



5 DAY DEVOTIONAL

He Saw & Believed (John 20:1-10)

Day 1: The Darkness Before Dawn

Reading: John 20:1-2; Psalm 30:5

Devotional: Mary Magdalene walked to the tomb in darkness, carrying spices for a funeral she never wanted to attend. Her grief was layered—loss upon loss upon loss. The stone was moved, and panic set in. Sometimes our darkest moments come just before breakthrough. Like Mary, we often can't see what God is doing behind the scenes. When life feels like one loss after another, remember that weeping may last for the night, but joy comes in the morning. God is working even when we can't see it. Your Friday sorrow may be setting the stage for Sunday's celebration.

Day 2: Running Toward the Unknown

Reading: John 20:3-5; Proverbs 3:5-6

Devotional: When Peter and John heard the news, they didn't hesitate—they ran. They ran toward confusion, toward the unknown, toward something that didn't make sense. John arrived first but stopped at the entrance, seeing but not understanding. How often do we stand at the threshold of faith, aware of Jesus but unchanged by Him? Awareness isn't enough. Familiarity with the story isn't transformation. You can grow up in church, know all the songs, and still not truly know Christ. Don't settle for standing at the doorway. Step inside. Investigate. Let curiosity lead you deeper into relationship with the risen King.

Day 3: Evidence Demands a Verdict

Reading: John 20:6-7; Acts 17:11

Devotional: Peter didn't just glance—he investigated. He examined the grave clothes, the folded face cloth, the impossible details. Dead men don't unwrap themselves. Dead men don't fold linens. Something supernatural happened here. Like Peter, we must wrestle with the evidence. Real faith often starts with honest questions, and God isn't intimidated by them. But investigation must lead somewhere. You can't spend your whole life circling Jesus, asking questions, and never deciding. The evidence of the empty tomb, the transformed lives, the enduring church—it all points to one reality: He is risen. The question isn't whether it happened. The question is: what will you do with what you see?

Day 4: From Sight to Revelation

Reading: John 20:8-9; Romans 10:17

Devotional: John stepped into the tomb and everything changed. Same evidence, same scene—but suddenly, he understood. He saw and believed. Yet even in that moment of faith, he didn't fully comprehend how it connected to Scripture. Faith may begin with what we see, but it's built and sustained by God's Word. Miracles are signposts pointing to the Miracle Worker. Restored marriages, broken addictions, supernatural peace—these point to God, but they're not the foundation. Your faith can't rest on experiences alone. It must be rooted in the unchanging truth of Scripture. Don't just know about God—know God personally through His Word.

Day 5: Level Up Your Sight

Reading: John 20:10-18; Philippians 2:9-11

Devotional: The disciples went home, but the story didn't end. Mary stayed and encountered the risen Christ personally. Today, you stand at a crossroads. Will you settle for surface-level awareness—knowing the Easter story but remaining unchanged? Will you stop at investigation—asking questions but never surrendering? Or will you move from seeing to believing to growing? Jesus isn't just a historical figure or a good teacher. He is the risen King, reigning right now, calling you to surrender completely. Every knee will one day bow. Why wait? Build your life on Him. Dive deep into His Word. Move from milk to meat. All hail King Jesus!



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

He Saw & Believed (John 20:1-10)

1. How does putting yourself in Mary Magdalene's shoes on that first Easter morning—expecting death rather than resurrection—change your understanding of the disciples' faith journey?
2. In what ways might you be stopping at 'blepo' (surface-level awareness of Jesus) rather than moving toward true belief and transformation in your own spiritual life?
3. What does Peter's investigative response ('theoreo') teach us about the role of honest questions and wrestling with evidence in developing authentic faith?
4. Why do you think John emphasized that even after believing, the disciples 'did not yet understand the scripture'? What does this reveal about the relationship between experience and Scripture in spiritual growth?
5. How can someone grow up in church, participate in Christian activities, and still not truly know Jesus as warned in Matthew 7? What distinguishes religious familiarity from genuine relationship?
6. The sermon describes faith as a spectrum from seeing to investigating to believing to growing. Where would you honestly place yourself on this spectrum and what would help you move forward?
7. What role does the Word of God play in sustaining faith during seasons when you cannot see or feel God's miraculous work in your circumstances?
8. How does the detail about the folded grave clothes challenge the grave robbery theory and point toward something supernatural? What does this teach us about examining evidence for the resurrection?
9. Why is it dangerous to build your faith on miracles you have seen rather than on the character and word of the miracle worker himself?
10. If every knee will one day bow and confess Jesus as Lord, what practical steps can you take this week to surrender more fully to His lordship rather than waiting?



SMALL GROUP GUIDE

He Saw & Believed (John 20:1-10)

Key Takeaway:

1. **Faith is a progression** - From observation (blepo) to investigation (theoreo) to revelation (adon) to growth through Scripture
2. **Confusion often precedes clarity** - The disciples didn't immediately understand; they experienced panic, urgency, and gradual comprehension
3. **Evidence demands a verdict** - You can't circle Jesus forever; at some point you must decide
4. **Belief is just the beginning** - True faith must be rooted in God's Word to last and grow
5. **The resurrection changes everything** - This isn't just history; it's an invitation to surrender to a reigning King

Discussion Questions:

Understanding the Passage

1. Read John 20:1-10 together. What details in this passage stand out to you that you might have missed before?
2. Why do you think John was so intentional about describing the progression of understanding (the different Greek words for "seeing")? What does this teach us about how faith develops?
3. The women came to the tomb expecting to finish a funeral, not witness a resurrection. How does understanding their perspective change how you read this familiar story?
4. Verse 9 says "they did not understand the scripture that he must rise from the dead" even after John believed. What does this tell us about the relationship between experience and Scripture in our faith?

Going Deeper

1. Where are you on the spectrum of sight?
 - a. **Blepo (awareness without change)** - familiar with Jesus but unchanged
 - b. **Theoreo (curiosity without surrender)** - investigating but not committing
 - c. **Adon (belief)** - you've placed faith in Christ
 - d. **Growth (maturing through Scripture)** - building your life on God's Word
 - i. *Be honest with yourself and the group about where you are.*
2. Pastor Josh said, "Lasting, enduring faith is not built on what you have seen God do. It's built on the truth of God's word." Have you ever experienced a time when your faith was tested, and you had to rely on Scripture rather than feelings or circumstances? Share that story.
3. Think about your spiritual journey. Was there a specific moment when you moved from "investigating" Jesus to "believing" in Jesus? What prompted that shift?
4. For those who have believed for a while: Are you still growing, or have you settled into "milk" when God has "meat" available? What would it look like for you to "level up" your faith?