



For the week of **April 13-19**

Bottom line: **EASTER WEEK**

*we did not meet this week but here are some thoughts  
for your quiet times*

**DAY ONE: First Fruits** Read 1 Corinthians 15:20-23

Jesus' resurrection sets the precedent for our bodily resurrection. "First fruits" is a beautiful picture—Jesus is the beginning of a new type of humanity. Jesus, fully God, became fully man—the beauty and mystery of the incarnation (Jesus becoming human). In his death he paid for the sins of all men. In his resurrection he stepped out of the grave a new kind of human. Jesus' resurrected body was unlike anything that had ever been created. And it is the assured promise of those who have believed in him. In the last days we too shall be resurrected like him.

The resurrection is the stamp of God's victory over sin. Not only was sin paid for by his blood on the cross, but the death that ravages our mortal bodies is swallowed up in the new body that was birthed from this empty tomb. Our pain, cancer, sickness, weakness, and mortality is all swallowed up in the resurrection. Jesus conquered death and is the living, eternal hope of what will be for all who have placed their faith and trust in him as their only Savior.

Today, as you welcome God into your day, talk/pray your gratitude to God for the resurrection. Be specific. The resurrection has freed us from fear of death and given us hope of a new perfect existence. May your gratitude for this incredible work of God fill you with worship and obedience.

**DAY TWO: New Bodies** Read 1 Corinthians 15:42-48

Read the passage and then choose **one verse** that seems important to you and answer one of these three questions:

1. What does it say about God?
2. What does it say about you?
3. What does it say about others?

Then talk to God about what you read/learned and respond appropriately to it.

**DAY THREE: Eternal Perspective** Read 1 Corinthians 15:50-58

The Apostle Paul concludes his teaching on the resurrection of Jesus with a powerful admonition in verse 58.

As believers in Jesus, we make extreme sacrifices in this world because we believe in the reality of the world to come. We will exist there in our heavenly bodies for eternity. So Paul's encouragement is: *Don't give up, because you know that your hard work has a purpose.*

This is a great reminder for us as well. Because of the resurrection of Jesus, we can be confident we will be raised with him and spend eternity with him. We can also be confident that our work for his kingdom here on this earth matter for eternity.

We choose to focus on the life to come and live in such a way as to invest in eternity! Watch a short clip on YouTube from Francis Chan called "The Rope." His compelling illustration challenges us to live in light of eternity.

And take a few minutes to begin memorizing 1 Corinthians 15:58 and use it throughout the day to think about how we invest our lives and begin to let go of those things that won't last.

DAY FOUR: He's Alive Read John 20 (read the whole chapter or choose one part)

Read the passage and then choose **one verse** that seems important to you and answer the questions that apply:

- Is there a sin to avoid ?
- Is there a promise to claim?
- Is there a command to obey?
- Is there an application to make?
- Is there something new about God?

Then talk to God about what you read/learned and respond appropriately to it.