

# was still with you in Galilee: 'The Son of Man must be delivered over to the hands of sinners, be crucified and on the third day be raised again." [NIV] The resurrection of Christ brings us new life. We get to honor that every day in the way that we live. Start this week with an intention of acknowledging this gift of new life when you wake up each dau.

**MON 4-18** 

Luke 24:6-7

**SCRIPTURE** 

THOUGHT

PRAYER	Lord Jesus, thank you for another day to experience your love. Renew my mind and heart as I choose to follow your ways each day. Amen.
TUES 4-	
SCRIPTURE	1 Peter 1:3
THOUGHT	"All praise to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. It is by his great mercy that we have been born again, because God raised Jesus Christ from the dead. Now we live with great expectation" [NLT] Jesus is our living hope! The mercy of God is a priceless treasure. No matter your past failures, praise God, you are forgiven!
PRAYER	Merciful God, only you can make me new again. I thank you for your

"He is not here; he has risen! Remember how he told you, while he

PRAYER	Merciful God, only you can make me new again. I thank you for your
	forgiveness and I pray you would continually transform the way I think
	so I can more fully experience the hope Christ offers. Amen.

OTES:	

#### WED 4-20 **SCRIPTURE**

Hebrews 13:20-21

/ THOUGHT "May the God of peace, who brought back the great shepherd of the sheep, our Lord Jesus, from the dead by the blood of the eternal covenant, equip you with every good thing to do his will, by developing in us what pleases him through Jesus Christ. To him be the glory forever and always. Amen." [CEB] We can ask God to equip us to do what pleases him. The love of Jesus at work in us brings God glory! **PRAYER** Almighty God, thank you that Jesus is always with me like a shepherd with his sheep. Help me grow in knowledge and experience so that I can serve you well and make your glory known. Amen. NOTES:



### **THURS 4-21**

✓ SCRIPTURE	2 Corinthians 4:16
✓ THOUGHT	"Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day." [NIV] Renewal comes from our constant connection with the love of Jesus in our lives. Say this breath prayer several times during the day today as a reminder to stay centered on Christ. As you inhale, say, "Precious Jesus," and as you exhale, say, "renew my mind."
✓ PRAYER	Lord Jesus, what a comfort to recognize your presence throughout my day. Thank you for renewing me day by day. Help me not to lose heart during difficult times, but rather to be encouraged by your love. Amen.

NOTES:\_\_\_\_\_

#### FRI 4-22 SCRIPTURE

Psalm 37:23-24

THOUGHT "The LORD directs the steps of the godly. He delights in every detail of their lives. Though they stumble, they will never fall, for the Lord holds them by the hand." [NLT] The psalmist gives us a picture of a God who is near. At times we might feel lonely or unsure of God's involvement with us, but we can have faith that God will provide guidance as we make space in our lives to come close and listen.
PRAYER Almighty God, it blows my mind that you care so deeply for me and know me so well. Forgive me when I become distant. I know I need to guard against filling my schedule to the point that I neglect seeking you. Amen.

### SAT 4-23

 SCRIPTURE 2 Corinthians 5:17
THOUGHT "So then, if anyone is in Christ, that person is part of the new creation. The old things have gone away, and look, new things have arrived!" [CEB] We love the thought of something new, don't we? The good news of Christ means that we can always experience newness in our lives. No matter our struggles or the ways we continue to fail, God's mercies are new each day. What a gift!
PRAYER Lord Jesus, thank you that you are always creating something new in my life. I want to respond with cooperation so that your spirit can continually freshen up the way I think, the decisions I make, and the way I respond to others. Amen.



# **DIGGING DEEPER**

✓ Intro Following Jesus' crucifixion, his followers expected what anyone expects after someone dies--that the person would remain that way. But one of Jesus' followers, John, gave an eyewitness account that summarized the main event surrounding Christianity: Jesus rose from the dead. In this seventh and final sign that John documents, he makes the case that Jesus is exactly who he claimed to be.

#### ✓ Reflect

- Growing up, what was Easter like for you?
- When was the last time you were surprised by something that was completely unexpected?
- The four Gospels focus on the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus. When you think of Jesus, which of those three words most comes to mind?
- Read John 19:16-42, where the apostle John recounts the crucifixion of Jesus.
  - What are some details about this story that would lead a reader to believe this actually happened?
  - What stands out to you about this passage?
  - What emotions must the disciples have been feeling?
- Read John 20:1-8, 24-28, where the apostle John recounts the resurrection of Jesus.
  - What are some details about this story that would lead a reader to believe this actually happened?
  - What stands out to you about this passage?
  - Who can you relate to most from these passages: Peter, John, or Thomas? What makes you say that?
- Read John 20:29. While many eyewitnesses believed in Jesus because of what they saw firsthand, why do you think Jesus called people--such as us--who were not eyewitnesses to the resurrection "Blessed"?
- ✓ Consider Jesus performed many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not recorded in this book. But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name. [John 20:30-31 NIV]



# **DIGGING DEEPER**

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What did I learn?

✓ How might it apply in my life? \_\_\_\_\_

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/	What is a next step I can take?