

# Devotional Calendar

## APRIL 2020

### Unit II. God Promises a Just Kingdom

#### 5th

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



#### 19th

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



#### 12th

Meditate: Isaiah 53:4-12

Listen: "Celebrate (He Lives)" by Fred Hammond  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XcplHtZzQe8>

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



#### 26th

Meditate: Isaiah 42:1-9

Listen: "Your Spirit" by Tasha Cobbs Leonard (featuring Kierra Sheard)  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BZT8jqsc8IQ>

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).

**Background Scripture: Mark 16; 1 Corinthians 15 • Print Passage: 1 Corinthians 15:1-8, 12-14, 20-23, 42-45**  
**KEY VERSE: “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)**



It has been three years since the unfortunate car crash that killed Wynita’s mother and brother. So many times after the accident, Wynita has felt like giving up. It has been hard facing each day without the love and presence of her mother and brother. Wynita’s father did all he could to keep the family going, even though most days were difficult for him too. Since the early days after her family members’ deaths, Wynita’s church family has provided constant encouragement and care. Through the years, church members have continued to show up with prepared meals, presents, and monetary gifts. Wynita and her father know that without the love of family and friends, they never would have

made it through such a difficult time.

Easter Sunday has always been a special time for Wynita’s family. Her mom used to prepare a big family meal; but Easter Sunday is special for so many other reasons. Wynita enjoys participating in the Easter program with her friends. Her favorite part has always been the praise dancing. Wynita’s mother loved to dance. When Wynita dances, she feels close to God and her mother. Wynita also loves to hear the Resurrection sermon that is preached on Easter Sunday morning. Wynita believes the Gospel message—that Jesus was crucified for the sins of the world, but on the third day, He rose from the dead with all power, and He is seated at the right hand of the Father in heaven, praying for Christian believers. Even more, Wynita



believes that one day, she will be reunited with her mother and other believers to worship and praise God forever. Without God in their lives, Wynita’s family would have never recovered from their family tragedy. Through Jesus Christ, Wynita’s family received hope and courage to face each new day with joy.

To whom or what do you turn for hope when facing difficult situations?



## WORD UP

### 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.

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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.

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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.

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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.



Today's lesson highlights the important meaning of the Resurrection for Christian believers. Paul reminds the church of the "Good News" that is the foundation of the Christian faith. Christians believe that Jesus Christ died and was buried and raised from the grave to give humanity a second chance to be redeemed from sin. Some people did not believe that Jesus was raised from the dead. Paul challenged the thinking of those people by giving them evidence that many of Jesus' disciples actually saw Him die on the cross, and they saw Him after the Resurrection. Paul, too, saw Jesus after the Resurrection. Paul's personal encounter with Jesus qualified him to speak

boldly as an eyewitness to Jesus' resurrection.

In verse 12, Paul wanted to clear up confusion and unbelief concerning Jesus' resurrection. Many Greeks did not believe in the possibility of resurrection. Paul explained that without the Resurrection, anything else they believed about Jesus being the Savior of the world was useless. The resurrection of Christ is the center of the Gospel message. Because Jesus conquered death and is alive, we know He is God. This is what makes Him superior to every other god—Jesus lives!

After death, all who believe in Him will share in Jesus' resurrection. In verses 42-44, Paul talks about how our physical bodies will eventually wear out. But our resurrected or spiritual bodies will live eternally without wear or decay; and we will live in the Lord's presence forever.

## INSIDE OUT

Paul emphasized the point that Jesus' resurrection was "good news." Paul took time to explain to skeptics (those who did not believe in the Resurrection) the testimonies of eyewitness reports from some of the disciples, and himself, that Jesus indeed rose from the dead, just like He said He would. Jesus' death, burial, and resurrection are the foundation of the Christian faith. How can you increase your faith to accept all events in the Bible as true, even though some details may be difficult to understand?

## There's an App for That!

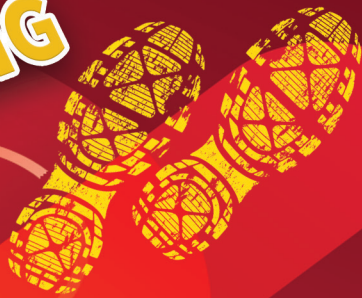
In today's "Wake Up!" story, after experiencing great tragedy, Wynita's family was comforted by knowing that through eternal life, they would someday live in God's presence and be reunited with their deceased loved ones. Young people rarely think about dying, even though every person who lives will someday experience death. Believers have the peace of knowing that just as Jesus Christ was resurrected from the dead, they too can have eternal life if they die believing in Him. Christians can look forward to a spiritual home in heaven where they will live with Jesus forever. Have you accepted Jesus as your personal Lord and Savior?



## Walk Out

God's plan of salvation for the world included the finished work of Jesus on the Cross. Jesus' work was "finished" when He rose from the dead. Anytime you begin to doubt God's love for you, remember that Jesus gave His life for you and all humanity. Jesus rose from the dead, and that is good news!

# STEPPING OUT!



Sometimes, your creating a visual image helps to increase your understanding because you can connect with a picture better than only hearing and seeing words. Draw three pictures to express your understanding of the Resurrection. Draw the following scenes: (1) Jesus hanging on the cross; (2) Jesus being put in a tomb; and (3) Jesus being resurrected from the dead. Invite others to help you create the pictures (if you choose). Pray and ask God to increase your faith about the Resurrection.

## It's Game Time!

Today, let's see how many words you can make by rearranging the letters taken from the lesson title: **"HE IS NOT HERE."** Write the words on the lines below.

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## Media Mission

In celebration of Easter Sunday, watch the inspiring praise dance performed to the song "Don't Cry" by gospel recording artist Kirk Franklin (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ce4dUe5Xw78>). Meditate on the repeating lyrics of the song that proclaim, "Don't cry, dry your eyes—He's not dead." Death's power over a sinful humanity has been destroyed by Jesus Christ. Jesus is alive!

