



**CRAZY
THINGS
JESUS
SAID.**



VINEYARD CHURCH
OF THE ROCKIES



CRAZY THINGS JESUS SAID.

A CHURCH-WIDE STUDY

A DEVOTIONAL WRITTEN BY:

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PART III

LIVE

WEEK 1

I Never Knew You

WEEK 2

**The Way, The Truth
& The Life**

WEEK 3

**I Am The Resurrection
& The Life**



PART III
WEEK 1

**I NEVER
KNEW YOU**

DAY 43
SUNDAY

SERMON REFLECTION

Scripture: Matthew 7:21-23 (NLT)

(21) “Not everyone who calls out to me, ‘Lord! Lord!’ will enter the Kingdom of Heaven. Only those who actually do the will of my Father in heaven will enter. (22) On judgment day many will say to me, ‘Lord! Lord! We prophesied in your name and cast out demons in your name and performed many miracles in your name.’ (23) But I will reply, ‘I never knew you. Get away from me, you who break God’s laws’”

Outline:

1. In this text we see Jesus address some common misconceptions about our faith:
 - Knowing about God isn’t enough.
 - Doing things for God isn’t enough.
2. Some of us haven’t heard the whole truth.
 - Of course Romans 10:9 is true and John 3:16 is true, but saying a short prayer at the end of an emotional service isn’t the same as an eternal relationship.
3. Does Jesus know and recognize you as a disciple?
 - This scripture means they were spiritual strangers and Jesus didn’t know or recognize them as disciples of his.

DAY 43
SUNDAY

SERMON REFLECTION

Reflection:

1. There is a big difference between knowing enough facts about God and knowing God enough to be transformed by him.
2. Some of us need to recommit our lives to Jesus.
3. Some of us need to start a knowing relationship with him today for the first time.
4. Many of us need to approach scripture with a humility and sobriety that impacts us and how we engage with God & the world.

DAY 44
MONDAY
DEVOTIONAL

Scripture: Matthew 7:21-23 (NLT)

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Devotional:

Are you a disciple? Jesus says being a disciple is about more than simply copying Jesus' behaviors. Doing what Jesus did is certainly part of being a disciple, but the central core of being Jesus' disciple is being known by him. Jesus has to know you for you to be his disciple. That is what Jesus is trying to tell us. Only by interacting with him in a personal relationship can we be known by him. And, the only way that we can be known by him in a personal relationship is to spend time with him. Otherwise, Jesus cannot possibly know you.

As we spend time with Jesus and share our lives with him, he shares his life with us! Jesus is always with us (Matthew 28:20) and always sharing his life with us, but if we are no longer spending much time with him we cannot be his disciple. Why?

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DAY 44
MONDAY
DEVOTIONAL

Because you cannot be a disciple without spending time with the one discipling you and letting him teach you his ways of living. The word translated 'disciple' means 'apprentice', or 'learner'. We must spend regular time with Jesus every day, and even several times a day if we can ever expect to learn his ways and be transformed by him. Remember: either Jesus is discipling you in his ways, or the world is discipling you in its ways. If you are saying that you are a disciple of Jesus, are you spending time with him and letting him teach you his ways of living life?

Exercise:

1. Begin spending regularly scheduled time with Jesus everyday. Develop your personal relationship with him by sharing yourself with him. Make sure that you are known by him.
2. As you spend time with Jesus, record what you are learning from God. Write it down. Buy a journal if you don't have one. This is a great way to develop your relationship with him and get some traction in your Christian life. By 'connecting the dots' of your life with God you will be able to see the direction and 'topography' of your life with him.

DAY 45
TUESDAY
LECTIO DIVINA

Lectio Divina, which simply means divine reading, is a reading of scripture with the intent to hear God's heart and mind through the scriptures. Lectio Divina has been used in the Church from its beginning. We even see it used in the Old Testament when the priest read the scriptures and the people listened and then responded as God led them.

When practicing Lectio Divina is it important to prepare our minds and hearts. Find a comfortable and quiet place to sit with this scripture.

With each reading there will be questions for you to reflect on. Or maybe God will lead you to reflect in another way.

Scripture: Matthew 7:21-23 (NLT)

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Silence (3 minutes)

Scripture: Matthew 7:21-23 /Silence (3 minutes)

Question: What words or phrases stand out to you in this passage?

Scripture: Matthew 7:21-23 /Silence (3 minutes)

DAY 45
TUESDAY
LECTIO DIVINA

Reflect: Ask God what he wants to highlight for you personally. Maybe it is something from the scripture or it could be something completely different. Jesus, give me ears to hear.

Scripture: Matthew 7:21-23 /Silence (3 minutes)

Pray: Spend time in prayer thanking Jesus for this time and ask him to give you a sense of his presence throughout the week.

DAY 46
WEDNESDAY
FAITH IN ACTION

Scripture: Matthew 7:21-23 (NLT)

(21) “Not everyone who calls out to me, ‘Lord! Lord!’ will enter the Kingdom of Heaven. Only those who actually do the will of my Father in heaven will enter. (22) On judgment day many will say to me, ‘Lord! Lord! We prophesied in your name and cast out demons in your name and performed many miracles in your name.’ (23) But I will reply, ‘I never knew you. Get away from me, you who break God’s laws’”

Application:

The way that we can apply this challenging text to our lives is to ask ourselves the question: what can I do to let myself be known by God? Is there something that I can do to make sure? The answer is ‘Yes!’ Just as a child knows that he or she has a relationship with their earthly dad, so we as adopted sons and daughters of God can know if we have a personal relationship with our heavenly Father by interacting with him. Here is how:

Next Steps:

1. Ask God for the things you need. Be bold about this. Children are not shy about asking their parents for what they need. We as God’s children are to boldly and freely ask our Abba, Father for what we need. Ask him for what you need!

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DAY 46
WEDNESDAY
FAITH IN ACTION

2. Listen to what he has to say to you. Our Father is speaking to us all the time. We are just not listening to him. Stop your busy life for a moment today and listen for his voice.

3. Give thanks out loud for your personal relationship with Jesus. Practice praising him today.

DAY 47
THURSDAY
PSALM

Scripture: Psalm 84:1-4 (NLT)

(1) How lovely is your dwelling place,
O Lord of Heaven's Armies.

(2) I long, yes, I faint with longing
to enter the courts of the Lord.
With my whole being, body and soul,
I will shout joyfully to the living God.

(3) Even the sparrow finds a home,
and the swallow builds her nest and
raises her young
at a place near your altar,
O Lord of Heaven's Armies, my King and my God!

(4) What joy for those who can live in your house,
always singing your praises.

Questions for reflection:

Allow yourself to enter into the dwelling place of God. Rest there. Find yourself at home there. Isn't it lovely?

DAY 48
FRIDAY
DEVOTIONAL

Scripture: Matthew 7:21-2 (NLT)

Devotional:

Do you feel known by God? Truly known? Do you feel like you are growing in your knowledge of God? In intimacy with him?

We can know all the right answers and/or do all the right things, and yet still be a stranger to God. Do you bring him into all areas of your life? Do you talk to him about your weaknesses- better yet, let him talk to you about your weaknesses? Do you sit in silence and let him shower you with his love? Do you talk to him about the deepest desires of your heart?

The truth is, at the end of the day, you and I will stand before God and he will either recognize us or he won't. We don't have to waste our time on earth worrying about whether or not we are getting it right. We need to make sure that we have a personal relationship with him.

We can pursue a deep personal relationship with God by bringing him into all areas of our life. And while this can be scary, we need to remember that God is our biggest fan. He is the one that wants the ultimate best for us. We don't have to fear bringing him into those areas because he already knows them anyways!

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DAY 48
FRIDAY
DEVOTIONAL

The enemy wants us to think that it's about the answers we need to have or the accolades we need to achieve to join God in Heaven one day. It's not. It's about giving God our whole selves right here and now. Day by day. Season by season. Bringing him into our decisions, our sin, our victories, and asking him to help guide us to things that are of him.

You don't need to wait to lean into a deeper relationship with God. He is already willing and waiting for us to let him show us more of himself.

Reflect:

1. Are there areas of your life that you feel the need to hide from God?
2. If you don't feel the need to hide anything from God, are there areas of your life where you need to fear and revere him more? Where maybe you take advantage of his grace?
3. Where might God be inviting you into deeper intimacy with him?

DAY 49
SATURDAY
EXAMEN

Scripture: Matthew 7:21-2 (NLT)

1. How did you see God move this week?
2. What things did God invite you into this week and how did you respond?
3. What things did God talk to you about this week? What stuck out to you?
4. Where were you challenged by what Jesus said?
5. How did/can you grow?

The background is a dark, monochromatic image of a religious painting, likely the Resurrection. It shows a central figure, possibly Jesus, lying in a tomb, surrounded by other figures in various poses of grief and discovery. The scene is set in a rocky, cavernous space with some foliage at the bottom. The overall tone is somber and dramatic.

PART III
WEEK 2

**THE WAY,
THE TRUTH,
& THE LIFE**

DAY 50
SUNDAY

SERMON REFLECTION

Scripture: John 14:1-6 (NLT)

(1) "Don't let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God, and trust also in me. (2) There is more than enough room in my Father's home. If this were not so, would I have told you that I am going to prepare a place for you? (3) When everything is ready, I will come and get you, so that you will always be with me where I am. (4) And you know the way to where I am going." (5) "No, we don't know, Lord," Thomas said. "We have no idea where you are going, so how can we know the way?" (6) Jesus told him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one can come to the Father except through me."

Outline:

1. Jesus is our only hope for eternity.
 - Jesus said it—and we can't make the mistake thinking we get to define how we come to God; God gets to decide that.
 - CS Lewis & the 'Trilemma' argument.
 - Jesus also said in verse 6: "No one comes to the Father except through me."
2. Jesus is our only hope for today.
 - Our relationship with Jesus isn't just about the future—we can experience the Kingdom of God on earth as it is in heaven.
3. How does this impact us?
 - This should impact our lives dramatically!

DAY 50
SUNDAY

SERMON REFLECTION

Reflection:

1. Are you homesick? Jesus has made a way.
2. Do you want to give your life to Christ for eternity?
3. Do you need to experience the way, truth and life of Christ today?

DAY 51
MONDAY
DEVOTIONAL

Scripture: John 14:1-6 (NLT)

(1) "Don't let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God, and trust also in me. (2) There is more than enough room in my Father's home. If this were not so, would I have told you that I am going to prepare a place for you? (3) When everything is ready, I will come and get you, so that you will always be with me where I am. (4) And you know the way to where I am going." (5) "No, we don't know, Lord," Thomas said. "We have no idea where you are going, so how can we know the way?" (6) Jesus told him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one can come to the Father except through me."

Devotional:

Jesus is our only hope. Our hearts, the core of who we are, need that safe, protected place where they can rest from the craziness of the world. Jesus is our only hope for that rest. Augustine said 'our hearts are restless until they find their rest in thee.' Our only hope is that we will somehow find this place of rest. Our only hope is him. Augustine puts it this way: 'Thou hast made us for thyself...'

We perhaps know that Jesus is our only hope in our heads but I wonder if we know that Jesus is our only hope in our hearts. Our St. Augustine's famous sentence draws us in to the heart-reality that Jesus is our only real hope and comfort. How

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DAY 51
MONDAY
DEVOTIONAL

can we do that? Are you receiving his mercy and grace? Not just everyday but throughout the day? What does it mean that Jesus is your only hope for today? Here are three exercises that you can do that will help you to receive from God.

Exercise:

Take five minutes and pray about these things:

1. Jesus is your only hope. Look back to the Sermon outline for Sunday (scroll up one day) to refresh your memory about CS Lewis' famous reasoning that Jesus is either a lunatic, a liar or Lord. Meditate on Lewis's words and logic. Ask God to help you be very clear in your heart that this logic is true.

2. Jesus is the only hope for your heart.

Meditate on Augustine's famous sentence 'Thou hast made us for thyself...' in order to build up and strengthen your inner life. Experience hope welling up from your heart, your inner life.

3. Jesus is the only hope for our lives.

There are always obstacles in our way in this life. This will never change: there will always be obstacles. Hoping in Jesus' power, receiving his love and exercising our faith (casting our 'mountain' (obstacle) into the sea!) will be proof positive that Jesus is our only hope.

DAY 52
TUESDAY
LECTIO DIVINA

Lectio Divina, which simply means divine reading, is a reading of scripture with the intent to hear God's heart and mind through the scriptures. Lectio Divina has been used in the Church from its beginning. We even see it used in the Old Testament when the priest read the scriptures and the people listened and then responded as God led them.

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Silence (3 minutes)

Scripture: John 14:1-6/ Silence (3 minutes)

Question: What words or phrases stand out to you in this passage?

Scripture: John 14:1-6/ Silence (3 minutes)

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DAY 52
TUESDAY
LECTIO DIVINA

Reflect: Ask God what he wants to highlight for you personally. Maybe it is something from the scripture or it could be something completely different. Jesus, give me ears to hear.

Scripture: John 14:1-6/ Silence (3 minutes)

Pray: Spend time in prayer thanking Jesus for this time and ask him to give you a sense of his presence throughout the week.

DAY 53
WEDNESDAY
FAITH IN ACTION

Scripture: John 14:1-6 (NLT)

(1) "Don't let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God, and trust also in me. (2) There is more than enough room in my Father's home. If this were not so, would I have told you that I am going to prepare a place for you? (3) When everything is ready, I will come and get you, so that you will always be with me where I am. (4) And you know the way to where I am going." (5) "No, we don't know, Lord," Thomas said. "We have no idea where you are going, so how can we know the way?" (6) Jesus told him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one can come to the Father except through me."

Application:

Following hard after Jesus is putting our faith into action. And this is hard work! How we follow is critical. As Jesus advances his Kingdom of God on the earth, we need to learn to follow his lead and collaborate with God in the advancement of the Kingdom of God. This means that we play a critical role as followers. Here are three exercises to become a more effective follower of Jesus:

Next Steps:

1. **Follow Jesus immediately.** Just as the disciples followed Jesus immediately after Jesus called them, we must follow Jesus immediately. Are you putting off following Jesus in an area of

****Next Steps on Next Page****

DAY 53
WEDNESDAY
FAITH IN ACTION

your life? Identify what it is that you need to do to follow Jesus in that challenging area of your life and do it immediately.

2. Follow Jesus only. There are lots of good things and people to follow, but only one best thing/Person. The 'good' is often the enemy of the best. Follow Jesus and him only. Don't add anything to Jesus. Follow him only.

3. Follow Jesus courageously. There are always obstacles in the way of following Jesus. Stop making excuses because there are obstacles in the way because this will never change: there will always be obstacles. Follow anyway and with the authority that Jesus has given you as a follower, exercise your faith and cast that 'mountain' into the sea! (Mark 11:22-23).

DAY 54
THURSDAY
PSALM

Scripture: Psalm 62:5-8 (NLT)

(5) Let all that I am wait quietly before God,
for my hope is in him.

(6) He alone is my rock and my salvation,
my fortress where I will not be shaken.

(7) My victory and honor come from God alone
He is my refuge, a rock where no enemy
can reach me.

(8) O my people, trust in him at all times.
Pour out your heart to him,
for God is our refuge.

Question for Reflection:

Where do you place your hope? What would it look like for you to hope in the Lord today? What is one way you could choose God as your refuge and your rock?

DAY 55
FRIDAY
DEVOTIONAL

Scripture: John 14:1-6 (NLT)

(1) "Don't let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God, and trust also in me. (2) There is more than enough room in my Father's home. If this were not so, would I have told you that I am going to prepare a place for you? (3) When everything is ready, I will come and get you, so that you will always be with me where I am. (4) And you know the way to where I am going." (5) "No, we don't know, Lord," Thomas said. "We have no idea where you are going, so how can we know the way?" (6) Jesus told him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one can come to the Father except through me."

Devotional:

We have had the amazing good fortune to stumble upon the person, Jesus, who is himself "the way, the truth, and the life." The people that we know out in the world are in desperate need of knowing Jesus. Knowing the way, the truth and the life.

What if in the next week, you told someone your own story about what God has done in your life. What if you invited someone over for dinner and as they ask questions to get to know you, you shared about who you are and why you do things the way you do through a Christian worldview? Another great way of sharing "the way, the truth

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DAY 55
FRIDAY
DEVOTIONAL

and the life” is by asking people questions about their own life, pointing out Christ-like characteristics in them, and many other ways are ways that actually might speak to someone’s heart, mind, and life that blaring, critical, and angry words typically don’t.

We don’t have time to try and perfect our methods or get our lives together (they’ll never be!) before we start sharing our faith. The eternal salvation of people depends on us! God has created us to be ambassadors for his Kingdom. He will use us in our weaknesses and short-comings to still make way for others to enter a relationship with him. These words can seem harsh, but God is waiting for us to take him at his word, and join him in his mission!

Exercise:

First, talk to God about your hesitations around talking to others about your faith. Next, ask God for an opportunity to share your faith in the coming week. Third, pray for courage to be able to! Ask a friend for accountability.

DAY 56
SATURDAY
EXAMEN

Scripture: John 14:1-6 (NLT)

1. How did you see God move this week?
2. What things did God invite you into this week and how did you respond?
3. What things did God talk to you about this week? What stuck out to you?
4. Where were you challenged by what Jesus said?
5. How did/can you grow?



PART III
WEEK 3

**I AM THE
RESURRECTION
& THE LIFE**

DAY 57
SUNDAY

SERMON REFLECTION

Scripture: John 11:25-26 (NLT)

(25) Jesus told her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Anyone who believes in me will live, even after dying. (26) Everyone who lives in me and believes in me will never ever die. Do you believe this, Martha?"

Outline:

1. Jesus Loves Doubters - John 20:24-27
 - Have you ever doubted? The resurrection is for you.
2. Jesus Loves Deniers - Peter denied Jesus.
 - Have you ever denied Jesus? The resurrection is for you.
3. Jesus Loves the Uneducated - Luke 24
 - Have you not understand? The resurrection is for you.
4. Jesus Loves Haters - Paul was a persecutor of Christians yet Jesus showed up to him.
 - Are you angry? Rageful? Or proud? The resurrection is for you.
5. Jesus Loves the Fearful - John 20:19
 - Have you ever been afraid of others' opinions? Afraid to make mistakes or afraid to risk it all for Jesus? The resurrection is for you.
6. Jesus Loves the Forgotten - Jesus showed up to the dying, poor forgotten, isolated, fringe people, and marginalized.
 - Do you feel forgotten? The resurrection power is for you.

DAY 57
SUNDAY

SERMON REFLECTION

Reflection:

1. This life is for you. This resurrection power is for you.
2. John 11:25-26 says that if you live your life in him and believe in him you can experience this same resurrection and this same life.

DAY 58
MONDAY
DEVOTIONAL

Scripture: John 11:25-26 (NLT)

(25) Jesus told her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Anyone who believes in me will live, even after dying. (26) Everyone who lives in me and believes in me will never ever die. Do you believe this, Martha?"

Devotional:

Resurrection life is for you. Resurrection life is personally for you because your own physical body will be raised to new life when Jesus comes again to earth a second time. That is good news! But it is also good news that resurrection life is for you now in this life!

What is your life looking like? How are you showing up at work, at home, with your friends? Are you merely surviving? Have you gotten out of touch with the resurrection life? Are you finding yourself leaning into Christ or leaning into your doubts, denials, confusion, hate, fears and isolation?

The truth is, resurrection life doesn't just happen. It is the result of a death. Christ's death on the cross released and still releases power over all of our fallen human conditions. Our part in Christ's death is to die ourselves to whatever is holding us back from living into the resurrection life. It is how the resurrection life becomes our life. What can we

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DAY 58
MONDAY
DEVOTIONAL

do to make the resurrection life for us? Here are some exercises:

Exercise:

- 1. Die to your doubts, denials, confusion, hate, fears and feelings of isolation.** Simply refraining from 'leaning into' them is not enough. It doesn't work. You must die to them. Visualize nailing these conditions to the cross, and then turn from them in your mind's eye, and walking away from them. Never to return. You have just repented from Sin.
- 2. Live into the resurrection life.** You can do this by thinking about the risen King and his Kingdom. If you are thinking about the world and the things of the world more than Jesus and the things of the Kingdom as recorded in the Bible, you are not living into the resurrection life. Live into the resurrection life.
- 3. Let Jesus and his resurrection life be formed in you.** Let go of fleshly desires, lusts and selfish ambitions. Let Jesus train you to desire him and his ways. Let him change what you love.

DAY 59
TUESDAY
LECTIO DIVINA

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With each reading there will be questions for you to reflect on. Or maybe God will lead you to reflect in another way.

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Silence (3 minutes)

Scripture: John 11:25-26/Silence (3 minutes)

Question: What words or phrases stand out to you in this passage?

Scripture: John 11:25-26/Silence (3 minutes)

Reflect: Ask God what he wants to highlight for you personally. Maybe it is something from the scripture or it could be something completely different. Jesus, give me ears to hear.

Scripture: John 11:25-26/Silence (3 minutes)

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DAY 59
TUESDAY
LECTIO DIVINA

Pray: Spend time in prayer thanking Jesus for this time and ask him to give you a sense of his presence throughout the week.

DAY 60
WEDNESDAY
FAITH IN ACTION

Scripture: John 11:25-26 (NLT)

(25) Jesus told her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Anyone who believes in me will live, even after dying. (26) Everyone who lives in me and believes in me will never ever die. Do you believe this, Martha?"

Application:

Putting resurrection life into action is about letting the resurrected Christ give us his life. In this life! We don't wait for heaven for this. Yes, we 'will never ever die' but we must first 'live in him' now. What does it mean to 'live in him now'? How do we do that? Putting resurrection life into action is not just absorbing information and ideas about Jesus but being shaped by God. Letting him shape our loves, passions, desires and hopes. How can we do this?

Next Steps:

1. Meditate on these six examples of Jesus loving doubters, deniers, haters, etc. that Jeff mentioned Sunday. We are all six of these at once. It is so important to our own personal faith that we look up these examples of Jesus loving these people because we can see that Jesus is loving us no matter how badly we fail. Here they are:

- Doubters: John 20:24-27;
- Deniers: Luke 22: 57;

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DAY 60
WEDNESDAY
FAITH IN ACTION

- Confused: Luke 24:13-23;
- Haters: Acts 26:12-18;
- Fearful: John 20:19;
- Forgotten: John 9: 1-7

2. Find people who are doubting God just as you have doubted him or are denying their faith just as you have done. Look around your network of friends and find people who are confused about God and themselves, just as you have been. Find people who are hating, just as you have hated, fearful just as you have been fearful or forgotten and marginalized just as you have been forgotten and marginalized. Once you have located these people, find concrete ways to love them. Be focussed in prayer about finding them and loving them. Then be creative about finding ways to bless these hard to love people.

2. Journal in your diary or journal about this whole process and what God does!

DAY 61
THURSDAY
PSALM

Scripture: Psalm 103: 8-17 (NLT)

(8) The Lord is compassionate and merciful,
slow to get angry and filled with unfailing love.

(9) He will not constantly accuse us,
nor remain angry forever.

(10) He does not punish us for all our sins;
he does not deal harshly with us, as we deserve.

(11) For his unfailing love toward those who fear
him

is as great as the height of the heavens above
the earth.

(12) He has removed our sins as far from us
as the east is from the west.

(13) The Lord is like a father to his children,
tender and compassionate to those who fear
him.

(14) For he knows how weak we are;
he remembers we are only dust.

(15) Our days on earth are like grass;
like wildflowers, we bloom and die.

(16) The wind blows, and we are gone—
as though we had never been here.

(17) But the love of the Lord remains forever
with those who fear him.

Questions for reflection:

Did you relate with any of the characters we talked about on Sunday? The doubter, denier, uneducated, hater, fearful or forgotten? The resurrection of Jesus is for you. Ask the Lord to meet you in that place and praise him when he does! Come, Holy Spirit and speak your truth.

DAY 62
FRIDAY
DEVOTIONAL

Scripture: John 11:25-26 (NLT)

(25) Jesus told her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Anyone who believes in me will live, even after dying. (26) Everyone who lives in me and believes in me will never ever die. Do you believe this, Martha?"

Devotional:

These are powerful words. And while it might be easier to read it and think about how Jesus was asking Martha this question, what if you read it again and replace Martha's name with yours?

Do you believe this? Do you believe that you- yes you who doubt, who hate, who constantly live in fear, who deny, who are uneducated, or forgotten- that you have an eternal promise from God? Because all of this was God's idea and his grace before the creation of the world, there is nothing you can do to disqualify yourself from this promise.

When we admit who we have been in the past- ashamed, proud, fearful, angry, isolated- we get to let Jesus be the author and perfecter of our stories. We can let him have the credit, because it's all his anyways. And this becomes our greatest testimony. Sharing that we are not who we once were because of the resurrection power of Christ that lives in us as his followers.

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DAY 62
FRIDAY
DEVOTIONAL

Have you forgotten this? Have you forgotten that you have the eternal promise both here on earth now and in heaven to come- the promise of life and hope and transformation? What would look different in your life if you did live fully into that eternal promise? The Kingdom is here and now, and it'll be there when we get to heaven. That, and that alone, gets to be our anchor in whatever season we find ourselves in here on earth.

God's life and resurrection power is not dead. It is alive and waiting for you to grasp onto fully, to surrender your life to, and run with. No matter who you are, where you have been, or what false beliefs you have- there is nothing too far or dark or deep that God's love can't reach. When you gave your life to Christ, he gave you his Holy Spirit to dwell within you- and that holds resurrecting power! So let his power continue to work in your life so that he can get the credit, and that others can see this marvelous work that is happening in you.

Exercise:

1. Where have you replaced God's power in your life with the illusion of your own?
2. What would it look like to trust your story/ hopes/future to God's resurrecting power?
3. What areas of your life do you want God to resurrect? Pray for that now.

DAY 63
SATURDAY
EXAMEN

Scripture: John 11:25-26 (NLT)

1. How did you see God move this week?
2. What things did God invite you into this week and how did you respond?
3. What things did God talk to you about this week? What stuck out to you?
4. Where were you challenged by what Jesus said?
5. How did/can you grow?