

Five-Day Devotional:

When you encounter the risen Jesus, you cannot keep the message to yourself.

The resurrection was never meant to be kept quiet. Based on the sermon “Go and Tell, this 5-day devotional explores the life-changing reality of the empty tomb and the mission that follows. Discover how God moves obstacles, prepares hearts, and uses ordinary people to share the extraordinary hope found in the risen Christ.

Day 1: The Joy of Sharing Good News

Devotional

Think about the last time something wonderful happened in your family. Maybe your child took their first steps, got accepted to college, or your spouse received a promotion. What was your first instinct? You probably couldn't wait to tell someone! You called friends, posted on social media, or shared the news with anyone who would listen. This natural enthusiasm reveals something beautiful about human nature - we're wired to share joy. When life-changing moments happen, keeping them to ourselves feels almost impossible. The excitement bubbles over into conversations, and we find ourselves bringing up these precious moments again and again. Now consider this: if we get this excited about earthly blessings, how much more should we overflow with enthusiasm about encountering the risen Jesus? He's not just a good thing that happened to us - He's the best thing that could ever happen to anyone. Yet somehow, many of us find it easier to talk about our children's achievements than Christ's resurrection. The early disciples couldn't contain their excitement about Jesus. They had encountered the living Savior, and that encounter transformed everything. Their lives were so radically changed that they couldn't help but share what they had experienced. What if we approached sharing our faith with the same natural enthusiasm we have for sharing other good news in our lives?

Bible Verse

'And he said to them, "Go into all the world and proclaim the gospel to the whole creation.'" - Mark 16:15 (English Standard Version (ESV))

Reflection Question

What good news in your life have you been most excited to share recently, and how does that compare to your enthusiasm for sharing the gospel?

Quote

And what if we have a different encounter that's far more life altering than how our children impacted us or how our spouse impacts us? And of course I'm talking about with Jesus. So wouldn't we want to talk about Jesus with people? The way we willingly just share our daughter or our son or our spouse and the crazy things that they do.

Prayer

Lord, help me to see the incredible gift of salvation with fresh eyes. Give me the same natural enthusiasm for sharing Jesus that I have for sharing other joyful news in my life.

Day 2: When Obstacles Seem Too Big

Devotional

The women walking to Jesus' tomb that first Easter morning had a problem. They carried spices to anoint His body, but between them and their destination stood a massive stone. These weren't small rocks - tomb stones were enormous, often requiring multiple men to move them. As they walked, they worried: "Who will roll away the stone for us?" How often do we do the same thing? We see an obstacle in our path and immediately start measuring its size instead of trusting in God's power. We think about sharing our faith with a coworker, but then we remember how skeptical they are. We consider inviting someone to church, but we focus on all the reasons they might say no. We want to step out in faith, but the obstacles seem insurmountable. Here's what's remarkable about the women's story: when they arrived at the tomb, the stone had already been rolled away. God had moved their obstacle before they even got there. While they were worrying about the problem, God was already working on the solution. Too often, we stop moving forward because we're focused on the size of our obstacles rather than the power of our God. We measure the stone instead of trusting the Stone Mover. But what if we learned to step forward in faith, trusting that the same God who conquered death can handle whatever stands in our way?

Bible Verse

'Consecrate yourselves, for tomorrow the Lord will do wonders among you.' - Joshua 3:5
(English Standard Version (ESV))

Reflection Question

What obstacle in your life are you measuring instead of trusting God to move?

Quote

What if instead of measuring the size of the obstacles, we began trusting the power of the obstacle mover?

Prayer

Father, help me to stop focusing on the size of my obstacles and start trusting in Your unlimited power. Give me faith to step forward even when I can't see how You'll make a way.

Day 3: Preparing for God's Movement

Devotional

Before the Israelites crossed the Jordan River, God gave them specific instructions through Joshua: "Consecrate yourselves, for tomorrow the Lord will do wonders among you." The miracle was coming, but preparation was required first. Consecration means setting yourself apart, getting ready for God to move. It's like preparing for an important guest - you clean the house, set the table, and make everything ready. When we consecrate ourselves spiritually, we're creating space in our hearts and lives for God to work. Many believers wonder why they don't see God move in radical ways. Often, it's not because God isn't willing to work, but because we haven't prepared ourselves to receive His blessing. We want the miracle without the preparation, the breakthrough without the consecration. Think of it like being on a sailboat. You can't force the wind to blow, but you can hoist the sails. When the wind of the Holy Spirit comes, you'll be ready to move. Preparation doesn't earn God's blessing, but it creates space to receive it. This might mean spending time in prayer, studying God's Word, confessing sin, or simply quieting your heart before Him. It's about positioning yourself to recognize and respond when God moves. The women who went to the tomb were prepared with spices and dedication. When they encountered the empty tomb, they were ready to receive the greatest news in history.

Bible Verse

'But Peter and John answered them, "Whether it is right in the sight of God to listen to you rather than to God, you must judge, for we cannot but speak of what we have seen and heard.'" - Acts 4:19-20 (English Standard Version (ESV))

Reflection Question

How are you currently preparing your heart and life to receive God's movement and blessing?

Quote

Think of being on a sailboat. You cannot force the wind of the Holy Spirit to blow, but through consecration, we hoist the sails.

Prayer

Lord, help me to consecrate myself before You. Prepare my heart to recognize and respond when You move in my life and in the lives of those around me.

Day 4: The Reality of the Empty Tomb

Devotional

The empty tomb isn't a beautiful metaphor or symbolic language - it's historical reality. Jesus was physically, literally alive after being crucified and buried. This fact changes everything because it validates every claim Jesus ever made about Himself. The disciples' transformation proves this reality. These were the same men who scattered when Jesus was arrested, who hid behind locked doors in fear. Peter, their leader, had denied even knowing Jesus. Yet something happened that turned these frightened followers into bold witnesses who would eventually die for their faith. People don't willingly suffer imprisonment and death for something they know is false. But these men had seen the risen Jesus with their own eyes. They had touched His wounds, eaten with Him, and received His commission. The resurrection wasn't a story they hoped was true - it was an event they had witnessed. This reality means that no matter what you've done, no matter how far you've fallen, no matter how deep your shame runs, there is hope. If the tomb is empty, then hope is alive. Your past isn't too heavy, your shame isn't too deep, and your failures are not final. The same power that raised Jesus from the dead is available to transform your life today. The empty tomb declares that death has been defeated, sin has been conquered, and new life is possible for anyone who believes.

Bible Verse

'Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.' - 1 Peter 1:3 (English Standard Version (ESV))

Reflection Question

How does the reality of Jesus' physical resurrection change the way you view your current struggles and failures?

Quote

That means that our past isn't too heavy, our shame isn't too deep, and our failures are not final. If the tomb is empty, then Hope is alive.

Prayer

Thank You, Jesus, for conquering death and proving that no situation is hopeless. Help me to live in the power and hope of Your resurrection today.

Day 5: Ordinary People, Extraordinary Message

Devotional

When Jesus rose from the dead, who did He choose to be the first witnesses? Not the religious leaders, not the scholars, not the powerful or influential. He chose ordinary people - women who loved Him, disciples who had failed Him, followers who were still learning to trust Him. Peter's story is particularly powerful. He had denied Jesus three times around a charcoal fire, and the smell of that fire became associated with his greatest shame. But Jesus specifically included Peter in the resurrection message and later restored him around another charcoal fire. The smell that once reminded Peter of failure now reminded him of forgiveness. This is the heart of the gospel - God uses ordinary, flawed people to carry His extraordinary message. You don't need a theology degree or perfect presentation skills. You don't have to have all the answers or know every Bible verse. You just need to tell what Jesus has done in your life. The gospel was never designed to remain private. From the very beginning, resurrection was meant to travel through simple conversations, genuine relationships, and personal testimonies. The message spreads not through complicated arguments but through changed lives. You are qualified to share your faith not because you're perfect, but because you've been touched by the Perfect One. Your story of transformation, however simple it might seem, carries the same power that turned the world upside down two thousand years ago.

Bible Verse

'But we have this treasure in jars of clay, to show that the surpassing power belongs to God and not to us.' - 2 Corinthians 4:7 (English Standard Version (ESV))

Reflection Question

What simple story of God's work in your life could you share with someone this week?

Quote

We don't have to know everything, but we do have to tell what Jesus has done in our lives.

Prayer

God, thank You for choosing ordinary people like me to carry Your extraordinary message. Give me boldness to share my story of Your grace with others.