

EASTER



**DEVOTIONAL
GUIDE**

JESUS: REJECTED, CURSED, EXALTED

Luke 9:51

When the days drew near for Him to be taken up, He set His face to go to Jerusalem.

Throughout the ninth chapter of Luke, the writer tells how Jesus tried to prepare His disciples for what would occur in Jerusalem. The twenty-third and twenty-fourth chapters describe the events of Christ's suffering, death, and resurrection. Jesus knew what would happen in Jerusalem, but those closest to Jesus were blinded to His preparatory words and actions. Here the disciples are recorded as arguing among themselves and desiring to see fire consume an unbelieving town instead of preparing themselves for what was to come. When the fulfillment of Jesus' prophetic words came, they were all caught completely by surprise. As we read through the Gospels, we see how Jesus was preparing Himself, His disciples, and His followers for the sacrificial offering He was about to make.

Walking in light of Jesus' example, we also should prepare our hearts and lives as we remember and celebrate the events that occurred in Jerusalem. Join us in gatherings and daily devotions as we prepare ourselves as a church. We will prepare ourselves through a series of daily scripture readings and devotions that the staff has written and which will be dispersed this Thursday. Use these devotions for personal meditation or for a family time of worship. Martin Luther wrote, "Meditation done rightly on the suffering of Christ for a day, an hour, or even one quarter of an hour is better than a whole year of fasting, days spent singing psalms or even one hundred church services."

As we gather corporately, we will be focusing on three words to center us on the sacrifice of Christ: rejected, cursed, and exalted. This Sunday, we will remember that even in the adulations of Palm Sunday, Christ was rejected by the masses. On Good Friday, we will gather at 7 p.m. at the Factory to remember that in the cross Jesus was cursed. And lastly, we will gather on Easter Sunday to celebrate the truth that Jesus is exalted through His resurrection from the dead. May we begin the work of preparing our hearts, thoughts, and lives to remember the passion of Jesus.

Sincerely,
Pastor Andy

A NOTE TO PARENTS

As you lead your child in these devotions, be sure to prepare beforehand. First, read the Scriptures and then the Jesus Storybook Bible (available for purchase in the Resource Center). For young children, repetition is key. Each night, be sure to talk about how Jesus died and rose again. If you choose to read through the Jesus Storybook Bible, you can begin with the story that is selected for that day and end with reading through Jesus' death (The Sun Stops Shining, p. 302) and His Resurrection (God's Wonderful Surprise, p. 310). The goal is to help them understand what happened and why it is so important that Jesus died and rose again. If you have older children, they may already know the story, so each day, after reading the selected Scripture, have them tell you the rest of the story. If they do not know, tell them the story. After each devotion is a set of questions for children. Some of them are more appropriate for older children than younger, so use them as you see fit.

The Jesus Storybook Bible: Every Story Whispers His Name, by Sally Lloyd-Jones

DAY ONE: JESUS ANOINTED

John 12:1-8

(1) Six days before the Passover, Jesus therefore came to Bethany, where Lazarus was, whom Jesus had raised from the dead. (2) So they gave a dinner for him there. Martha served, and Lazarus was one of those reclining with him at table. (3) Mary therefore took a pound of expensive ointment made from pure nard, and anointed the feet of Jesus and wiped his feet with her hair. The house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume. (4) But Judas Iscariot, one of his disciples (he who was about to betray him), said, (5) "Why was this ointment not sold for three hundred denarii and given to the poor?" (6) He said this, not because he cared about the poor, but because he was a thief, and having charge of the moneybag he used to help himself to what was put into it. (7) Jesus said, "Leave her alone, so that she may keep it for the day of my burial. (8) For the poor you always have with you, but you do not always have me."

Teaching & Application

In this passage, Jesus tells his disciples that they will not always have Him in their midst as He was at that time. The poor would always be with them, but He would soon be gone. It was a reminder of what was to come. He was going to die and would not be with them. Jesus acknowledged that Mary understood this. Mary knew that her time with Jesus was precious. When she was with Him, she would not let anything else take her attention from Him. As an act of worship, she set aside expensive perfume, something she treasured, for Jesus. Other people's opinions of her, the needs of the poor, or the cost of the gift did not distract her from taking the time needed to pour out her heart to Jesus and express her love for Him while He was still with them. She was prepared for what was to come because she valued being with Him as a first priority.

Looking from our perspective, on the other side of the Resurrection, Jesus in bodily form is not here, but He is with us. He is with us all the time. For most of us, we become so accustomed to having Him with us that we forget to acknowledge who He is and what He did for us on the cross. Sometimes, we hear his voice, read His Word, and know that He is here, but we forget to set aside time from our busy schedules and just be with Him. Jesus deserves to be the focus of our lives. He deserves our full attention because without Him laying down His life, we have no hope.

Questions

How did Mary express her love for Jesus?

Are there opportunities in your life where you can stop what you are doing and

just worship Christ?

How can you be intentional in spending time with God and worshipping Him daily?

Questions for Children

Mary knew that Jesus was important. She knew that He loved her and that she loved Him. How did she show Jesus that she loved Him?

Why did Judas not like that Mary did that?

Mary thought that worshipping Jesus and pouring the perfume on Him was more important than spending that money on anything else. She knew that He was not going to be with them long and remembered that He said He was going to die. Since He was there with her then, she made sure that she spent her time focused on Him. What do you spend most of your time doing?

Do you make time each day for thinking about God and what He has done for us?

How can we, as a family, spend more of our time and conversations talking about what Jesus did for us on the cross?

DAY TWO: PALM SUNDAY

John 12:12-19

(12) The next day the large crowd that had come to the feast heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem. (13) So they took branches of palm trees and went out to meet him, crying out, "Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord, even the King of Israel!" (14) And Jesus found a young donkey and sat on it, just as it is written, (15) "Fear not, daughter of Zion; behold, your king is coming, sitting on a donkey's colt!" (16) His disciples did not understand these things at first, but when Jesus was glorified, then they remembered that these things had been written about him and had been done to him. (17) The crowd that had been with him when he called Lazarus out of the tomb and raised him from the dead continued to bear witness. (18) The reason why the crowd went to meet him was that they heard he had done this sign. (19) So the Pharisees said to one another, "You see that you are gaining nothing. Look, the world has gone after him."

Teaching & Application

This text is often described as "Jesus' Triumphal Entry." Jesus comes to Jerusalem riding on the colt of a donkey. The crowd that began to follow Jesus after He raised Lazarus from the dead serves as the "welcoming committee." Out of sheer excitement, the crowd begins to break off the leaves of the nearby palm trees and bushes, waving them frantically in the air and throwing them at the feet of the Christ. The crowd shouts, "Hosanna! Blessed is He who come in the name of the Lord, even the King of Israel!" Hosanna means "Salvation or Salvation has come." It appears as if the Jews are recognizing that Jesus is the Messiah, their true King. Yet, days later, this same crowd will shout to Pilate, "Crucify, Him!"

What happened? The Jews were prepared to welcome their version of a king and not God's choice of a Savior. Their ideas and presuppositions of a Messiah meant more to them than what God was offering. They wanted a warrior. They desired a king who would overthrow visible kingdoms and set up a new physical kingdom. Their Messiah and King had come. He was destroying the kingdom of sin, death, and Satan and the new Kingdom was life and peace with the Father. This was mankind's greatest need. But they were not prepared for what God was doing, only for what they wanted.

Questions

Contrast the Jews' understanding of Jesus with the reality of who Jesus is and what He had come to do.

Has there ever been a time in your journey with God that you imposed your

desires over His plan?

As you have matured in your faith, how has your view and understanding of Jesus become more Biblical? Does your version of Jesus match the Jesus in the Gospel?

Questions for Children

The people were so excited about Jesus coming into the city, what did they scream?

What does that mean?

Why were the people so excited about Jesus coming into the city?

The people knew that Jesus was going to save them, but they did not realize that He had to die in order for that to happen. They thought that He was going to come into the city and free them from the government that was ruling over them, but God was trying to free them from something that was much worse. What do you think that was?

What was God's plan for Jesus when he entered the city?

Was God's plan the same as the people's? Why or why not?

Sometimes for us, we want something to happen in our own lives that God might not necessarily have planned for us. Has there ever been a time that you wanted something that God probably did not want for you? Why can we trust God that He knows what is best for us?

Pray as a family that God will help you want what He wants for you.

DAY THREE: LORD'S SUPPER

Matthew 26:26-29

(26) Now as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and after blessing it broke it and gave it to the disciples, and said, "Take, eat; this is my body." (27) And he took a cup, and when he had given thanks he gave it to them, saying, "Drink of it, all of you, (28) for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. (29) I tell you I will not drink again of this fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom."

Teaching & Application

The first Passover was instituted with the last Passover in mind. In Exodus 12, the Hebrew people had witnessed a myriad of plagues that could only have been executed by a sovereign power. Their God was fighting for them. Their God informed them through Moses that he was going to do one final act that would begin their redemption process. This would be the most gruesome plague yet. A perfect lamb would be killed and the entire lamb must be eaten and the rest consumed by fire before morning. Its blood would be over the doorposts as a sign. Only those under the blood of the lamb would be saved. The family would obey God's commands and observe the first Passover in a state of preparedness. Their belt would be fastened, their sandals would be on their feet, and their staff would be in their hand. They would eat with haste to be ready for their salvation.

In Matthew 26, Jesus reveals the meaning of the bread and wine to his disciples. Jesus wanted to impress upon his disciples that the bread was his body broken for them and his blood would be shed for them, so that all of their past, present, and future sins would be forgiven. They were to symbolically eat and drink his body and blood. In other words, they were to ingest, actively take in, what Jesus was going to do for them into their innermost being. They would be doing this in the attitude of being prepared for their salvation with reverent fear.

Questions

John Calvin stated, "Christ is the only food for our soul." Contemplate what Christ did for you and how ingesting Christ into your innermost being should impact your attitude and state of preparedness for the salvation Christ purchased for you.

Our lives are under the covering of the blood of the Lamb, Jesus. Are you inviting those not under Christ's forgiveness to sojourn with you, so that our God may become their God and they may have their hearts circumcised (Romans 2:28-29) and participate in salvation?

Are you telling your family about God's story and how he has been faithful to bring about his plan of salvation for us? Are you explaining to your family how Jesus is the fulfillment of the salvation story?

Questions for Children

Jesus Storybook Bible, pg. 292

Because of our sin, all the things that we do that disobey God, we cannot be with God. God cannot be around sin. But God loves us so much and wants to be with us. He had a plan, a long time ago, to make a way for us to be with Him.

When people sinned in the Old Testament, God told them that they would have to give up something of theirs, like an animal. He called this a sacrifice. But these sacrifices did not completely fix the problem. There had to be a greater sacrifice, one that would be the end to all sacrifices. That is why God's Son, Jesus, came to live with us. He came to die for our sin.

What does the bread represent?

What does the wine represent?

Why did Jesus' body have to be broken and His blood poured out?

What are we supposed to remember when we eat the bread and drink the wine?

DAY FOUR: PRAYER IN GARDEN

Matthew 26:36-46

(36) Then Jesus went with them to a place called Gethsemane, and he said to his disciples, "Sit here, while I go over there and pray." (37) And taking with him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, he began to be sorrowful and troubled. (38) Then he said to them, "My soul is very sorrowful, even to death; remain here, and watch with me." (39) And going a little farther he fell on his face and prayed, saying, "My Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as you will." (40) And he came to the disciples and found them sleeping. And he said to Peter, "So, could you not watch with me one hour? (41) Watch and pray that you may not enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak." (42) Again, for the second time, he went away and prayed, "My Father, if this cannot pass unless I drink it, your will be done." (43) And again he came and found them sleeping, for their eyes were heavy. (44) So, leaving them again, he went away and prayed for the third time, saying the same words again. (45) Then he came to the disciples and said to them, "Sleep and take your rest later on. See, the hour is at hand, and the Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. (46) Rise, let us be going; see, my betrayer is at hand."

Teaching & Application

Many times in the Gospels we see the disciples falling short of what Christ has asked them to do. They simply did not understand the profound lessons that Christ would attempt to teach them. We see another great example of this in the Garden of Gethsemane. Three times he asks the disciples to watch and pray, and three times they fall asleep. This is yet another testament to our depravity outside of Christ. We cannot do it on our own; we need His strength to accomplish His Mission for His Kingdom.

Out of all the lessons we could probably learn from this text, the most important one I believe is this: "Not my will but yours be done." Jesus asks His Father three times that the cup would pass from him, and yet each time He ends it with, "Not my will but yours". Oh! how we should align our hearts with that of Christ's! Not my will Father but Yours be done! How many prayers have we prayed selfishly, yet when He answers it was not what we wanted? Let our prayers be that of Christ's. Not my will but yours be done!

Questions

At this point in time, did Jesus know God's will for what must happen? See Luke 9:21-22.

If Jesus knew God's will, why was he praying? Ultimately, what did Jesus choose?

Here Jesus proves He is the obedient Son. Can you think of times you have prayed for something, but never thought about whose will you were most concerned with?

Do you live your life attempting to fulfill your will or God's will?

Questions for Children

Jesus Storybook Bible, pg.294-296

The Bible said that Jesus was so sad that He was in physical pain. He understood that later that day He would not only have to suffer and die, but He would have all of the punishment of our sins and would be separated from God, His father. He knew the pain that was to come.

What did Jesus ask God to do?

What was God's answer?

What did Jesus tell His disciples to do?

Did they do it?

How can we as a family seek to know and obey God's will?

DAY FIVE: CRUCIFIXION

John 19:16-37

(16) So he delivered him over to them to be crucified. So they took Jesus, (17) and he went out, bearing his own cross, to the place called The Place of a Skull, which in Aramaic is called Golgotha. (18) There they crucified him, and with him two others, one on either side, and Jesus between them. (19) Pilate also wrote an inscription and put it on the cross. It read, "Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews." (20) Many of the Jews read this inscription, for the place where Jesus was crucified was near the city, and it was written in Aramaic, in Latin, and in Greek. (21) So the chief priests of the Jews said to Pilate, "Do not write, 'The King of the Jews,' but rather, 'This man said, I am King of the Jews.'" (22) Pilate answered, "What I have written I have written."

(23) When the soldiers had crucified Jesus, they took his garments and divided them into four parts, one part for each soldier; also his tunic. But the tunic was seamless, woven in one piece from top to bottom, (24) so they said to one another, "Let us not tear it, but cast lots for it to see whose it shall be." This was to fulfill the Scripture which says,

"They divided my garments among them, and for my clothing they cast lots."

So the soldiers did these things, (25) but standing by the cross of Jesus were his mother and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. (26) When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing nearby, he said to his mother, "Woman, behold, your son!" (27) Then he said to the disciple, "Behold, your mother!" And from that hour the disciple took her to his own home. (28) After this, Jesus, knowing that all was now finished, said (to fulfill the Scripture), "I thirst." (29) A jar full of sour wine stood there, so they put a sponge full of the sour wine on a hyssop branch and held it to his mouth. (30) When Jesus had received the sour wine, he said, "It is finished," and he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

(31) Since it was the day of Preparation, and so that the bodies would not remain on the cross on the Sabbath (for that Sabbath was a high day), the Jews asked Pilate that their legs might be broken and that they might be taken away. (32) So the soldiers came and broke the legs of the first, and of the other who had been crucified with him. (33) But when they came to Jesus and saw that he was already dead, they did not break his legs. (34) But one of the soldiers pierced his side with a spear, and at once there came out blood and water. (35) He who saw it has borne witness—his testimony is true, and he knows that he is telling the truth— that you also may believe. (36) For these things took place that the Scripture might be fulfilled: "Not one of his bones will be broken." (37) And again another Scripture says, "They will look on him whom they have pierced."

Teaching & Application

Martin Luther said that true contemplation of the crucifixion of Christ “is that which the heart is crushed and the conscience smitten. You must be overwhelmed by the frightful wrath of God who so hated sin that he spared not his only begotten Son.”

Historically, crucifixion was initiated and perfected by the Romans. It was reserved as the most painful mode of execution for the most despised people, such as slaves, the poor, and Roman citizens guilty of the worst high treason, and was carried out in public for all to see. The pain of crucifixion is so horrendous that a word was invented to explain it - *excruciating* - which literally means “from the cross.”

When we consider and understand God’s righteous hatred of sin, it shouldn’t come as any surprise that the penalty for such a heinous offense is deserving of the most severe penalty. However, you and I are the offenders in this story, as a result of our sin. We are deserving of the full wrath of God. Yet, as Isaiah prophesied many years before Christ, it was the will of the Lord to crush Christ, he has put him to grief (53:10). Paul writes, “For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God” (2 Cor 5:21).

As we focus on the cross in preparation for Good Friday and Easter, may we be overwhelmed by the grace, mercy, and love of God that was shown to us in that, while we were still sinners, Christ died for us and rescued us from our sin and God’s wrath. The perfectly innocent was tortured and sentenced to die in the most excruciating and humiliating way to rescue the hopelessly guilty.

Galatians 3:13

Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us - for it is written, “Cursed is everyone who is hanged on a tree.”

Questions

In this narrative, John the disciple brings out three fulfillments of Old Testament prophecies concerning Christ’s crucifixion (dividing garments, Jesus thirsting, broken bones). Why do you think John saw this as important to his readers, and what does this imply about God’s plan for saving sinners?

What is the significance in Jesus being crucified, the most wretched of deaths at that time, between criminals? What does this say about God’s hatred of sin and love for us?

When Jesus said, "It is finished," what had been completed? Think through the implications of this statement and name them.

Re-read vv.33-34. Why are these verses significant to the narrative and vital to the resurrection narrative?

How can Jesus' crucifixion be good news for the world?

Questions for Children

Jesus Storybook Bible, pg. 302

Long ago, prophets of God foretold a coming Savior who would rescue us from sin and the devil. They told about specific things that would happen during Jesus' death. What were 3 of those things that John mentions, and why do you think he included them in his story?

Crucifixion (being hung on a cross to die) was the most painful and embarrassing way to die. Jesus, God's son whom he loved very much, was crucified between criminals, even though He was without sin. God did this to save us so that we would not have to endure His wrath! What does that say about God's hatred for sin? What does that say about God's love for us?

When Jesus said, "It is finished," what do you think he was talking about? What was finished?

Why is the crucifixion of Jesus good news for you and I? How does it change things?

DAY SIX: BURIAL

John 19:38-42

(38) After these things Joseph of Arimathea, who was a disciple of Jesus, but secretly for fear of the Jews, asked Pilate that he might take away the body of Jesus, and Pilate gave him permission. So he came and took away his body. (39) Nicodemus also, who earlier had come to Jesus by night, came bringing a mixture of myrrh and aloe, about seventy-five pounds in weight. (40) So they took the body of Jesus and bound it in linen cloths with the spices, as is the burial custom of the Jews. (41) Now in the place where he was crucified there was a garden, and in the garden a new tomb in which no one had yet been laid. (42) So because of the Jewish day of Preparation, since the tomb was close at hand, they laid Jesus there.

Teaching & Application

The Jews typically buried people executed as criminals in a common burial site located outside of Jerusalem. Yet we find Jesus being buried in an unoccupied tomb prepared for the wealthy. The amount of spices used to prepare Jesus' dead body for its "anticipated decomposition" was also an amount typically reserved for the greatest of men.

Questions

Isaiah 53 was a prophecy about Jesus that was written over 700 years before Jesus came to the earth. What does Isaiah 53:9 predict about Jesus' burial?

Do you think such a prediction about Jesus could have happened by chance?

Does it appear that Jesus' followers are expecting Him to rise from the dead?

Though Christ died among the wicked (He was crucified between two thieves), it is absolutely remarkable that a prophet, 700 years earlier, foretold that the Lord would also be buried with the "rich." By bringing about the fulfillment of this prophecy, God gave compelling proof of the resurrection of the Lord Jesus. That's the way God wanted it to be. That's the way God caused it to work out. He wanted Jesus' followers to spend time with His body so they could see beyond a shadow of any doubt that He was really dead. God arranged for the body of Jesus to be placed in the tomb just a short distance away from Calvary, the entrance of which was covered by a great stone, sealed with the Roman seal, and guarded by Roman soldiers. On Easter morning, this open and empty tomb would be compelling proof that the dead man buried there on Friday was the risen Son of God!

Questions for Children

How do you think Jesus' friends felt while He was in the tomb?

Do you think that they knew He would rise from the dead? Why or why not?

Before He died, Jesus told his disciples and friends that He was going to die and rise from the dead, though they did not understand at that time.

However, the Roman soldiers remembered what Jesus said. They sealed the tomb tightly and placed Roman guards there. They set a huge stone in front of the opening of the tomb and stood guard in front of it. Why did they do this?

It's interesting that the guards remembered, but the disciples did not.

Are there things in the Bible that God tells you that you, just like the disciples, don't understand completely?

Sometimes we will understand better later, but we just need to remember what God said and trust Him that it is true.

DAY SEVEN: RESURRECTION DAY

John 20:1-29

(1) Now on the first day of the week Mary Magdalene came to the tomb early, while it was still dark, and saw that the stone had been taken away from the tomb. (2) So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him." (3) So Peter went out with the other disciple, and they were going toward the tomb. (4) Both of them were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. (5) And stooping to look in, he saw the linen cloths lying there, but he did not go in. (6) Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen cloths lying there, (7) and the face cloth, which had been on Jesus' head, not lying with the linen cloths but folded up in a place by itself. (8) Then the other disciple, who had reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; (9) for as yet they did not understand the Scripture, that he must rise from the dead. (10) Then the disciples went back to their homes.

(11) But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb, and as she wept she stooped to look into the tomb. (12) And she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had lain, one at the head and one at the feet. (13) They said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping?" She said to them, "They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him." (14) Having said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing, but she did not know that it was Jesus. (15) Jesus said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you seeking?" Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away." (16) Jesus said to her, "Mary." She turned and said to him in Aramaic, "Rabboni!" (which means Teacher). (17) Jesus said to her, "Do not cling to me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father; but go to my brothers and say to them, 'I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'" (18) Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, "I have seen the Lord"—and that he had said these things to her.

(19) On the evening of that day, the first day of the week, the doors being locked where the disciples were for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you." (20) When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord. (21) Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you." (22) And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. (23) If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you withhold forgiveness from any, it is withheld."

(24) Now Thomas, one of the Twelve, called the Twin, was not with them when Jesus came. (25) So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see in his hands the mark of the nails, and place my finger into the mark of the nails, and place my hand into his side, I will never believe."

(26) Eight days later, his disciples were inside again, and Thomas was with them.

Although the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." (27) Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here, and see my hands; and put out your hand, and place it in my side. Do not disbelieve, but believe." (28) Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" (29) Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."

Teaching & Application

Jesus and the prophets prepared the disciples for His resurrection, long before it occurred. In this passage, the disciples saw the empty tomb and believed the Scriptures. It gave them great hope in Christ. The resurrection also gives us great hope. It seals salvation for the believer. Romans 6:5 says, "For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his." This is great news! Today, believers can celebrate their sealed salvation through Christ's resurrection and His defeat of sin and death.

Questions

How do you respond to the resurrection? Like the disciples who saw the empty tomb and believed, like Mary who wept over the death of her Lord, or like Thomas who needed to see Jesus alive to believe?

Why is salvation apart from the law impossible, or incomplete, without the resurrection?

For believers, how does the resurrection shape how we live our daily lives?

Questions for Children

Jesus Storybook Bible, pg. 301

Jesus is alive! Jesus has the power to do anything! He died, but even death could not take away His power. Jesus knew that He would rise again from the dead; it was the plan that He had with God before they even created the world. Do you think knowing what would happen made it easier for Him to give up His life?

There is a word for this, it's called hope. Jesus had hope, and we too can have hope. Hope is expecting something to happen. Jesus, who knows everything, said that because He rose from the dead and will live forever, He has made a way for us to also live forever with Him. We will never have to be separated from God again! Because Jesus promised this, we have reason to hope!

In Luke 9:23-24, Jesus says that we are to "take up our cross daily and follow Him." What do you think that means?

He calls us to “lose our lives,” but what does He promise will happen if we obey?
Do you think it’s worth it?

How can you “take up your cross daily”?



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