



Finding Hope and Joy in Holidays



Explore the true meaning of holidays through the story of the women at the tomb, discovering hope, faith, and joy in Christ's resurrection.



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Introduction

Holidays often bring mixed feelings—from excitement and joy to loneliness and reflection. Yet, beyond the festivities lies a deeper story that can transform the way we experience these special times. The story of the women at the tomb in the resurrection narrative is a powerful lens through which we can view our holidays. It reveals a journey from grief to hope, fear to faith, and uncertainty to joy.

These women went to the tomb with heavy hearts, expecting to complete a sad task, only to find an empty tomb and hear the life-changing message that Jesus had risen. Their story reminds us that holidays are not just about traditions and celebrations; they are opportunities to encounter the living Christ who brings new life to our struggles and hopes.

As we journey through this 5-day Bible study, we will reflect on how the resurrection story can inform our holiday experiences—giving us courage to face the unknown, faith to trust God's promises, and joy to celebrate the greatest gift of all. Whether your holidays are joyful, challenging, or a mix of both, may this study inspire you to find peace and purpose, rooted in the hope of the resurrection.





Day 1: Encountering the Empty Tomb



Day 1: 🌱 Encountering the Empty Tomb

Your Verse

Matthew 28:1-6 NIV - "He is not here; he has risen, just as he said."

Supporting Scriptures

- *Mark 16:5-6 NIV - "Don't be alarmed. You are looking for Jesus the Nazarene, who was crucified. He has risen!"*
- *Luke 24:5-6 NIV - "Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here; he has risen!"*



Day 1: 🏞️ Encountering the Empty Tomb

Devotional: Hope in the Unexpected Encounter

The women arrived early at the tomb, expecting to find Jesus' body but instead encountered an empty grave and a surprising message: "He is not here; he has risen." This moment of shock was the first revelation of a new reality—death did not have the final word. Their experience teaches us that holidays can be moments to experience unexpected hope, even when life seems bleak.

Sometimes, we come to holidays hoping for closure or answers but leave with a fresh perspective on God's power to overcome. The empty tomb invites us to believe that renewal is possible. Our difficult seasons don't define us; God's resurrection hope does.

This day reminds us to open our hearts to encounter God's promises even amidst uncertainty during holidays.



Day 1: 🌄 Encountering the Empty Tomb

Reflect and Apply

1. How do you approach holidays when life feels uncertain or difficult?

2. What does the empty tomb symbolize for your personal struggles?

3. In what ways can you be open to receiving God's hope unexpectedly this season?



Day 1: 🌄 Encountering the Empty Tomb

Journaling Prompts

1. Write about a time you found hope where you least expected it.

2. Describe your feelings about the holidays—are they more hopeful or challenging right now?

3. Reflect on how God's resurrection power could impact your current holiday season.



Day 1: 🏞️ Encountering the Empty Tomb

Prayer for Today

Dear Lord, thank You for the hope that rises with the empty tomb. Help me to see beyond my struggles and fears this season and to trust in Your power to bring new life and joy. May I carry this hope into all my holiday moments, finding peace in Your promises. *Equip me to share this hope with those around me who need it most.* In Jesus' name, Amen.





Day 2: 🦋 Courage to Go to the Tomb



Day 2: 🐣 Courage to Go to the Tomb

Your Verse

Luke 24:1-3 NIV - "The women found the stone rolled away from the tomb."

Supporting Scriptures

- *John 20:1 NIV - "Mary Magdalene went to the tomb early while it was still dark."*
- *Matthew 28:8 NIV - "The women hurried away from the tomb, afraid yet filled with joy."*



Day 2: 🐣 Courage to Go to the Tomb

Devotional: Choosing Courage in the Darkness

The women showed remarkable courage by going to the tomb early, despite the danger and their grief. Their bravery was not the absence of fear but the choice to act in faith despite it. We, too, often face holiday seasons shadowed by fear—fear of loneliness, loss, or unmet expectations.

Their story encourages us to approach our holidays with courage— to face painful memories, unresolved issues, or the unknown with faith that God is present. Just as the women approached the tomb in darkness but left in the light of resurrection, we can take steps toward healing and hope amid difficult holiday feelings.

Embrace courage today, reminding yourself that God honors our honest hearts and meets us in our fears.



Reflect and Apply

1. What fears do you carry into this holiday season?

2. How can you find the courage to face these fears with God's strength?

3. Who can you turn to for support as you confront challenging moments this season?



Journaling Prompts

1. List fears or worries you have about the holidays and pray over each one.

2. Recall a past holiday where you stepped out in faith despite fear—what did you learn?

3. Write a prayer asking God to fill you with courage today.



Day 2: 🦵 Courage to Go to the Tomb

Prayer for Today

Father God, grant me courage to face my fears this holiday season. Like the women at the tomb who went despite the darkness, help me to step forward in faith. Surround me with Your peace and remind me that You are my strength in times of uncertainty. May Your light guide my heart and bring joy amidst challenges. In Jesus' name, Amen.





Day 3: 🌸 Joy in the Resurrection Message



Your Verse

Matthew 28:9 NIV - "Suddenly Jesus met them. 'Greetings,' he said. They came to him, clasped his feet, and worshiped him."

Supporting Scriptures

- *Luke 24:41 NIV - "While they still did not believe it because of joy and amazement."*
- *John 20:20 NIV - "He showed them his hands and side. The disciples were overjoyed when they saw the Lord."*



Day 3: 🌸 Joy in the Resurrection Message

Devotional: Encountering True Joy in Christ

Joy is a profound theme when the women meet the risen Jesus—not just happiness but a deep, transformative gladness. After sadness and fear, they embrace hope and worship. Holidays invite us to experience joy, but it often feels elusive amid stress or sorrow.

Through the resurrection, joy is made accessible—not by ignoring pain but by meeting Jesus in the midst of it. Holidays become moments not only of celebration but of recognition of new life in Christ. This joy can refresh our spirits, remind us of God’s faithfulness, and empower us to celebrate even imperfectly.

Someday, may your holiday joy stem from a deep encounter with the living Christ in your heart.



Reflect and Apply

1. What brings you true joy during holidays?

2. How can the resurrection story deepen your experience of joy?

3. Are there ways you can worship or praise God more fully this season despite challenges?



Journaling Prompts

1. Write about a holiday moment filled with joy and what made it special.

2. Describe how meeting Jesus changes your outlook on holiday celebrations.

3. List ways you can intentionally invite joy into your holiday routine.



Day 3: 🌸 Joy in the Resurrection Message

Prayer for Today

Jesus, thank You for bringing joy that transcends circumstances. Help me recognize Your presence this season, embracing the deep gladness that comes from knowing You are alive. May my heart overflow in worship and celebration, even amid challenges. Fill me with Your resurrection joy and lift my spirits. Amen.



Day 4: Sharing the Good News



Your Verse

Matthew 28:7 NIV - "Go quickly and tell his disciples: 'He has risen from the dead.'"

Supporting Scriptures

- *Mark 16:15 NIV - "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation."*
- *Acts 1:8 NIV - "You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses."*



Day 4: 🔔 Sharing the Good News

Devotional: Becoming a Messenger of Hope

The women were given a mission to share the incredible news of Jesus' resurrection. Holidays can be a perfect time to share hope and kindness with others. God calls us to be witnesses, proclaiming the joy and peace that we have found in Him.

Like the women, we can be messengers during holidays— reaching out with grace, encouraging others, and reflecting God's love. This may happen through simple acts like hospitality, words of encouragement, or sharing your personal story.

Consider who in your life needs to hear the good news this season and how God might use you to share it.



Reflect and Apply

1. Who in your life could benefit from hearing the good news of Jesus this holiday?

2. How can you share God's love in practical ways during this season?

3. What fears or barriers might keep you from sharing your faith, and how can you overcome them?



Journaling Prompts

1. Identify three people you could reach out to with encouragement or hope.

2. Write about a time you shared your faith or God's love with someone.

3. Pray for opportunities to share the resurrection message during holidays.



Day 4: 🔔 Sharing the Good News

Prayer for Today

Holy Spirit, empower me to be a bold and loving messenger of Your resurrection hope this holiday season. Give me the words and actions to share Your love with those around me. Help me to overcome any fear or hesitation and to reflect Christ's joy and peace. Use me as Your instrument to bring light to the world. Amen.





Day 5: ✨ Living with Resurrection Hope



Your Verse

1 Peter 1:3 NIV - "In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ."

Supporting Scriptures

- *Romans 15:13 NIV - "May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him."*
- *Philippians 3:10 NIV - "I want to know Christ—yes, to know the power of his resurrection."*



Day 5: ✨ Living with Resurrection Hope

Devotional: Anchored in Living Hope Daily

The resurrection is not just a past event but a present source of living hope that sustains us every day—especially during holidays. This hope anchors us when traditions stir memories or when losses are felt keenly.

Living with resurrection hope means embracing a new birth, a fresh start fueled by faith in Jesus. It invites us to trust God's promises, find peace amid chaos, and joy in every season. The women at the tomb remind us that hope is active; it compels us to live differently and look forward with confidence.

As holidays come and go, may resurrection hope transform your heart and inspire a renewed faith journey.



Reflect and Apply

1. How does resurrection hope influence your perspective on life and holidays?

2. What new beginnings might God be inviting you to embrace this season?

3. In what ways can you nurture this hope daily throughout the year?



Journaling Prompts

1. Reflect on what 'living hope' means to you personally.

2. Write about how your faith has grown through holiday experiences.

3. List daily practices that help you stay rooted in resurrection hope.



Day 5: ✨ Living with Resurrection Hope

Prayer for Today

Gracious God, thank You for the living hope You give through Jesus' resurrection. Help me to cling to this hope daily and to carry its power into every holiday and season of my life. Fill me with joy, peace, and faith as I trust in Your promises. Renew my spirit and guide me in Your path always. Amen.





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