

Daily Devotionals - April 20, 2025



🔼 Day 1: The Stone Was Rolled Away for You

Scripture:

"There was a violent earthquake, for an angel of the Lord came down from heaven and, going to the tomb, rolled back the stone and sat on it." —Matthew 28:2 (NIV)

Reflection:

Easter begins with a shaking. A stone sealed Jesus' tomb—heavy, final, impossible to move. But God sent an angel to roll it away. Not for Jesus' escape, but for our witness. The empty tomb wasn't hidden. It was opened for us to see with our own eyes that death didn't win. What stones feel too heavy in your life? Fear, shame, doubt, sin? Easter reminds us that God still moves what we cannot. He still breaks open what looks sealed. Resurrection is not just Jesus' story—it's ours. The tomb is empty, and the way is open. Step into that freedom today.

Story:

Jake felt stuck in his past. He believed in God but quietly wondered if grace really applied to him. One Easter morning, his church placed a large stone near the altar. The pastor invited everyone to write down a burden and leave it at the stone. Jake hesitated but wrote "guilt" and dropped it off. As the service ended, the pastor rolled the stone away, revealing the words: "It is finished." That moment marked a turning point. For the first time, Jake believed the resurrection meant freedom for him—not just in theory, but in reality.

Prayer:

Jesus, thank You for the empty tomb and the hope it brings. Thank You for rolling away the stones in my life—the ones I can't move on my own. I confess the things that weigh me down: fear, regret, doubt, and sin. Today, I step into the freedom You've already won. Help me believe with my whole heart that the same power that raised You is at work in me. Roll away anything that keeps me from fully living in Your grace. Amen.



🕰 Day 2: He Knows Your Name

Scripture:

"Jesus said to her, 'Mary.' She turned toward him and cried out in Aramaic, 'Rabboni!' (which means 'Teacher')." —John 20:16 (NIV)

Reflection:

Mary didn't recognize Jesus until He spoke her name. Grief clouded her vision, but one word — Mary—cut through the pain. That's how personal our Savior is. He doesn't just rise in power— He meets us in intimacy. Jesus knows your name, your story, your sorrow, and your joy. He calls you not as a stranger but as a friend. In a noisy world full of voices, His voice speaks directly to your heart. This Easter week, listen. Be still. The risen Jesus is not distant. He is close enough to whisper your name—and when you hear it, everything changes.

Story:

After losing her job unexpectedly, Trina felt invisible. Weeks passed with no interviews and mounting bills. One morning, she went for a walk to clear her head. A friend from church happened to drive by, stopped, and called out, "Trina! I've been thinking about you!" That moment—just hearing her name—moved her to tears. It reminded her she wasn't forgotten. Later that week, she opened her Bible to John 20 and wept when she read how Jesus said "Mary." She realized that even when the world overlooks you, Jesus never does. He sees, He knows, and He calls us by name.

Prayer:

Jesus, thank You for being personal. You're not just the Savior of the world—you're the One who knows my name. In moments when I feel unseen or forgotten, remind me that You are near. Speak to my heart in a way I can hear You clearly. Help me quiet the noise around me so I can listen for Your voice. And when You call, help me respond with the same joy Mary felt that first Easter morning. Thank You for knowing me so deeply—and loving me still. Amen.



🔼 Day 3: Peace for the Fearful

Scripture:

"On the evening of that first day of the week... Jesus came and stood among them and said, 'Peace be with you!'" —John 20:19 (NIV)

Reflection:

The disciples were hiding behind locked doors, gripped by fear. And yet, Jesus came and stood among them. He didn't scold them. He didn't wait until they were braver. He simply offered peace. Easter doesn't require perfection—it invites honesty. Jesus meets us right where we are, even in locked rooms and anxious hearts. Whatever fear you're carrying today, let His words

echo into your soul: "Peace be with you." The risen Christ walks through walls—not to accuse, but to calm. Let His presence fill your fear with peace you can't explain but deeply need.

Story:

After a difficult breakup, Marcus couldn't sleep. Night after night, he replayed what went wrong, what he should've done differently. One night, he opened his Bible, unsure where to begin, and landed on John 20. The words "Peace be with you" stood out. For the first time in weeks, he exhaled. That simple sentence felt like a door opening in his heart. He didn't feel instantly fixed, but he felt less alone. He wrote those words on a sticky note and kept it on his mirror. It reminded him daily: Jesus shows up, even in fearful places.

Prayer:

Jesus, You see my fears and come to me anyway. Thank You for entering the rooms I try to lock up—whether with anxiety, shame, or doubt. Speak peace into every corner of my heart this week. Help me trust that Your presence is greater than my panic. Let Your resurrection be more than a story—let it be a promise I lean on, breathe in, and share with others. Thank You for meeting me where I am, and not where I pretend to be. Amen

Day 4: From Doubt to Belief

Scripture:

"Then He said to Thomas, 'Put your finger here... Stop doubting and believe.'" —John 20:27 (NIV)

Reflection:

Thomas gets a bad reputation for doubting, but Jesus didn't push him away—He invited him closer. Doubt isn't the enemy of faith—distance is. Jesus wants our honest questions, our struggles, our searching. He isn't offended by our uncertainty; He offers Himself as the answer. This Easter week, if you're wrestling with doubt, you're not alone. Like Thomas, come close. Look again. Ask the hard questions. Jesus will meet you there—not with shame, but with scars that prove His love.

Story:

During college, Allie hit a spiritual wall. Her childhood faith felt distant, and she struggled to reconcile it with the world around her. One night at a campus ministry event, a leader shared the story of Thomas. He said, "Jesus didn't rebuke Thomas—He reached out to him." That phrase stuck. Allie went home and prayed, "Jesus, if You're real, help me see You." Over time, through conversations, Scripture, and quiet moments, faith returned—not instantly, but honestly. Her doubt had led her closer, not farther.

Prayer:

Jesus, thank You for not turning away from my questions. When I doubt, draw me closer. Let me see not just the answers—but Your heart. Help me be honest about what I'm struggling with and courageous enough to keep seeking You. May my doubts become doorways into deeper faith, and my questions become conversations with You. Thank You for being patient, personal, and present. Amen.



Day 5: Breakfast with the Risen Jesus

Scripture:

"Jesus said to them, 'Come and have breakfast.'" —John 21:12 (NIV)

Reflection:

After the resurrection, Jesus didn't just appear in glory—He made breakfast. What a beautiful detail. It tells us that God isn't only found in mountaintop moments but also in morning meals. Jesus cares about your body, your daily needs, your morning routine. He is both majestic and near. This Easter, don't look for Him only in the miraculous—look for Him in the ordinary. A quiet cup of coffee. A sunrise. A conversation. Resurrection life is not far off; it's woven into our everyday moments, right where Jesus still says, "Come and eat."

Story:

Ellie was folding laundry and feeling overwhelmed by the day ahead. She whispered a halfhearted prayer: "God, I need You, but I'm tired." Just then, her toddler crawled into her lap and smiled. It was such a simple moment—but she felt the presence of God in it. That night, she remembered the story of Jesus making breakfast. "God shows up in pancakes and playtime," she laughed to herself. She began to look for God not only in church, but in dishes, diapers, and daily life.

Prayer:

Jesus, thank You for meeting me in ordinary moments. Sometimes I look for You in the big and miss You in the small. Teach me to recognize Your presence in the rhythm of my day—in meals, in quiet, in messes, and in laughter. Thank You for being a Savior who not only died for me but dines with me. Help me make space for sacred moments, even in my everyday life. Amen.



Day 6: Resurrection Doesn't Erase the Scars

Scripture:

"He showed them his hands and side. The disciples were overjoyed when they saw the Lord." -John 20:20 (NIV)

Reflection:

Jesus didn't hide His scars—He showed them. His resurrection body still bore the marks of crucifixion. That tells us something important: God doesn't ignore your wounds. He redeems them. Resurrection doesn't mean pretending nothing hurt; it means knowing nothing is wasted. Your pain, your past, your story—it matters. God uses it all. If you've walked through something hard, know this: your scars don't disqualify you. They are proof of survival—and evidence of grace.

Story:

Luis was ashamed of his past struggles with addiction. Even after finding freedom, he avoided sharing his story. One day at a recovery group, someone opened up, and Luis quietly shared what he had been through. To his surprise, the group didn't judge—they thanked him. "Your scars help us heal," one man said. That stuck. Luis realized God hadn't erased his story; He was using it. His wounds had become witness.

Prayer:

Jesus, thank You for not hiding Your scars. Help me see my wounds not as reasons for shame, but as reminders of how You've brought me through. Heal the broken places in me, and give me the courage to share my story so others might find hope. Use what hurt to help others heal. Thank You that resurrection doesn't erase the pain—it redeems it. Amen.

🕰 Day 7: Go and Tell

Scripture:

"Go instead to my brothers and tell them..." —John 20:17 (NIV

Reflection:

Mary didn't just witness the resurrection—she was sent. Jesus told her, "Go and tell." That's the heartbeat of Easter. We are not just recipients of the Good News—we are messengers of it. The resurrection is too powerful to keep to ourselves. Who in your life needs hope? Encouragement? Truth? Your story might be the spark someone else needs. Don't underestimate your voice. Like Mary, you don't need all the answers—you just need to share what you've seen.

Story:

A few weeks after Easter, Jamal met a coworker who seemed discouraged. As they chatted, Jamal felt a nudge to share part of his faith journey. Nervously, he did. The coworker smiled and said, "I've been wondering if God even sees me. You just answered that." Jamal realized in that moment: sharing hope doesn't require a sermon—just obedience. That conversation opened doors for deeper friendship and faith.

Prayer:

Jesus, thank You for trusting ordinary people like me to share extraordinary news. Give me eyes to see who needs hope today. Help me speak with courage and kindness. Use my story—flawed and unfinished—as a way to point others to You. Let me carry Easter in my words, my actions, and my love for others. May I never keep to myself the miracle of what You've done. Amen.