

because
He lives

FINDING HOPE FOR TOMORROW

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A NOTE FROM THE AUTHOR

In 1971, the classic Gospel song “Because He Lives” was introduced to churches and believers across the country. This song has become a classic and beloved hymn for each generation since. It’s popularity mostly comes from it’s powerful message:

- Because He lives...we can face what tomorrow brings.
- Because He lives...we have nothing to fear.
- Because He lives...we know He controls our future.
- Because He lives...we can live the abundant life He promised.

Every time Easter approaches, the words of this song are stuck in my mind. Phrases from these lyrics remind me of times the resurrection of Jesus was a deep source of hope for me and others. The goal of this eBook is to help you remember the hope we have because Jesus is alive.

HOW TO USE THIS EBOOK:

This book can be read straight through in one sitting if you need a fresh infusion of hope today. Or you can walk through it slowly, one chapter per week. Each chapter includes supplemental Daily Bible readings if you choose a slower pace with one chapter a week. Either way, you will be encouraged as you explore the resurrection through the eyes of the disciples. Read each chapter and consider what it means for your life that Jesus is alive. This is the invitation of Easter. “Because He lives...you can too.”

Ben Coleman

Discipleship & Digital Ministries Pastor

Sugar Creek

BECAUSE HE LIVES

C H A P T E R

01

BECAUSE HE LIVES

“But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead,
the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.”

1 Corinthians 15:20

CHAPTER ONE: BECAUSE HE LIVES

“Wait...so you really believe in Heaven? You actually believe it’s a real place?”

I vividly remember her question like it was yesterday. My wife stood next to her friend just inside our front door, and I sat on the stairs next to them. What started as a quick stop to say “hello” had unexpectedly turned into a divine appointment. A simple question of “how are you doing” became a beautiful opportunity for my wife to comfort a friend going through a hard time. And in that moment, the conversation naturally drifted to Jesus’ offer to walk through hard times with us and the hope we have in Him. Our friend grew up knowing about Jesus and could recite The Gospel herself. But in that moment, she confessed that she thought it was just a fairy tale. It never occurred to her that people actually believed it.

But this is the invitation of Easter. Because He lives, we can too.

The hymn “Because He Lives” is an anthem for millions of believers. It summarizes one simple, earth-shaking truth: the resurrection of Jesus is not a fairy tale. It’s a historical fact that invites every person to examine and consider the truth of Jesus’ words. When the stone was rolled away, and the tomb stood empty, everything changed—not just for Jesus, but for every person who would ever put their trust in Him.

The apostle Paul captured this reality with breathtaking clarity:

“But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep. For since death came through a man, the resurrection of the dead comes also through a man. For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive.” (1 Corinthians 15:20–22)

In other words, the empty tomb is not only proof that Jesus lives—it is proof that new life is possible for anyone who believes.

Think about what that meant for the disciples. Just days earlier, they had scattered in fear. Peter had cursed and swore he never knew Jesus. The women had come to the tomb expecting to anoint a dead body. The men were locked behind closed doors “for fear of the Jewish leaders” (John 20:19). Their dreams had died with Jesus, and their future looked as dark as the sealed tomb.

Then Sunday came.

And Jesus appeared. He was alive, with scars on his hands and along his side. He revealed Himself to the disciples and spoke peace over them. He breathed the Holy Spirit into them. And suddenly these same fearful, broken men became the boldest witnesses the world has ever seen. They walked out of that room and turned the Roman Empire upside down. Why? Because He lives.

The same invitation is extended to you today. Maybe your life right now feels a lot like the disciples’ on Saturday. Your hopes may feel crushed, or your future may look uncertain. Your heart could be heavy with questions. Perhaps grief has left an empty place no one can fill. Maybe your days begin and end with anxiety. Or perhaps you’ve been running from God, convinced your failures are too great for grace. The resurrection speaks directly to us all and says, “I rose to a new life so that you can too.”

This is the gospel in its simplest, most powerful form: Jesus, the perfect Son of God, took your place on the cross. He carried every sin you've ever committed—every regret, every secret, every moment you fell short. He died the death you deserved so you could be forgiven. Then, three days later, He rose again, defeating death, hell, and the grave. The Bible says if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved (Romans 10:9). Not “might be.” Not “someday.” Right now.

When you receive Christ, the same power that raised Jesus from the grave comes to live inside you (Ephesians 1:19–20). Your past is forgiven. Your present is empowered. Your future is secure. You are no longer defined by what you've done or what's been done to you. You are defined by the fact that Christ lives in you.

That is why the disciples could face tomorrow with courage. That is why fear lost its grip. That is why their ordinary lives suddenly carried eternal purpose. And that is exactly what God wants for you. The chapters that follow are built on this promise. Together, we will walk through the life and teaching of Jesus to remember that:

- The resurrection gives us courage to face uncertain tomorrows.
- Perfect love drives out fear and fills us with a peace that passes understanding.
- We can trust the One who holds the future in His hands.

Heaven is not a far-off place we will experience “someday.” Heaven is here now and we can experience it today. I'm thankful we are taking this journey together. Jesus is inviting us both to remember, “Because He lives, we can too.”

READY TO EXPLORE MORE?

If you're choosing to follow along at a slower pace, here's a Bible Reading Plan to help you explore themes from Chapter 1 more.

Day 1: 1 Corinthians 15:1–8, 12–22

Day 2: Luke 24:1–35

Day 3: John 20:19–31

Day 4: Romans 10:8–13

Day 5: Ephesians 2:1–10

BECAUSE HE LIVES

C H A P T E R

02

I CAN FACE TOMORROW

"In this world you will have trouble...but take heart! I
have overcome the world."

John 16:33

CHAPTER TWO: I CAN FACE TOMORROW

There's a look on people's faces when they hear the word "cancer." It's the same look whether you are receiving the diagnosis or hearing someone you love has it. I saw the same look on my wife's face when we discovered our third child had a tumor the size of an orange on his liver. The next four months were filled with doctor appointments and hours in prayer. Then, in April 2014, our son, Bennett, got his healing in heaven. Easter was the last holiday we all got to spend together as a family on earth.

That journey and most of the lessons we learned from it will have to wait for another book. But there is one moment from that storm that solidified our ability to "face tomorrow."

Finding the actual diagnosis for our son was actually very difficult. They quickly found the tumor, but it took longer to identify the type and how to fight it. I could paint a picture of the room the night we got the news. Our doctor sat with us in the hospital room and spoke with urgency. "This is the last one I wanted it to be. We have no time to wait, and I need you to authorize treatment immediately." It was an Extrarenal Rhabdoid Tumor. It's so rare that even my auto-correct thinks I spelled it wrong. I didn't. I know very well how to spell it.

The next hour was filled with tears, prayers, and signing papers. I then started typing out a message to send to all our friends and family to update them on the diagnosis. They all wanted to know — "What's the answer? What does he have?" As I typed, I was struck by the words the Holy Spirit spoke to my heart.

"Jesus is the answer. And Jesus has already won."

So that's what I told them. Yes...our son had an aggressive tumor on his liver, and we finally knew its name. But I am so thankful the Holy Spirit reminded me that Jesus was the answer. Oh, how I needed the reminder that He had already overcome the world. Jesus had already defeated cancer. I hit send on the message and walked into the hospital room just as the nurse was bringing in my son's first round of chemotherapy. I asked her to wait a moment and just hold the IV bag in her hand. She looked at me strangely as I walked closer, placed my hand on the bag, and prayed over it.

"I've never seen anyone do that before," she responded. "Why did you do that?"

I did it because I was telling God that I trusted Him. I was telling myself and the world that I'm thankful for medicine, but my hope was in Jesus. As you read this, I hope you realize that in that moment, I was just a simple dad who had been encouraged by his Savior. In that moment, the promise of heaven and the hope of the resurrection gave me strength to face tomorrow. In the end, we saw prayer protect our son from a painful treatment journey. He never lost his joy, and his story led many people to faith in Christ. We talk about Bennett today like he is a present part of our family because he is. Though cancer, grief, and loss are a part of our story, they do not define our story. The risen Jesus, who will reunite us one day, defines our story instead.

Jesus never promised us a trouble-free life. In fact, He was strikingly honest about the opposite. In John 16:33, Jesus promised we would face trouble but also promised He had already won.

The resurrection is the proof that those words were not wishful thinking. When Jesus walked out of the tomb, He didn't just survive death—He defeated it. The last enemy (1 Corinthians 15:26) had been conquered. Darkness had thrown everything it had at the Son of God, and the light won. Because the tomb is empty, we can stare at the scariest “tomorrows” of our lives and hear Jesus say, “Take heart. I've already overcome what you're facing.”

Think about the disciples again. On Easter Sunday morning, they were paralyzed by fear and disappointment. By Sunday evening, they were still locked in a room “for fear of the Jewish leaders” (John 20:19). Yet within weeks, these same men were standing in the temple courts declaring, “We cannot help speaking about what we have seen and heard” (Acts 4:20). What changed? The risen Christ appeared to them, commissioned them, and filled them with His Spirit. The same power that raised Jesus was empowering their new life with new purpose.

That same power is available to you.

Maybe your “tomorrow” feels fragile right now. There may be a doctor's report coming soon. Or you have faced an unexpected layoff. You may still be waiting for that wayward child to come home. For some, your marriage is hanging by a thread. For others, anxiety is no longer whispering. Now it is yelling, “You're not going to make it.”

If this is you, I invite you to look at the resurrection with new eyes. Instead of just seeing it as a theological belief, let the resurrection be your anchor. Let it tell you the worst thing that could ever happen (death itself) has already been defeated. Therefore, every lesser trouble you face is temporary.

Our hope is alive because Jesus is alive. This hope doesn't remove the trouble; it reframes it. It lets us walk through the valley without losing our way, because we know the One who walked out of the grave is walking with us. So take heart today. If you're facing uncertainty, lift your eyes. The One who overcame the grave is the One who holds your tomorrow. He is not surprised by your circumstances, and He is not limited by them either. And He is not finished with you.

Because He lives, you really can face tomorrow—with courage, with peace, and with the living hope that nothing in this world can take away.

READY TO EXPLORE MORE?

If you're choosing to follow along at a slower pace, here's a Bible Reading Plan to help you explore themes from Chapter 2 more.

Day 1: John 16:16–33

Day 2: 1 Peter 1:3–9

Day 3: Matthew 28:1–10, 16–20

Day 4: Hebrews 12:1–13

Day 5: 2 Corinthians 4:7–18

BECAUSE HE LIVES

C H A P T E R

03

ALL FEAR IS GONE

“That Sunday evening the disciples were meeting behind locked doors because they were afraid of the Jewish leaders. Suddenly, Jesus was standing there among them! “Peace be with you,” he said.”

John 20:19

CHAPTER THREE: ALL FEAR IS GONE

Where is the place that you feel most at peace? Mine is sitting on a very specific patio overlooking Lake Palestine in East Texas. It sits at the top of a hill and allows you to see nearly the entire lake at once. I found it years ago when we started attending Pine Cove Family Camp. I won't blame you if you stop reading to look it up. You should. And you should absolutely take your family there ASAP.

Now that you're back, let me get to my point. I hope you have a physical place that feels so safe that you are able to breathe deep, close your eyes, feel the warmth of the sun, and be at rest. That kind of peace is a pale comparison to what we will experience in Heaven. And yet, "Peace be with you..." were the first words the risen Jesus spoke to His disciples."

Our perfect peace and rest come when we step into eternity. But the resurrection of Jesus allows us to experience the peace that passes all understanding today. Paul reminds us of this promise in his letter to the Philippians.

"Don't worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank him for all he has done. Then you will experience God's peace, which exceeds anything we can understand. His peace will guard your hearts and minds as you live in Christ Jesus." (Philippians 4:6-7)

Few promises in Scripture feel more impossible on certain days than this one. The headlines scream chaos. The bank account looks thin. The diagnosis lingers in the doctor's quiet tone. The child is still distant. The future feels like a shadow waiting to fall. In those moments, fear doesn't just visit. It moves in, sets up furniture, and starts redecorating our hearts.

Yet the resurrection speaks louder.

When Jesus rose from the dead, He dismantled the very power that fear depends on — death itself. The writer of Hebrews puts it plainly:

"Since the children have flesh and blood, he too shared in their humanity so that by his death he might break the power of him who holds the power of death—that is, the devil—and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death." (Hebrews 2:14-15)

Fear's ultimate weapon is the threat of final loss. But the empty tomb shatters that threat. Death lost, and the grave is empty. The devil's grip is broken. And because the source of ultimate fear has been defeated, every other fear loses its authority over those who belong to Christ.

When Jesus spoke "Peace..." to His disciples, He didn't say, "Everything will be easy now." He didn't promise the threats would vanish overnight. He gave them His peace in the middle of the same room where fear had ruled just moments earlier. A week later, He said the same thing to doubting Thomas, inviting him to touch the wounds: "Peace be with you" (John 20:26). The risen Jesus doesn't wait for our circumstances to calm down before offering peace; He brings peace right into the storm.

So how do we live in this peace when fear knocks so persistently?

First, we bring our fears to Jesus in honest, specific prayer. The Philippians passage doesn't tell us to pretend we're not anxious. It tells us what to do with our worries. We should name it, hand it over, and thank God that He is bigger than the thing we fear. The resurrection assures us that our requests are heard by a living Savior who has already proven He can handle the impossible.

Second, we anchor our minds in the unbreakable love of God. Paul's triumphant conclusion in Romans 8 is resurrection logic at its clearest:

"Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? ... No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons ... nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord."
(Romans 8:35, 37–39)

For those of us who are "in Christ", not even death can sever the bond between Jesus and us. Because Jesus lives, His love is an unbreakable shield around your heart.

Third, we remember that Jesus can sympathize with every pain we feel. He is not a distant God who has never known suffering. He is the crucified and risen Lord who lived through the same struggles we do. He felt the pain of being human and came out the other side victorious. When fear whispers that you're alone in your struggle, Jesus answers back, "I've been there. I've carried worse. And I'm with you now."

Wherever fear has taken up residence in your life today, bring it to the risen Savior. Let Him speak His peace over that specific fear. Let Him remind you that the hands that hold the universe once hung on a cross for you, and those same hands now guard your heart.

READY TO EXPLORE MORE?

If you're choosing to follow along at a slower pace, here's a Bible Reading Plan to help you explore themes from Chapter 3 more.

Day 1: John 16:16–33

Day 2: 1 Peter 1:3–9

Day 3: Matthew 28:1–10, 16–20

Day 4: Hebrews 12:1–13

Day 5: 2 Corinthians 4:7–18

BECAUSE HE LIVES

C H A P T E R

04

HE HOLDS THE FUTURE

“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.”

Jeremiah 29:11

CHAPTER FOUR: HE HOLDS THE FUTURE

“What is God’s will for my life?” I think this might be the most commonly asked question of every Christian young adult. I lost count of how many times this became the topic of conversation with my friends in college. During these critical years, it’s only natural for a young adult to wonder whom they will marry, where they will work, and what (if any) lasting impact they will contribute to the world.

Shortly after college, I found myself living in Tyler, TX. I was beginning my ministry career and praying through potentially returning to school and beginning seminary. I was still single but had recently met a young woman who would eventually become my wife. I was swimming with options in my mind and stressing over finding a way to make my preferred plan work. One early morning, I sat in prayer on my sofa with my apartment to myself. My roommate was gone for the weekend, and I had silence to sit and hear from God. I read my journal to remind myself of what I had been learning during that season. It was in this moment that I heard a prompting in my heart from the Holy Spirit.

“Tell me your plans, Ben. Tell me your dream scenario. What does your ministry and impact look like 10 years from now? What does your life and family look like? Tell me all of it.”

So I did. I feverishly wrote out every detail of exactly what I wanted to do, where I wanted to do it, and whom I wanted on the journey with me. I was pretty proud of the plan and believed God would be pleased with it. As I read it over, I heard another prompting of the Holy Spirit.

“This is a good plan. But it doesn’t require faith. My plan is better, and I need you to trust me one day at a time.”

Too many times, we treat life like an elite athlete committing to a university. We want to listen to all the proposals and sign a contract for the best one. No athlete would commit to a college coach if his pitch was “Come play at my school and just trust me.” No. We would all want to know their plans to develop us and improve our chances for future success.

But that’s not what faith looks like, and that’s not how Jesus leads us. He invites us to trust that He securely holds our future and follow Him one step at a time. I needed that reminder as I sat alone in my apartment. I had big plans, but God would rather I have big faith.

Few truths are harder to rest in when life feels like it’s spinning out of control. We make plans, set goals, build schedules, buy insurance, and save for emergencies. Yet, the phone call, pink slips, test results, and sudden goodbyes arrive without warning. These things remind us how little we actually control. In those seasons, trust can feel like the most unnatural response. Worry seems safer. Control feels wiser.

But the resurrection changes the equation entirely.

The same Jesus who walked out of the tomb is the One Jeremiah heard speak this promise centuries earlier:

“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.” (Jeremiah 29:11)

This is not a generic feel-good verse pulled out of context. Jeremiah spoke it to exiles—people whose lives had been violently upended, whose city had been destroyed, whose future looked like decades of captivity. God didn't promise to reverse their circumstances immediately. He promised something better: that even in the hardest place, His good plan was still unfolding, and He was still writing the ending.

The resurrection is the ultimate confirmation that God keeps that promise. When Jesus rose, He proved that God's plans are not derailed by the worst evil humanity can commit. The cross looked like the final defeat of every hope; three days later, it became the doorway to eternal victory. If God can turn crucifixion into resurrection, He can be trusted with whatever unpredictable chapter you're living right now.

Jesus Himself taught this truth in the plainest language:

"Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. ... Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they? ... Seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself." (Matthew 6:25–34)

He doesn't say tomorrow will be easy. He says tomorrow is already accounted for. The Father who clothes the lilies and feeds the sparrows knows exactly what you need. Because the tomb is empty, you can trust that He is both willing and able to provide it.

Paul, who faced shipwrecks, beatings, imprisonment, and constant danger, wrote from experience:

"I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us. ... And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose." (Romans 8:18, 28)

Notice the scope: "in all things." Not just the good days. Not just the understandable trials. All things—including the ones that make no sense right now. The resurrection guarantees that God is not improvising; He is weaving even the painful threads into a tapestry of glory we cannot yet fully see.

So how do we move from worry to trust when the future feels so unpredictable?

First, we humbly acknowledge that our perspective is limited. James warns us against the arrogance of presuming we can control tomorrow:

"Now listen, you who say, 'Today or tomorrow we will go to this or that city, spend a year there, carry on business and make money.' Why, you do not even know what will happen tomorrow. ... Instead, you ought to say, 'If it is the Lord's will, we will live and do this or that.'" (James 4:13–15)

Saying "if the Lord wills" is not fatalism; it is freedom. It releases us from the exhausting burden of playing God. Second, we actively seek God's kingdom first. Jesus' instruction is practical: reorder your priorities. When Christ becomes the center of your life, the things you once obsessed over lose their power to consume you. You still plan responsibly, work hard, save, and prepare with wisdom. But in faith, you hold those plans with open hands while your feet are ready to pivot when God calls.

Third, we look to the ultimate future He has promised. The last book of the Bible gives us the destination point:

“Then I saw ‘a new heaven and a new earth,’ for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away. ... He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.” (Revelation 21:1, 4)

Because Jesus lives, that future is not a vague hope—it is a guaranteed reality. The same power that raised Him will one day raise us, and the same love that conquered the grave will one day make all things new. When today feels chaotic, we can anchor our hearts in that certain tomorrow.

This is the gift of resurrection trust. It doesn’t eliminate uncertainty, but it relocates our security. We no longer have to grip the steering wheel of life with white-knuckled fear. We can rest in the hands that were pierced for us. We can bring our uncertainty to Jesus. Tell Him, “I don’t see how this works out, but I trust You do.” Then rest. He is not scrambling to catch up with your circumstances. He is already there, working all things for your good and His glory.

Because He lives, your future is not fragile. Because He lives, you can release control. Because He lives, He holds tomorrow and He holds you too.

READY TO EXPLORE MORE?

If you’re choosing to follow along at a slower pace, here’s a Bible Reading Plan to help you explore themes from Chapter 4 more.

Day 1: Jeremiah 29:10–14

Day 2: Matthew 6:25–34

Day 3: Romans 8:18–30

Day 4: James 4:13–17

Day 5: Revelation 21:1–5

BECAUSE HE LIVES

C H A P T E R

05

LIFE IS WORTH THE LIVING

“The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.”

John 10:10

CHAPTER FIVE: LIFE IS WORTH THE LIVING

My oldest son was spoiled the first time I took him fishing. We were living in Louisiana at the time, and a man in our church regularly took dads and their young sons to fish on the bayou. I had never fished with a guide before and was amazed at how well he knew those waters. I've never seen so many catfish caught in one trip. By the time we were home, we smelled like fish and had endless stories to share. But my son's favorite part was helping cook dinner and grill the fresh fish we had caught earlier that day.

Fast forward a year, and we had moved to Houston. The neighborhood we moved to has several ponds that we are allowed to fish in. But it's catch-and-release only. After our first attempt at fishing in the new ponds, my son looked up and said, "I like it better when we get to eat the fish. It's no fun when all we do is feed the fish. I can get an aquarium to do that."

I laughed as I appreciated his raw honesty. For him, if you can't eat what you catch, fishing isn't worth it. I thought about this story when I read John 10:10 recently. Here, Jesus tells us, "The thief comes to steal and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly." I don't want to look back at my life and feel like my son did after a day of catch-and-release fishing. I want to live a life that is worth it. I want the abundant life Jesus promised.

One key to living the abundant life is recognizing that it begins today. The abundant life doesn't start once we pass away and join the Lord in heaven. The resurrection does not simply secure a ticket to heaven someday; it ignites abundant life right here, right now. Too many believers live as though eternal life begins at the funeral. They endure the ordinary days, waiting for "real" life to start later. But the empty tomb declares our new life begins the moment you receive Christ. In the blink of an eye, eternal life begins. The same power that raised Jesus from the dead begins raising your everyday moments into something eternally meaningful.

Paul describes this new reality in vivid terms:

"Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God." (Colossians 3:1-3)

Your life is now hidden with Christ. That means the truest thing about you is no longer your failures, your fears, your productivity, or your popularity. The truest thing is that you are united to the risen Lord. From that hidden union flows a new way of living: compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, patience, forgiveness, love (Colossians 3:12-14). These are not optional upgrades for super-spiritual people; they are the natural fruit of resurrection life spilling into Monday mornings, difficult conversations, and mundane tasks.

Even work and labor take on a new weight. In the same letter where Paul celebrates the resurrection victory (1 Corinthians 15:54), he adds this surprising application:

“Therefore, my dear brothers and sisters, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain.” (1 Corinthians 15:58)

Because the tomb is empty, no act of love, no quiet faithfulness, no unglamorous service is wasted. Changing diapers at 3 a.m., showing up for the difficult coworker, forgiving the person who hurt you, serving in the unnoticed corner of ministry—none of it is in vain. The resurrection redeems the ordinary. It infuses eternal significance into daily life.

Paul’s own testimony captures this transformation:

“I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.” (Galatians 2:20)

Christ lives in me. That is the secret of abundant life. Not our best efforts, not our strongest willpower, but the indwelling risen Christ expressing His life through ours. The ordinary moments are no longer just filler between Sundays. They are the very place where resurrection power is displayed. The dishes, the commute, the difficult conversation, the quiet prayer—these are the arenas where Christ lives His life through you.

Because He lives, you don’t have to wait for life to feel meaningful. Because He lives, purpose can be found in the routine. Because He lives, even the smallest act of faithfulness echoes into Heaven. Because He lives, life—right here, right now—is worth the living.

READY TO EXPLORE MORE?

If you’re choosing to follow along at a slower pace, here’s a Bible Reading Plan to help you explore themes from Chapter 5 more.

Day 1: 1 Peter 1:3–9

Day 2: Colossians 3:1–4, 12–17

Day 3: John 10:7–11

Day 4: 1 Corinthians 15:50–58

Day 5: Galatians 2:19–20

**NEXT
STEPS**

YOUR NEXT STEPS WITH JESUS

The resurrection is not a beautiful idea to admire from a distance. It is an event that demands a response.

Through these chapters, we have walked through the implications of an empty tomb: courage to face uncertain tomorrows, peace that silences fear, trust in the One who holds the future, and an abundant life that infuses purpose into every ordinary day. All of it flows from one unshakable reality—Jesus Christ is alive. He is not a memory, not a moral teacher, not a historical figure whose story ended two thousand years ago. He is the living Lord who conquered death and who right now is seeking a personal encounter with you.

The question is no longer “Did the resurrection happen?” The Scriptures, the changed lives of the disciples, the explosive growth of the early church, and the testimony of millions across centuries all point to the same conclusion: the tomb is empty because Jesus rose. The real question now is personal:

What will you do with the risen Christ?

If you have never trusted Jesus as your Savior and Lord, today can be the day everything changes. The gospel is stunningly simple yet infinitely powerful:

- All of us have sinned and fall short of God’s glory (Romans 3:23).
- The wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord (Romans 6:23).
- While we were still sinners, Christ died for us (Romans 5:8).
- If you declare with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord,” and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved (Romans 10:9).

That’s it. No long list of good deeds to earn it. No perfect life to qualify. Just honest repentance—turning from sin—and faith—trusting that Jesus’ death paid your debt and His resurrection guarantees your new life.

If that describes where you are today, here is your invitation:

Right now, in the quiet of your heart, pray something like this (or use your own words):

“Lord Jesus, I admit I am a sinner, and I need Your forgiveness. I believe You died on the cross for my sins and rose again to give me new life. I turn from my old way of living, and I trust You as my Savior and Lord. Come into my life, forgive me, fill me with Your Holy Spirit, and help me follow You from this day forward. Thank You for saving me. Amen.”

If you prayed that prayer—or something like it—welcome to the family of God. The Bible says there is rejoicing in heaven over one sinner who repents (Luke 15:7). Your new life in Christ has already begun.

If you are already a follower of Jesus, the resurrection still calls for a fresh response. Perhaps you've grown weary, drifted, or let fear and distraction crowd out the joy of knowing Him. The risen Christ stands before you today with the same words He spoke to His disciples:

"Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you." (John 20:21)

He is sending you—right back into your real life—with resurrection power. Your next step might be:

- Returning to daily time in His Word and prayer
- Confessing and turning from a specific area of compromise
- Asking forgiveness from someone you've wronged
- Getting baptized as a public declaration of your faith
- Joining a community group where you can grow and serve
- Sharing your faith with one person who doesn't yet know Jesus

Whatever it is, don't wait for perfect conditions. The disciples didn't. They stepped out in weakness and watched the risen Lord work through them. Take a moment right now for a guided reflection. Grab a journal or a note on your phone and answer honestly:

"My next step with Jesus is..."

Write it down. Make it specific. Then pray:

"Risen Jesus, because You live, I choose to take this step. Give me the courage, the peace, and the power to follow through. Help me live as one who belongs to You."

If you're ready to take that step in community, we at Sugar Creek would love to walk with you. Consider reaching out to connect with our church family—whether through attending a service, joining a Connect Group, talking with a pastor about baptism, or simply letting someone know you prayed today. You don't have to journey alone.

The resurrection changes everything because it changes the most important thing: Jesus is alive. And because He lives,

- you can face tomorrow with courage,
- fear no longer has to rule your heart,
- you can trust the future to hands that are both scarred and sovereign,
- and every day of your life can carry eternal meaning.

The stone is still rolled away, and the Savior is still calling. Your next step is waiting, and I pray you take it today.

Because He lives, you can live fully, freely, and forever.

EASTER SERVICES AT SUGAR CREEK

-01-

GOOD FRIDAY SERVICES

Join us at one of our three campuses for Good Friday services. During the service, we will worship, take the Lord's Supper, and reflect on Jesus' sacrifice on the cross.

Sugar Land Campus

6:00 PM - English Service
7:30 PM - Spanish Service

Missouri City Campus

6:00 & 7:30 PM - English Service

Richmond|Rosenberg Campus

6:00 PM - English Service

-02-

EASTER SUNDAY SERVICES

Join us as we celebrate Easter at all our campuses across Fort Bend County.

Sugar Land Campus

8:00 AM - Traditions Service
9:30 & 11:00 AM - Modern Service
12:35 PM - Spanish Service

Missouri City Campus

8:00, 9:30, 11:00 AM & 12:35 PM -
Modern Services

Richmond|Rosenberg Campus

9:30 AM - Spanish Service
11:00 AM - Modern Service

THANK YOU!

We pray this resource helps you
grow in your faith and take your next
steps with Jesus.