
DAILY DEVOTIONAL

Happy Easter / Week 1

WEEK 1

EASTER MEANS FEAR ISN'T FINAL.

But **God demonstrates** his own love for us in this: **While we were still sinners**, Christ died for us.

ROMANS 5:8 NIV

DAY 1

We all have that one friend who talks a big game but never really backs it up. We've probably even been that friend ourselves! We say we're going to do something really cool or impressive, but when it comes down to it, we can't really deliver.

One of the amazing things about God is that He not only talks a big game, but He can always back it up. God talks about His love for us—the fact that He loves us more than we can ever imagine. But He proved that to be true by sending Jesus to die for us. He talked the talk and walked the walk, proving we can trust both His words and His actions toward us.

Today, spend a few minutes thanking God for not just telling you that He loves you, but for proving that He does.

"He is not here; he has risen! **Remember how he told you**, while he was still with you in Galilee: 'The Son of Man must be delivered over to the hands of sinners, be crucified and on the third day be raised again.'"

LUKE 24:6-7 NIV

DAY 2

Have you ever predicted something before it happened? Maybe you called the game-winning shot, or the surprise ending to a movie, or the breakup of your favorite boy-band.

While Jesus was alive, He predicted something even crazier than the big twist ending to a cool movie. He told his disciples that He would die on a cross and be raised back to life on the third day. That probably sounded crazy at the time! But Luke tells us that this was more than just a prediction; it actually happened, just as Jesus said it would. What does that mean for us? Well, it reminds us that we can trust God and what He says. We can remember what He's told us and hold on to those promises to be true. He's proven His word to us. **This week, take some time to reflect and remember that God is trustworthy, and His word is true.**

Jesus said to her, "**I am the resurrection and the life.** The one who believes in me will live, even though they die; and whoever lives by believing in me will never die. Do you believe this?"

JOHN 11:25-26 NIV

DAY 3

Have you walked through a difficult circumstance and wondered why this was happening to you? Maybe you've seen someone close to you struggle or suffer and questioned why they had to walk such a difficult road. When we find ourselves in painful seasons, our tendency is to look for an explanation—an answer to the question of why.

Often times, we look to Jesus for the answer. But the beautiful thing about Easter is that Jesus gives us something better than an answer; He gives us hope. Hope that no difficult circumstance, or painful season, or struggle, or suffering has the final say over our lives. That's a hope we can hold on to no matter what we're walking through in life. **This week, write the word "HOPE" somewhere you can see it every day. When you find yourself struggling, fix your eyes on that word to remind you of the hope Jesus brings in all things.**

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: **The old has gone, the new is here!**

2 CORINTHIANS 5:17 NIV

DAY 4

Have you ever dwelled on a mistake? Not been able to move on from something in your past that you're not proud of? The truth is we've all done things that we regret, and our shame works really hard to make sure we never forget it.

If anyone understood that struggle, it was the author of this verse, the Apostle Paul. Before he became a Christian, Paul used to persecute believers in Jesus! But when Jesus entered the equation, He changed everything for Paul. And He does the same for us! When you believe in and live for Jesus, your old life doesn't have the same power over you. In fact, it moves out of the way to make way for the new work that Jesus wants to do in you. You can walk confidently knowing that your past is your past. **This week, try to memorize this verse to remind yourself that you are a new creation!**

And being found in appearance as a man, **he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death—even death on a cross!**

PHILIPPIANS 2:8 NIV

DAY 5

It's really easy to be selfish, isn't it? We're all naturally pretty good at putting our own needs before the needs of others. But selfishness doesn't look good on anyone, does it? It's never helpful and almost always hurtful.

Thankfully, Jesus modeled a better way for us. On the cross, Jesus put the needs of humanity before His own, and it changed the world forever. And it is the humility of Jesus that we are called to model. Humility is powerful, impactful, and compelling to others. When we choose to lead with humility, we're not only impacting someone by putting them first, but we're showing them a glimpse of who Jesus is in us. **So today, look for opportunities to humble yourself by putting the needs of others before your own. Lead with your humility to serve someone in your life whose needs might be bigger than your own.**