

## 5-Day Easter Devotional: When Darkness Lifts

### ## Day 1: Known Before Dawn

**\*\*Reading:\*\*** Psalm 139:13-18

**\*\*Devotional:\*\***

Before the sun ever kissed your face, God knew you. Before your first breath, He fashioned you with intentional love. The psalmist declares that you were "knit together" in your mother's womb—not assembled randomly, but crafted with divine purpose. This Easter season, let this truth anchor your soul: God's love for you didn't begin when you discovered Him; it began before time itself. You are not an accident or an afterthought. You are known, named, and deeply loved by the Creator of the universe. Today, sit with this reality. Let it reshape how you see yourself and silence the voices that tell you otherwise.

**\*\*Reflection Question:\*\*** How does knowing God loved you before you knew Him change your understanding of your identity and worth?

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### ## Day 2: Faith in the Darkness

**\*\*Reading:\*\*** John 20:1-10

**\*\*Devotional:\*\***

Mary arrived at the tomb "while it was still dark." How often do we find ourselves in that same half-light—confused, grieving, unable to see clearly? Yet the resurrection didn't wait for perfect understanding or ideal conditions. God moved in the darkness. Peter and John ran to investigate, finding not chaos but order—grave clothes folded, evidence of triumph rather than theft. Their faith began with incomplete understanding, and that's okay. God doesn't demand we have all the answers before we believe. He honors honest seeking over

perfect knowledge. Your questions don't disqualify you from faith; they position you for deeper encounter. Keep running toward the tomb, even when you can't yet see clearly.

**Reflection Question:** What "darkness" are you standing in today that requires faith rather than sight?

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### ## Day 3: The Voice That Calls Your Name

**Reading:** John 20:11-16

**Devotional:**

Through her tears, Mary couldn't recognize Jesus—until He spoke her name. "Mary." One word shattered her despair and restored her identity. The same voice that spoke galaxies into existence speaks your name with tender intimacy. This is the heart of resurrection faith: it's not merely a historical event but a personal encounter. Jesus doesn't call you "sinner" or "failure" or by your worst mistake. He calls you by name, with covenant love. When Mary responded "Rabboni"—MY Teacher—she revealed the essence of saving faith. Not "a" teacher among many, but MY Savior, MY Lord. The risen Christ wants relationship with you personally. Today, listen for His voice calling your name in the quiet places of your heart.

**Reflection Question:** Can you hear Jesus calling your name? How does personal relationship with Christ differ from merely knowing about Him?

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### ## Day 4: From Servants to Siblings

**Reading:** Romans 8:14-17

**\*\*Devotional:\*\***

After His resurrection, Jesus gave Mary a stunning message: "Go to My brothers." This was the first time He called His disciples "brothers." The cross completed our adoption into God's family. We are no longer merely servants following commands; we are siblings sharing an inheritance. Through Christ, God becomes "My Father and your Father." This isn't pretend participation or honorary membership—it's real family relationship. You have been brought from death to life, from slavery to sonship, from orphan to heir. The resurrection didn't just open the tomb; it opened the family. You belong. You have access. You share in the inheritance. Live today as the beloved child you truly are.

**\*\*Reflection Question:\*\*** How would your daily life change if you truly lived as God's adopted child rather than just His servant?

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**## Day 5: Hope That Anchors**

**\*\*Reading:\*\*** 1 Peter 1:3-9

**\*\*Devotional:\*\***

Christians don't wish—we wait. Our hope isn't optimistic thinking or positive vibes; it's confident expectation anchored in God's unchanging character. Peter writes that through Christ's resurrection, we have been given "a living hope." This hope doesn't depend on circumstances aligning or problems disappearing. It rests on the reality that the same power that raised Jesus from death is at work in your life. The empty tomb isn't just history; it's your future. Death is not final. Sin is not permanent. Despair is not your destiny. Whatever tomb you're staring at today—broken relationships, shattered dreams, overwhelming loss—the resurrection declares it's not the end. The dawn has broken. Grace is not empty. Go and tell.

**\*\*Reflection Question:\*\*** What specific situation in your life needs the hope of resurrection power today? How can you actively place your trust in God's promises rather than your circumstances?

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**\*\*Closing Prayer:\*\***

Lord Jesus, thank You that You call us by name out of darkness into Your marvelous light. Help us to live as those who have encountered the risen Savior—not just as historical fact, but as present reality. May the power of Your resurrection transform our daily lives, anchor our hope, and compel us to share the good news with others. In Your name, Amen.