



**MON 4-25**

- ✓ SCRIPTURE Acts 1:3
- ✓ THOUGHT "After his suffering, he presented himself to them and gave many convincing proofs that he was alive. He appeared to them over a period of forty days and spoke about the kingdom of God." [NIV] The resurrection was the catalyst for spreading the hope that Christ brought to the world. The early believers had an unshakable confidence in the power of Christ because they saw it with their own eyes. How is your confidence moving you into action?
- ✓ PRAYER Thank you, God, for saving us through Christ. Help me to live by faith and not by sight, believing just as confidently as those who walked with Jesus. Help my life to make a difference as I share my hope. Amen.

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**TUES 4-26**

- ✓ SCRIPTURE Acts 2:42
- ✓ THOUGHT "The believers devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching, to the community, to their shared meals, and to their prayers." [CEB] The first group of Christ followers valued their connection with one another. Consider the strength of your connection to other believers. We receive encouragement and support when we gather together!
- ✓ PRAYER Loving God, help me to seek out relationships with other believers. I want to grow my knowledge of you and strengthen my faith. Help me to give of my time to connect with others who need my support. Amen.

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**WED 4-27**

- ✓ SCRIPTURE Psalm 89:1
- ✓ THOUGHT "I will sing of the LORD's unfailing love forever! Young and old will hear of your faithfulness." [NLT] When we have encountered God and our lives have been transformed, we can't help but share about it! The work of God's spirit of love in us is something that has the power to truly make a difference for someone else. This should be an encouragement to us to boldly share about God's goodness.
- ✓ PRAYER Almighty God, thank you for the ways you are always working in my life. The evidence of your love is clear in my life, and I pray for the courage to make it known to others who need it in their lives. Amen.

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### THURS 4-28

- ✓ SCRIPTURE John 15:12-13
- ✓ THOUGHT "This is my commandment: Love each other in the same way I have loved you. There is no greater love than to lay down one's life for one's friends." [NLT] Jesus gave us this important instruction knowing he would demonstrate this in the most extreme and literal way. If Christ values friendship and care to that extent, how does that change your perspective on how far you will go to help others?
- ✓ PRAYER Loving God, I know that I can't love others the way Christ did until I put my life completely into your hands. Help me to grow in humility, empathy, and servanthood. Amen.

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### FRI 4-29

- ✓ SCRIPTURE 1 Thessalonians 5:14
- ✓ THOUGHT "And we urge you, brothers and sisters, warn those who are idle and disruptive, encourage the disheartened, help the weak, be patient with everyone." [NIV] The early believers were instructed to maintain unity and connection in some specific ways. How do these guidelines work in your life? Do you find it difficult or easy to maintain peace in your relationships? Ask God for guidance.
- ✓ PRAYER God of peace, change my heart so I can see the people in my life through your eyes. Empower me to be a source of strength for those who need my support. Grow my patience and longing for unity. Amen.

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### SAT 4-30

- ✓ SCRIPTURE Galatians 6:2
- ✓ THOUGHT "Share each other's burdens, and in this way obey the law of Christ." [NLT] Take a moment to bring to mind someone specific who is going through a hard time right now. Ask God to show you a way to make a difference in their life today. Maybe it's a phone call, hand-written note, or an invitation to chat over coffee. Being Jesus to people can mean doing simple acts that show someone you care!
- ✓ PRAYER Lord Jesus, sometimes I complicate what it means to show your love. Increase my awareness. Help me to be more thoughtful, considering those around me and finding ways to show compassion. Thank you for your example of selflessness. Amen.

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# DIGGING DEEPER

✓ **Intro**    **If you were raised on a version of Christianity that relied on the Bible as the foundation of faith, a version that was eventually dismantled by academia or the realities of life, maybe it's time for you to change your mind about Jesus. Maybe it's time for you to consider the version of Christianity that relies on resurrection of Jesus as its foundation. If you gave up your faith because of something about or in the Bible, maybe you gave up unnecessarily.**

✓ **Reflect**

- What were you taught as a child about the Bible's significance? Who were your most important faith influences at the time? Would you say that was the foundation of your faith?
- At what point did you begin to question your childhood faith? What influenced your doubt?
- If you were to ask your friends why they don't follow Jesus, what do you think they would say? What might they say is the foundation of the Christian faith?
- Read Acts 2:22-39. Many in Peter's audience were stopped in their tracks at his words. What moved them most about what he said? How can his message encourage us to change our minds about where to place our confidence?
- As you think about the next generation and consider raising kids and grandkids, what problems do you think we face in helping them establish a firm foundation of faith?
- Think about the early church and its people, who put their complete trust in Jesus without having a Bible in front of them. What would need to change in order for you to have that kind of faith? How can you begin to explore a faith that's built on the foundation of the resurrection of Jesus?

✓ **Consider**    **When you lose your fear of death, all fear is gone. The disciples' hope was not in the Scriptures but what they had seen and heard. The reason for our faith in Jesus--and thus our hope--is the resurrection. We must reclaim this hope for the sake of the generation that left faith and for the sake of future generations as well.**



# DIGGING DEEPER

✓ What did I learn? \_\_\_\_\_  
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✓ How might it apply in my life? \_\_\_\_\_  
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✓ What is a next step I can take? \_\_\_\_\_  
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