

DAY 6

LUKE 22:41-43, NLT

Have you ever faced a difficult situation and didn't know what to do? The truth is, we all have before, and we all will again. This is part of the human experience! Thankfully, we have Jesus' example to look back on in moments just like this.

When Jesus knew He was about to be crucified, He prayed, asking for strength and God's will to be done. Even though it was difficult, Jesus turned to God and trusted God's plan for His life. Jesus showed us that prayer is not just for when things are easy; it's also for when we need God most of all. His comfort, wisdom, and peace are always there for us, and all we must do to find them is seek Him. This Easter, remember that, just like Jesus, we can turn to God no matter what we face. Through the highs and lows, God is there to guide us.

This week, take a few moments to talk with God about what you are walking through. Remember, God is always by your side.

DAY 7

JOHN 11:25-26, NIV

Have you ever wondered what it means to be a leader? Sometimes, we think leaders are the people who have all the answers and know exactly what to do. They're the ones who have the loudest voice that gets everyone's attention and tells them what to do.

In reality, Jesus showed us other attributes of a real leader. Jesus led by showing love, speaking truth, offering hope, and giving grace. In Scripture, Jesus says that whoever believes in Him will live, and living for Jesus also means leading like Jesus! Following His example, we can lead others by pointing them to the hope and life that is found in Jesus.

This Easter, think about how you can show the love, truth, and hope of Jesus by serving others, being kind, and inviting friends to church. In fact, be specific! What friend do you want to bring to church with you? How can you be a light and leader to them just as Jesus has been for you?

DAILY DEVOTIONAL

FOR AN
everyday faith.

THE COMEBACK KID / WEEK 4

MIDDLE SCHOOL

DAY 1

JOHN 15:13, NLT

Have you ever had someone do something kind for you even when you felt you didn't deserve or expect it? Maybe you did something wrong, and that person forgave you. Maybe someone surprised you with your favorite snack just because they wanted to. Or maybe you messed up at home, and your parent showed you grace.

Easter is a reminder of the kindest thing anyone could ever do—the kindest thing anyone will ever do for us! Easter is the reminder that Jesus gave His life for us, dying on the cross and showing the most incredible love possible. It's a selfless act we did not deserve and could ever expect someone to do for us. And yet out of His love for us, Jesus laid down His life.

What can you do this week to show kindness to the people around you? Who can you say encouraging words to? Who can you help or surprise? Who can you love the way Jesus loves us?

DAY 2

MATTHEW 18:21-22, NLT

Sometimes, letting go of things that upset us can be challenging. Maybe someone said something hurtful, or you made a decision you wish you hadn't, or someone really let you down. It can be easy to hold on to grudges or let our frustrations consume our thoughts, but Jesus teaches us a better way.

Jesus calls us to forgive, not once, not twice, but repeatedly. The story of Easter reminds us that Jesus gave His life on the cross so we could experience forgiveness. With that, He wants us to do the same for others and ourselves. Jesus wants us to forgive because it leads us to true freedom and peace. Just like Jesus forgave us, we can show that same love and grace in situations that have weighed heavily on our minds. And we can do that with forgiveness.

This week, reflect on Jesus' command and choose to forgive someone, whether a friend, family member, or even yourself.

DAY 3

JOSHUA 1:9, NLT

Have you ever been nervous about trying something new? Maybe you've felt the pressure before a big exam, stepping onto the field, or speaking up in class. We all get moments like that—times when we feel like we're not good enough or we might fail.

But here's the thing: God doesn't want us to live in fear. In fact, He's with us in every challenge we face. When we remember Easter, we see how Jesus faced the biggest challenge of all: dying on the cross for us. Even though He knew it would be hard, He chose courage because He knew the purpose behind it was greater.

In the same way Jesus had courage, we can have it, too. When life gets tough, remind yourself that, just like with Jesus, God is with you. God's strength is there to help you push through whatever feels overwhelming.

Think about this: What challenges are you dealing with right now? How can remembering that God gives you strength help you face them with more courage?

DAY 4

JOHN 15:12, NIV

Have you ever helped someone without expecting anything in return? Maybe you helped a classmate with homework because you understood the material. Maybe you included someone you saw sitting alone because you didn't want them to be left out. Maybe you stood up for someone you noticed being treated poorly.

Jesus calls us to serve others, not because we want praise or rewards, but because it is the right thing to do. Jesus spent His life putting others first, and when He died on the cross, He gave us the most remarkable example of selfless love.

This Easter, challenge yourself to serve others like Jesus did by being kind to a peer, helping your family, or showing compassion to someone hurting. Serve someone because Jesus calls you to love, not because you want something in return.

DAY 5

EPHESIANS 5:1-2, NIV

Written by Emma Moore, age 21, from Bradenton, FL

Have you ever played Simon Says? It's almost funny how much little kids truly enjoy such a simple game. I think there is a part of it that ties to our humanity. "Simon Says" the game is simple: you just do what he says, and when Simon does not say to do something, you simply do not do it. I think we all like having an example of Simon in our lives to follow. As followers of Jesus we should treat God like the leader of Simon says. When we read the Bible, we see how Jesus demonstrated who God is in every aspect of His life here on earth. We shouldn't just do what Jesus says but also do what He did. This verse talks about how we should follow God's example, just like Jesus did, and do this by walking in the way of love and serving others. In your

life today, look for ways you can demonstrate love through serving someone. This might look like letting your younger sibling watch the show they want to watch instead of your favorite show or helping your parents clean up after dinner. These moments may feel like small sacrifices, but each one helps us follow Jesus' example and bring us closer to Him.