

Five-Day Devotional: Wayward — Resurrection: The Way Home

Day 1 — We Were Farther Gone Than We Realized

Scripture: Romans 5:6–10; Ephesians 2:12–13 (ESV)

Devotion: The gospel begins with honest diagnosis: we were separated from God in ways deeper than we often admit. Romans reminds us that Christ died for the ungodly—he came when we were helpless and opposed. Ephesians calls to mind the realities of spiritual distance and alienation before Christ. The good news is not that we merely improve ourselves; it is that God reached across the chasm. Recognizing how lost we were helps us receive grace with gratitude, not pride.

Reflection questions:

- Where do you see evidence in your life of spiritual distance or self-sufficiency?
- How does remembering your need change the way you respond to God's grace?

Prayer prompt: Ask God to show you any places you've minimized your need for Jesus. Confess and receive his mercy.

Practical step: Read Romans 5 aloud and write one sentence describing what Christ's sacrifice means to you today.

Day 2 — Jesus Came All the Way and Paid What Kept Us Away

Scripture: Luke 19:10; 1 Peter 3:18; Hebrews 9:22 (ESV)

Devotion: Jesus didn't wait for us to climb back up—he came into the mess. The Savior seeks the lost, bears our sins, and satisfies the requirement for forgiveness. These passages remind us the work of salvation involved intentional pursuit and costly sacrifice. This is not a half-measure; it's the full, decisive act that removes the barrier between us and God.

Reflection questions:

- Which word or image from these verses strikes you most—"seeks," "saves," "suffered," or "atonement"? Why?
- How does knowing Jesus "paid it all" change how you approach God and others?

Prayer prompt: Thank Jesus for coming after you and for paying the cost of your reconciliation.

Practical step: If there's a barrier (habit, shame, fear) that keeps you from closeness with God, name it privately and pray for one concrete next step toward healing.

Day 3 — The Resurrection Secures Our Way Home

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 15:17 (ESV)

Devotion: If Christ remained dead, our hope falls apart. The resurrection is the hinge: it proves God's victory over sin and death and guarantees our reconciliation is real and lasting. Because Jesus rose, being "made right" with God is not theory but living reality. Resurrection means a future to hope in and power to live differently now.

Reflection questions:

- What hope does the resurrection give you in your current struggles?
- How might believing in a living Savior change your daily choices this week?

Prayer prompt: Praise God for the resurrection and ask for its power to shape how you live today.

Practical step: Share one short sentence with someone this week about how the resurrection gives you hope (text, post, or in conversation).

Day 4 — Come Home; Stop Living Like an Outsider

Scripture: 2 Corinthians 6:2; Galatians 4:4–7 (ESV)

Devotion: Coming home involves both a starting point (receiving salvation) and an ongoing reality (belonging). Paul reminds us that now is the time of salvation and that we are adopted as God's children—heirs who belong. Yet some who have come home still act like outsiders, distant and tentative. Coming home means living with the confidence and affection of a child: receiving, resting, and relating as one who belongs.

Reflection questions:

- In what ways are you still living like an outsider despite belonging to God?
- What would it look practically for you to live more fully as God's child this week?

Prayer prompt: Ask the Father to help you rest in your identity as his child and to remove habits of fear or distance.

Practical step: Practice a short daily act of belonging—speak the words “I am God's child” each morning and thank him for one specific provision.

Day 5 — Invite Others Home: Ambassadors of Reconciliation

Scripture: 2 Corinthians 5:18–20 (ESV)

Devotion: Those who have been reconciled are sent. The good news not only restores us; it equips us to invite others into that same restoration. Being an ambassador is less about eloquent arguments and more about living and speaking from a changed life. We represent Christ by reconciling attitudes, offering forgiveness, and extending invitations that say, “You can come home too.”

Reflection questions:

- Who in your circle needs to hear they can come home? What keeps you from inviting them?
- What small, loving way could you begin showing or telling them this week?

Prayer prompt: Pray for one specific person you will invite or pray for. Ask God to give you courage and a right word.

Practical step: Make one concrete outreach this week—invite someone to coffee, a church event, or simply to hear why this story matters to you.

Closing encouragement:

No one is too far gone to come home. Receive the grace offered through Christ's death and resurrection, live in the confidence of your belonging, and extend that invitation to others.