

MON 4-10

"And I will give them singleness of heart and put a new spirit within them. I will take away their stony, stubborn heart and give them a tender, responsive heart," [Ezekiel 11:19, NLT] How has knowing Jesus transformed your heart? How will that change the choices you make today? Praise God for a new start!

PRAY: God, I want to walk with you today. Continually bring me back to your ways, weaning me off of things that distract from the abundant life you have for me. Amen.

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TUES 4-11

"He has made everything beautiful in its time. He has also set eternity in the human heart; yet no one can fathom what God has done from beginning to end. [Eccles. 3:11, NIV] We were created with a longing for an eternal purpose! If we use our time to accomplish things that matter to God, we will find fulfillment.

PRAY: Eternal God, thank you for creating me in your image. Thank you for placing a longing for you in my heart. Help me to lean into longing that rather than ignoring it. Amen.

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WED 4-12

"No, dear brothers and sisters, I have not achieved it, but I focus on this one thing: Forgetting the past and looking forward to what lies ahead..." [Philippians 3:13, NLT] The resurrection power of Jesus inspired Paul to focus on pressing on toward the future. Our past failure is no longer a factor!

PRAY: Precious Jesus, I praise you for resurrecting the dead and broken parts of my life. Move me away from shame and regret and help me to look forward with hope. Amen.

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THURS 4-13

"My health may fail, and my spirit may grow weak, but God remains the strength of my heart; he is mine forever." [Psalm 73:26, NLT] We have a forever-connection to the perfect source of strength. When you are feeling weary, rest in God's rejuvenating presence.

PRAY: Mighty God, without you, I'm not sure how I would handle life. Thank you for holding me up and for guiding me through the ups and downs. Amen.

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FRI 4-14

"Grow in grace and understanding of our Master and Savior, Jesus Christ." [2 Peter 3:18, MSG] Peter states our purpose clearly. Our spiritual growth depends on our willingness to learn more about the life and teachings of Jesus and to practice what we learn. It won't be by accident that we become all that God intends for us to be!

PRAY: Great God, thank you for the perfect model of love that you shared with the world. Grow in me the desire to put my time and energy into learning how to live out this love each day. Amen.

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SAT 4-15

"Yes, I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who remain in me, and I in them, will produce much fruit. For apart from me you can do nothing." [John 15:5 NLT] We derive our health and productivity from our connection to Christ. Seek his presence and power in all that you do.

PRAY: Lord Jesus, mold me and make me more like you. Mold my mind to perceive the world like you would. Make my heart to love like you love. Thank you for pursuing me. Amen.

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Intro The power of the Easter story can be summed up with two action words--believe and love. Believing in the resurrection story brings us hope for a new, transformed life. Loving makes us more like Jesus as we bring hope to others. As we allow these to take root and grow in our lives, we find deep purpose and are able to see our priorities more clearly.

Reflect

- There is a saying--whatever you feed, grows. We make daily choices that feed different things. We can feed our faith, we can feed our fears, we can feed our addictions--what other examples come to mind?
- In this season, what have you spent the most energy feeding? How has that impacted your life?
- Read Ephesians 4:17-32. The hope of Easter is the promise of new life in Christ! Jesus meets us where we are and brings resurrection to the dead areas of our lives.
 - After reading the scripture passage, are there any specific behaviors you can think of that are feeding negative things in your life?
 - When you think about changing those behaviors, what is the biggest hurdle you face?
- How has your belief in Jesus changed your perspective about what is truly important in life? Does your daily or weekly schedule reflect that in the way that your time and resources are allocated?
- Would you say you intentionally plan ways to show love to others? If not, how can you make specific time for that each week?
- 1 Peter 3:15 says, "Instead, you must worship Christ as Lord of your life. And if someone asks about your hope as a believer, always be ready to explain it." [NLT] What is your resurrection story? Ask God to help you be ready and confident as you show love by sharing how your life has been transformed.

Pray Lord Jesus, thank you for this life-long journey of transformation. Show me how you are leading me to make changes that feed into my purpose. Help my courage grow so I will be open to sharing your life-giving hope with others. Amen.

What did I learn?

How might it apply in my life?

What is a next step I can take?
