

DAY 6

Romans 6:9 NLT

What's your favorite thing about Easter? The candy, the baskets, the bunnies, or maybe a little bit of all three? Though it's fun to celebrate the season in those ways, it's important to keep the real meaning of the holiday in your mind: the death and resurrection of Jesus. This one amazing act changed the course of our lives forever, and that is something worth remembering as we celebrate the season this year.

Make a point to spend time listening to some of your favorite worship music this week. As you do, pause and praise God for the gift of Jesus and the remembrance of what He did for us this Easter.

DAY 7

John 3:16 NIV

One of the best parts of the Easter holiday is that it gives us a chance to remember and celebrate what Jesus did for us on the cross. His death and resurrection changed everything for our faith! They changed our lives, both here and in eternity. And that's something worth remembering!

To do that this Easter, commit this verse to memory. Text it to a friend, share it with someone in your small group, or talk to your parent about what it means to you. As you talk about it, think about what Jesus' death and resurrection mean for you.

DAILY DEVOTIONAL

FOR AN
everyday faith.

ECHO / WEEK 4

MIDDLE SCHOOL

DAY 1

John 20:1 NLT

People often visit gravesites to remember the loved ones they've lost. Can you imagine what might happen if you found one of those graves empty? It sounds crazy, but that's exactly what happened after Jesus' death. It's the very thing we celebrate every year at Easter! Why? Because that empty grave meant so much more than just a shocking surprise; it meant that Jesus defeated death, once and for all! It meant that everyone then and everyone now could trust that Jesus was exactly who He said He was—the Savior of the world!

Have you thought about what that empty grave means for you this Easter? Talk with a friend, small group leader, or parent about it this holiday season.

DAY 2

Luke 24:6-7 NLT

Have you ever received news that seemed too good to be true? Maybe it was a surprise you couldn't believe actually happened, or a family member getting a good report from a doctor, or even just a good grade on a test. When we hear good news that we really want to be true, it's easy to stop and question how it could be possible. That's exactly the way so many people felt when they heard the news that Jesus had risen! It must have been unbelievable to those who heard it first. Even still, two thousand years later, it's hard for many to believe. But we can trust that not only is it real, it's the good news that changes our lives forever.

This week, spend time thanking God for the good news of Jesus in your life.

DAY 3

1 John 5:11 NLT

One of the best parts of celebrating Easter is remembering what God did for us through Jesus. Before this, life felt hopeless, lonely, and cold. But after Jesus, hope for a bigger, better life—an eternal life—was restored. It's the kind of life that God wants us all to have. That's why God sent Jesus so that we could have it!

As you go through this week, pay attention to the things that make your life feel bigger and better. Maybe a good friend, someone being kind, or a fun surprise. As you notice them, let them serve as reminders of the bigger and better life Jesus came for you to have.

DAY 4

1 Peter 1:3 NLT

Wouldn't it be nice if life came with a reset button? Something we could use to just start over and undo all the bad choices we've made? While that may not be possible, Jesus does offer us a sort of reset for our lives. When we give our lives to Jesus, we are made new—born again as believers in Christ. And even though it doesn't mean our pasts are simply reset or undone, it does mean we get a fresh start with Jesus.

This week, talk with a friend or small group leader about some of the things you'd like to see Jesus reset in your life.

DAY 5

Isaiah 53:5 NLT

Written by Audri, age 14, from Mount Pleasant, Michigan, USA

Have you ever wondered why Jesus died on the cross? I have definitely asked that question before. It brings up a lot more questions for me, too! Like why did Jesus have to go through all of that suffering to die on the cross? We don't have to look far to find these answers. Because real people documented it for us when it happened, we can know that Jesus died on the cross for us and then came back to life so that we could be forgiven and connected with God forever.

Jesus loves us so much.

Jesus suffered because He loves us.

Jesus took our punishment because He loves us.

Jesus died and then came back to life because He loves us.

So, my challenge for you today is this: remember that. Especially as we celebrate Easter! Remember that Jesus died and came back to life because He loves you. Write it down somewhere you'll see it often this week!