5-Day Devotional based on Sunday's message:



ULTIMATE MISSION ACCOMPLISHED: PART 3 OF 4 Christ is Risen - Victory and the Mission EASTER SUNDAY

Provided by



AKRON GRACE CHURCH

101 N. 7th Street, Akron PA www.akrongrace.com

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Day 1: From Confusion to Clarity

Devotional

Life often presents us with moments that don't make sense at first glance. Like Mary Magdalene at the empty tomb, we sometimes encounter situations that leave us confused and questioning. What appears to be a loss or failure from our limited perspective might actually be God working in ways we don't yet understand. The empty tomb reminds us that God's plans often unfold differently than we expect, but His purposes are always greater than our perceptions.

Bible Verse

"Early on Sunday morning, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and found that the stone had been rolled away from the entrance." - John 20:1

Reflection Question

When have you experienced a situation that initially seemed like a setback but later revealed itself as part of God's greater plan?

Quote

Jesus resurrection is the final victory of God's mission to rescue and restore all of humanity. However, the empty tomb wasn't originally perceived with clarity. It actually began with confusion.

Prayer

Lord, help me trust Your perfect plan even when I don't understand. Give me faith to see beyond my confusion and rest in Your wisdom. Amen.

Day 2: The Power of Personal Encounter

Devotional

In our moments of deepest grief and confusion, God meets us personally. Just as Jesus called Mary near the empty tomb, He knows and calls each of us individually. This intimate encounter transformed Mary's sorrow into joy, her confusion into clarity, and her despair into hope. God doesn't just offer us religious principles, He offers us a personal relationship that can transform our entire perspective.

Bible Verse

"For his anger lasts only a moment, but his favor lasts a lifetime! Weeping may last through the night, but joy comes with the morning." - Psalm 30:5

Reflection Question

How has God made His presence personal to you in times of difficulty?

Quote

From Mary's perspective, all is lost. She's grieving a mission that was cut short. She is grieving a life that no longer lives. But Jesus, in the absolutely most personal and intimate way possible, speaks Mary's name. In verse 16, he simply says, Mary. And at that moment, the sheep recognizes her shepherd. At that very moment, she knows who he is.

Prayer

Father, thank You for knowing me personally. Help me to recognize Your voice and feel Your presence in both joy and sorrow. Amen.

Day 3: Embracing New Creation

Devotional

The resurrection isn't about returning to the way things were. The resurrection is about stepping into something entirely new. When we encounter the risen Christ, we're invited into a new way of living. Like the first disciples, we're called to leave behind our old perspectives and embrace the new life God offers. This transformation isn't just a one-time event but an ongoing journey of becoming who God created us to be.

Bible Verse

"This means that anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun!" - 2 Corinthians 5:17

Reflection Question

What old patterns or perspectives might God be asking you to leave behind as you embrace new life in Christ?

Quote

This is not about Jesus just being alive again. It's about Jesus defeating sin and death for all of us and initiating a new creation in each of us.

Prayer

Lord, make me new. Help me embrace the transformation You're working in my life, even when change feels uncomfortable. Amen.

Day 4: Faith Before Understanding

Devotional

Sometimes we wait for complete understanding before we're willing to believe. Yet, the resurrection story teaches us that faith often precedes full comprehension. The disciples believed before they fully understood all the implications of the empty tomb. This same pattern continues today. We're invited to trust God's work in our lives even when we don't have all the answers.

Bible Verse

"If you openly declare that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved." - Romans 10:9

Reflection Question

What area of your life is God asking you to trust Him in, even before you have complete understanding?

Quote

Belief, my friends, often begins before full understanding. The tomb invites us not just to explain, but to respond in faith.

Prayer

God, strengthen my faith. Help me trust You even when I don't fully understand Your ways. Amen.

Day 5: Sent with Purpose

Devotional

The resurrection story doesn't end at the empty tomb. The resurrection story launches a mission. Mary Magdalene became the first witness and missionary of the resurrection. Like her, we're not just saved by the resurrection, we're sent by it. Each of us has been given a unique role in sharing this transformative message with others. Our encounter with the risen Christ propels us into purpose.

Bible Verse

"Again he said, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I am sending you." Then he breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit." - John 20:21-22

Reflection Question

How is God calling you to share your resurrection story with others in your sphere of influence?

Quote

My friends, you are not just saved by the resurrection, you are sent by it.

Prayer

Lord, give me courage to share Your story. Help me be faithful in the mission You've given me. Amen.