

Devotional Calendar

April
2020

Unit II.
God Promises a
Just Kingdom

5



Meditate: Psalm 98

Listen: “Lord, We Rejoice” by Darwin Hobbs

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IGzrygt-DUc>

Pray: Express to the Mighty God that You Rejoice in Him

12



Meditate: Isaiah 53:4-12

Listen: “Celebrate (He Lives)” by Fred Hammond

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XcpIHtZzQe8>

Pray: Thank the Living God for All that He Has Done for You

19



Meditate: Luke 19:11-26

Listen: “Celebrate the King” by Ricky Dillard

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4BFt7M7KUwE>

Pray: Express to God that He Is the King of Your Life

26



Meditate: Isaiah 42:1-9

Listen: “Your Spirit” by Tasha Cobbs Leonard (featuring Kierra Sheard)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BZT8jqsc8lQ>

Pray: Ask the Lord to Bring Justice across Our Nation by His Spirit

How to Do a Devotional

Daily devotionals are important to help you grow in your relationship with God. Pray, meditate, and read the Word of God, and you will grow spiritually. Devote ten minutes at the beginning of your day to clear your mind and heart and prepare to receive God. Daily devotions will prepare you for any obstacles that may come your way. Take time each morning to hear from God. Even Jesus used time in the morning to be with God. “Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house and went off to a solitary place, where he prayed” (Mark 1:35, NIV).

He Is Not Here

LESSON

7

Background Scripture:
Mark 16; 1 Corinthians 15
Print Passage:
1 Corinthians 15:1-8, 12-14,
20-23, 42-45

.....
“Don’t be alarmed,” [the young man] said. “You are looking for Jesus the Nazarene, who was crucified. He has risen! He is not here. See the place where they laid him.”
(Mark 16:6)



.....
Last Friday during lunch, the girls at Monica’s table were discussing their plans for spring break. Half of them had plans to travel with their families, and two of them were travelling with the school choir.



Monica spoke up and said, “My dad says we’re going to have a spring break stay-cation. We’ll kick off the week with a big worship service at church, then we will take in some activities around town—we’ll go to the NBA game at the arena, visit a couple of

museums, and go with whatever my mom wants to do. Hey, does anybody want to come to church with me this Sunday? I’m dancing with the praise dancers and it’s going to be lit!”

Kirstyn answered, “Girl, you know we have to be at our own church on Easter!”

After lunch, Corina, the girl from Monica’s science class, told Monica that she had overheard her conversation and wondered if she could go to church with her. Monica was so excited that she could hardly answer.

“Yes! We ride the bus together. You live on my street. You can ride with us!” Monica explained.

Corina told Monica that she had not been to church since she was a little girl. That night, Monica prayed that God would touch Corina’s heart on Sunday and save her.

When Sunday came, Corina paid attention to every minute of Sunday school and asked more questions than anyone in the class. She stood on her feet for the praise dancers and clapped her hands when the choir sang. Corina had a wonderful time! After the pastor’s sermon on the Resurrection, Monica noticed that Corina had tears in her eyes.

“Are you okay? What’s wrong?” Monica asked.

“Nothing,” Corina whispered. “Girl, I love this church! I want to be saved and baptized.” Monica said, “OMG! You do? Right now?” The two girls walked to the front together and Corina gave her life to the Lord.

Monica’s parents drove Corina home after church. Before she got out of the car, Corina smiled at Monica’s dad and said, “Thanks for the ride, sir. What time do I need to be ready next Sunday?”

Whom did Monica invite to church? Why did they turn her down? Why is it important to invite unchurched people to come to church with you?





1 Corinthians 15:1-8, 12-14, 20-23, 42-45

1 Now, brothers and sisters, I want to remind you of the gospel I preached to you, which you received and on which you have taken your stand. **2** By this gospel you are saved, if you hold firmly to the word I preached to you. Otherwise, you have believed in vain. **3** For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, **4** that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, **5** and that he appeared to Cephas, and then to the Twelve. **6** After that, he appeared to more than five hundred of the brothers and sisters at the same time, most of whom are still living, though some have fallen asleep. **7** Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles, **8** and last of all he appeared to me also, as to one abnormally born.

.....

12 But if it is preached that Christ has been raised from the dead, how can some of you say that there is no resurrection of the dead? **13** If there is no resurrection of the dead, then not even Christ has been raised. **14** And if Christ has not been raised, our preaching is useless and so is your faith.

.....

20 But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. **21** For since death came through a man, the resurrection of the dead comes also through a man. **22** For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive. **23** But each in turn: Christ, the firstfruits; then, when he comes, those who belong to him.

.....

42 So will it be with the resurrection of the dead. The body that is sown is perishable, it is raised imperishable; **43** it is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory; it is sown in weakness, it is raised in power; **44** it is sown a natural body, it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a natural body, there is also a spiritual body. **45** So it is written: "The first man Adam became a living being"; the last Adam, a life-giving spirit.

Intersect

Paul wrote to the Christian church in Corinth to address some problems in the church and to answer some important questions that new believers had about how to live what they believed. In today's lesson text, the apostle Paul offers a review of the basic elements of Christian faith: Jesus died for our sins; Jesus was buried; and Jesus was permanently raised on the third day. Paul was not writing to unbelievers, but to members of the Corinthian church who were confused about the issue of Jesus' resurrection and whether all believers would experience a bodily resurrection when Jesus returned. Paul went on to remind the Corinthians that Jesus' resurrection was confirmed by the eyewitness accounts of many people, including the apostles, more than five-hundred disciples, and himself.

Paul explained that without the Resurrection, the Christian faith has no purpose or impact, and believers have no hope of resurrection, salvation, or eternal life. Paul's point was that faith in a dead man is useless—if Jesus is dead, then everyone is still lost in their sins. But through Jesus' resurrection, every believer can be made alive (see 1 Corinthians 15:22) through His victory over death.

When Jesus rose from the dead, God empowered Him as the source of the spiritual life that will result in every believer's bodily resurrection. Because our human bodies are subject to sickness, aging, and death, God will give every Christian a changed eternal body that is fit for an eternity in His presence.

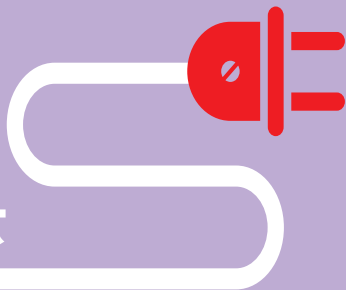
Inside Out

Paul was living in another city when he wrote a personal letter to the church in Corinth to answer their questions about the Resurrection and other spiritual issues. Today, Christians have many resources to strengthen our spiritual understanding (Sunday school lessons, Bibles, commentaries, books, articles, sermon videos, etc.). Many Christians still have questions about the most basic issues of the Christian faith. What do you do when you find yourself struggling to understand a spiritual issue?



There's an App for That!

In today's "Reflect" story, Corina was moved by the Resurrection Sunday worship service to give her life to the Lord. Jesus lived, died, and rose again to save us from sin—that is the point of the Resurrection and the point of our faith. Monica invited her friends to watch her dance—but church is about more than coming to see someone. Monica seemed shocked when Corina said she wanted to be saved. Everything we do at church (serving, singing, dancing, etc.) should have one focus: connecting people with Jesus. Think about it: why do you come to church?



Connect

Justice was the hallmark of Jesus' earthly ministry. Jesus looked out for those who were socially poor and spiritually oppressed. When Jesus rose from the dead, His resurrection became the power that energizes our spiritual engines to be bold in seeking justice for those who need help. The angel at the tomb instructed the women not to fear. Why? Because Jesus is still alive! God wants every disciple to follow His example of standing on behalf of oppressed people.

Stepping Out!

We still celebrate the fact that Christ is risen! This week, ask two people to share the text, tweet, or post they would write if the Resurrection had just occurred today. Record their responses below and share them during the next class session.

Media Mission

Watch the clip of "Resurrection of Jesus Easter Video" at <https://vimeo.com/21996036>. The two-minute clip shares *what* happened to Jesus; but, more importantly, it explains three times why Jesus gave His life. Listen to the video and never forget the answer.

