness does not explain everything—they testify to what they have seen and experienced.

This shifts the burden of faith. We are not responsible for proving God. We are invited to share what we have encountered—love, grace, transformation, presence.

Witness is not about perfection. It is about honesty.

The disciples are not sent because they are flawless. They are sent because they have experienced resurrection.

**Prayer:**

Sending God, help me share honestly what I have experienced of Your love. Use my story, even in its imperfection. Amen.

**Spiritual Practice:**

Share one small story this week of where you’ve seen love, hope, or transformation.

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## **Day 5 – Thursday, May 7 – From Here to Everywhere**

**Scripture:** Acts 1:8c

**Reflection:**

Jesus maps the movement of the Gospel: Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and the ends of the earth.

This is both geographic and spiritual. Faith begins where we are—but it does not stay there. It expands outward, crossing boundaries of culture, comfort, and familiarity.

Samaria represents the “other”—those outside our circle, those we might struggle to understand or accept.

Resurrection faith always pushes outward. It refuses to remain contained. It invites us to see beyond our own experience and participate in God’s wider work.

The question is not whether we will go everywhere—but whether we are willing to let our faith stretch beyond what feels comfortable.

**Prayer:**

God of all people, expand my vision. Help me see beyond my own world and participate in Your work of love and justice everywhere. Amen.

**Spiritual Practice:**

Take one step toward someone or something outside your usual circle—listen, learn, or engage with openness.

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**Day 6 – Friday, May 8 – Waiting Is Part of the Calling**

**Scripture:** Acts 1:4–5

**Reflection:**

Before the disciples go, they are told to wait.

This feels counterintuitive. If they are being sent, why delay? But waiting is not inactivity—it is preparation. The Spirit must come before the mission can begin.

We often want to rush into action. But faith requires formation. Waiting creates space for alignment, clarity, and dependence on God rather than self.

The wilderness prepared them. Now waiting prepares them again.

Resurrection faith is active—but it is also patient.

**Prayer:**

God of timing, teach me to wait without anxiety. Prepare me for what You are calling me into. Amen.

**Spiritual Practice:**

Practice intentional waiting today—pause before acting, speaking, or deciding. Invite God into the space.

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**Day 7 – Saturday, May 9 – A Life That Points Beyond Itself**

**Scripture:** Acts 1:8 (review)

**Reflection:**

The final word of this series is not certainty—it is witness.

Resurrection faith is not something we keep to ourselves. It becomes visible in how we live: how we love, how we act, how we show up in the world.

We are not called to be perfect representatives of God. We are called to be faithful ones—people whose lives point beyond themselves to something greater.

The disciples will go on to struggle, doubt, fail, and grow. And still—they will witness.

So will we.

The story continues—not because we have all the answers, but because God is still at work.

**Prayer:**

God of new beginnings, let my life point to Your love. Use me, as I am, to participate in Your ongoing work in the world. Amen.

**Spiritual Practice:**

Write a simple commitment for the season ahead:

*“In this season, I will live my faith by...”*

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