

## Day 1

October 15



Pray | *Ask God to guide you in sharing the story of Jesus this week.*

The story doesn't end at death. In every good fight story there is at least one point where you would think the hero was defeated, if you didn't know you were watching fiction unfold. How many times in a season are your favorite television characters in near death situations? The movie *The Empire Strikes Back* concludes with Han encased in carbonite and Luke nursing a severed hand. And really, what kind of story would it be if in the first fight of *The Karate Kid*, Daniel immediately knocked down Johnny? In the three days after Jesus' crucifixion, his friends and family were mourning the loss of him. The hero of this story, Jesus, was not merely lying on the mat; he was lying in a tomb. Hope trickled out of the disciples' hearts and minds as blood and water seeped from the Savior's side, if he could even be called that anymore. After all, he was dead. But then came Sunday.



Read | [Matthew 28:1-6](#)



Reflect | *Spend some time reflecting on one or more of the following:*

Why do you think people in our culture are so fascinated by come-from-behind/death-to-life stories? Jesus' resurrection is a fascinating story. Who can you share this story and truth with this week?

The two Marys were not expecting to see anything spectacular as they approached Jesus' tomb. They were looking for a conclusion and closure, but what they found was more than they could ever expect. Reflect how you feel when your expectations are turned upside down. How do you handle these situations?

An angel appeared at the tomb, and spoke to the women. God's angels are always at work around us, protecting us and guiding us. Reflect on a time that you have felt an angel with you. How did it make you feel- did you give recognition to the angel or God at that time?

## Day 2

October 16



Pray | *Ask God to help you overcome your biggest fear.*

Do not be afraid.

Imagine the scene at the tomb from the perspective of the two Marys. They had expected to see a tomb, and instead, they experienced an earthquake, guards who appeared dead, and an angel sitting upon a massive gravestone now rolled away. The angel's speech would surely have inspired fear, and yet, his first words were "Do not be afraid," which happens to be the most abundant command in all of Scripture. "Do not be afraid" is easier said than done, so the Lord continually reminds his people of his compassion and control.



Read | [Matthew 28:5](#); [Deuteronomy 31:6](#); [Joshua 1:9](#); [Isaiah 41:10](#)



Reflect | *Spend some time reflecting on one or more of the following:*

"Do not fear". Reflect on some of your scariest moments. Did you know that God was with you through the situation? Did you reach out to God in prayer asking for his guidance and comfort?

Joshua 1:9 says "for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go". Reflect on this. Do you believe that he is with you all of the time? How does this truth impact your day to day activities?

Isaiah 41:10 says "I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you". In what activities and tasks have you felt strengthened by God? Did you give him the praise and thanks he deserves?

## Day 3

October 17



Pray | *Thank God for always being with you.*

Stop and worship the risen Lord. Vacations today are often hijacked by technology. Go to the Eiffel Tower, Mount Rushmore, or Niagara Falls and what is the most common activity? One hundred years ago, you would have found people staring silently or commenting quietly about the beauty and wonder that they were perceiving. Now we hear sounds of a camera's shutter or the frustrated voice of a mom trying to get her family together for just one picture. People are posing for selfies rather than soaking in the grandeur of the moment. We're so focused on our image in the moment, that we're not taking the time to fully experience it. We supposedly take pictures so that one day we can go back to remember the experience, and yet, we often find ourselves never really going back to savor what we have seen, if we even "saw" it in the first place.



Read | Matthew 28:7-9



Reflect | *Spend some time reflecting on one or more of the following:*

Do you think phones, tablets, and social media outlets do more to connect us to people and events, or do more to distract us? How are you using this technology to share your faith and spread the story of Jesus?

When the women saw Jesus, they felt overwhelming relief and delight, and stopped to worship him. They were not looking to take a selfie with the Savior but instead were anxious to experience the full measure of the encounter. What would you do if you ran into Jesus today? Would you grab your phone, snap a pic and post it to Facebook, or would you immediately stop to worship him?

Worship is a necessary and integral part of our mission to share the good news of Jesus' crucifixion and resurrection. Is worship a priority in your day to day routine? How can you be more intentional in your worship?

*Day 4*  
October 18



**Pray** | *Ask for courage in sharing your faith with a non-believer today.*

Go and tell others the truth about Jesus.

Your favorite sports team wins the championship game. Your boss gives you that big promotion you have earnestly desired. Your boyfriend bends the knee and pops the question. What is your first response to receiving good news? Most of us immediately seek to share the news with others whom we love. Whether we post it on social media or send out a mass text or call our mom and dad, instinctively we seek to share good news with others. When the women encountered Jesus, they could not help but share the good news.



**Read** | Matthew 28:10-15



*Spend some time reflecting on one or more of the following:*

What are the easiest things in life for you to get excited about and want to share with others? What are some of the hardest? Are you excited for the opportunity to worship Jesus on Sundays? Do you get excited to share the news of Jesus with others?

The women were moving quickly through the streets, spreading the good news, while some leaders were trying to cover up and hide the fact of the resurrection. When you are with your non-Christian family and friends, do you openly share your faith, or do you just not talk about it or hide it?

The guards' pockets were full of money from bribes to lie about the resurrection. While the pockets of the women were empty, their hearts were full and they were eager to share the good news. How strong is your faith? At what cost, or under what circumstances would you consider denying or lying about your faith?

## Day 5

October 19



Pray | *Give thanks for Jesus, our savior.*

This story is not fiction, this story is truth. The day of Jesus' resurrection is a wondrous story. Two women named Mary traveled to Jesus' resting place, experienced an earthquake, and encountered an angel that invited them to come and see Jesus' empty tomb. Full of faith, when they saw Jesus outside of his tomb, the women stopped immediately to worship the risen Lord. They then went to tell Jesus' disciples and others what they had seen and experienced, but some tried to cover up the resurrection with bribery and lies.

We too are to see the empty tomb with the eyes of faith. We must worship our risen Savior, live a life with him, follow him, and be his hands and feet. As Christians we have committed our lives to him, and now we must go and tell the world about all he has done for us.



Read | Matthew 28:1-15; John 11:25-26



Reflect | *Spend some time reflecting on one or more of the following:*

God calls us to go and tell others the Good News of Christ's victory over sin and death. What are some reasons people give today for not believing in Jesus, and how can we answer those objections? Who will you have that conversation with this week?

In Matthew 28:5, Deuteronomy 31:6, and many other verses in the Bible, we are commanded to not to be afraid, Jesus is with us. How does the story of Jesus' resurrection help combat some of the fears in your life right now?

In John 11:25-26 Jesus reminds us "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?" Spend some time in prayer, committing your life to living for and with Jesus.

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