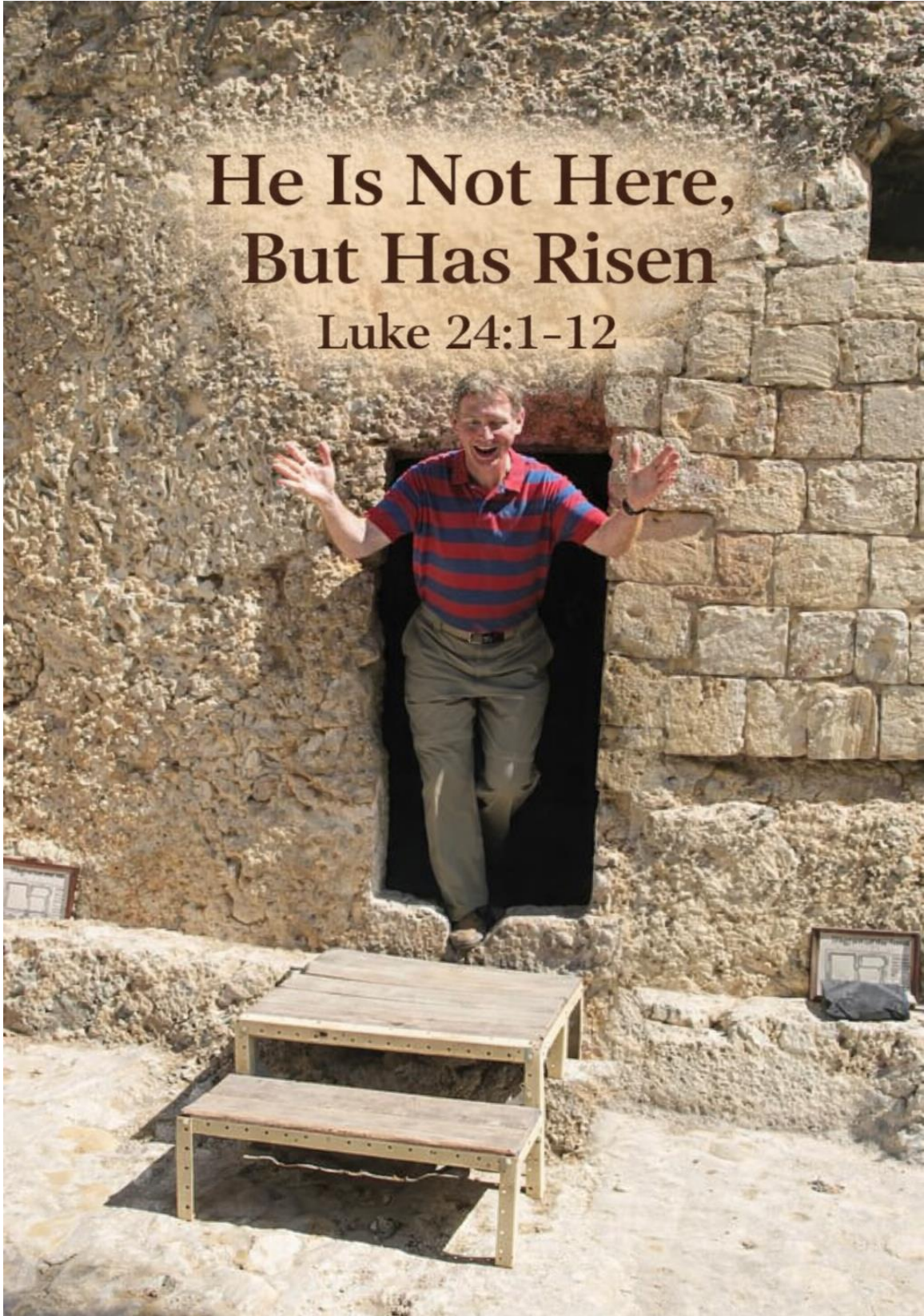


He Is Not Here, But Has Risen

Luke 24:1-12



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Introduction: Last week's text was shrouded in silence between Jesus' death and his resurrection. Today, God shatters that silence with a rolling stone.

Luke has taken us from Jesus' life, and death on the cross to his burial. Now, on the first day of the week, God acts in human history in a decisive way.

God answers the question, "*What do we do now,*" with an empty tomb. And that changes everything. This is how Luke explains it.

First: God Has Acted (Again) & The Tomb Is Empty (vv. 1-3) – "*they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus.*"

- a) The women arrive with spices. v 1
- b) The stone is already rolled away. v 2
- c) The body of Jesus is not there. v 3

The fact they showed up on Sunday with spices proves they were not looking for a resurrection but a body in a tomb.

And yet, at this point, God offers no human explanation for what they find. Luke credits no one with moving the stone.

Luke simply presents the fact: The tomb is empty.

Emphasis: This is not resuscitation. Everything previous to this has proven Jesus was dead.

- The Romans were professional executioners.
- Joseph wrapped his body in linen cloth and placed it in a tomb.
- The same women who prepared spices for Jesus' body watched the whole thing.

So, what happened to Jesus is not resuscitation. It is a resurrection. Jesus is not barely alive.

- He could not have rolled the stone away from inside the grave and
- could not have overpowered the guards stationed outside his tomb.

No, he has passed through death and come out the other side, fulfilling this OT prophecy -

Psalm 16:10 - ...you will not abandon my soul to Sheol, or let your holy one see corruption

Theological Weight:

- Death has been engaged and overcome
- The grave has lost its claim on those who repent of sin and trust Jesus as Savior

ILL: There is never a good time to die and to die around Easter Sunday or Christmas are emotional times.

- But Christmas reminds us that Jesus has come to defeat death and the grave.
- And Easter proves that he has.

Second: God Interprets His Own Work (vv. 4–7) – (Two men/angels) “*Why do you seek the living among the dead? He is not here, but has risen.*”

- a) The women are perplexed. v 4a
- b) Two men in dazzling apparel appear. v 4b
- c) The women are frightened. v 5
- d) Heaven speaks. vs 6-7

Luke presents them as heavenly witnesses who:

- interpret the event
- recall Jesus’ words
- declare the resurrection

Luke doesn’t say but the OT requires in Deuteronomy 19:15 that “*A matter must be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses,*” which these men do.

- e) They remembered his words. v 8 (I’ll talk more about that in a moment).

Emphasis: Thank God, he does not leave the resurrection unexplained. What does this mean?

Theological Weight

- The resurrection is not random, accidental or plan B.
- It is not surprising to God, it is the fulfillment of His Word

Third: The Resurrection Fulfills the Whole Saving Plan of God (vv. 6–7) - “*the Son of Man must be delivered... crucified... and on the third day rise*”

So, Luke ties the resurrection directly to prior Jesus’ promise. This reaches back to Luke 9:22 where Jesus said,

“The Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised.”

- It is not human recovery.
- It is not an accident.
- It is a divine necessity.
- It has divine purpose.

And in this promise and fulfilment is every promise and fulfilment –

2 Corinthians 1:20 - For all the promises of God find their Yes in him.

APP: If Jesus had not been raised, all the promises of God would have been rendered void. Everything God promised in the OT would be worthless. But Jesus' resurrection proves that God keeps his promises; that he makes, can and does keep his promises.

ILL: Think about Joseph being buried in Shechem last week in your Bible reading. God keeps his word to the dead and the living because there are no dead in God's presence.

Luke 20:37-38 - But that the dead are raised, even Moses showed, in the passage about the bush, where he calls the Lord the God of Abraham and the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob. ³⁸ Now he is not God of the dead, but of the living, for all live to him.

Emphasis: The resurrection is the hinge of redemptive history. Everything before it pointed to it. Everything after it flows from it.

Theological Weight

- The cross is confirmed as effective
- Sin has been dealt a finishing blow
- God's promises have not failed

APP: If Jesus remains in the grave, the cross is defeat. If He rises, the cross is victory. That interpretation changes how we interact with life.

Fourth: The Resurrection Begins the New Creation (v 1 - "First Day of the Week")

Luke has never been careless with details throughout the book. He notes the women came to the tomb "*On the first day of the week...*" because

- a) This is not just timing.
- b) This is theology.

Emphasis: A new beginning has started. Just as God, in Christ, began creation, so now, God, in Christ, has begun a new creation

Personally: **2 Corinthians 5:17 - ...if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation**

Cosmically: **Isaiah 43:19 - Behold, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?**

Revelation 21:5 - **Behold, I am making all things new.**

Theological Weight

- Death belongs to the old order
- Resurrection belongs to the new

Romans 7:21 - *...as sin reigned in death, grace also might reign through righteousness leading to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.*

Christ is the firstfruits of what is coming.

1 Corinthians 15:20-24 - *But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. For as by a man came death, by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive. But each in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, then at his coming those who belong to Christ. Then comes the end.*

What's the order:

- 1 – Death
- 2 – Christ's resurrection
- 3 – Then, at his coming, those who belong to Christ
- 4 – The end.

ILL: Think about how our Spring flowers arrive.

1. Yellow shrubs (Forsythia)
2. Bulbs (Daffodils)
3. Tiny ground flowers (Violets, Buttercups)
4. Woodland wildflowers (Bluebells, Dutchman's Breeches)
5. Flowering trees (Redbud, Magnolia, Dogwoods)

APP: The world around us is changing, even if it does not fully look like it yet. And there are glimpses of Spring and then Winter seems to return. But the early buds and blossoms give us hope for Spring, even when it's cold. Christ's resurrection gives us hope in what appear to be hopeless situations.

Fifth: What Will You Believe? (vv. 8–12)

- Some remember. v 8
- Some dismiss it. v 11

This is another proof of the Bible's truthfulness. If it was a tale, Luke would have had everyone believe it. He would have posed it as overwhelming evidence that everyone believed. But he reminds us that not even all of Jesus' followers believed it.

- Peter runs and marvels. v 12

Luke includes these people, but they are not the center his comments. They simply show that God's act does not depend on human faith.

The resurrection is true whether believed or not.

Emphasis: Faith does not create the resurrection. The resurrection creates the need for faith.

Conclusion: So, there are (at least) two ways to look at this:

- a) Here's what happened. You are invited to believe.
- b) Here's what happened. You need to repent and believe.

Acts 17:30-31 - The times of ignorance God overlooked, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent, because he has fixed a day on which he will judge the world in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed; and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead.

What does that mean? The resurrection does not depend on our human response, but it does demand one. And no response, is a response.

Luke 24 begins with divine action, not with human faith and it is, in fact, unperturbed by human faith.

The tomb is empty because:

- God has fulfilled His Word
- God has vindicated His Son
- God has defeated death
- He has begun something entirely new

IMP: The question is not whether the resurrection is meaningful to you. The question is whether it is true.

And if it is true, then everything changes:

- Jesus is Lord
- Sin has been judged
- Death has been broken
- A new world has begun

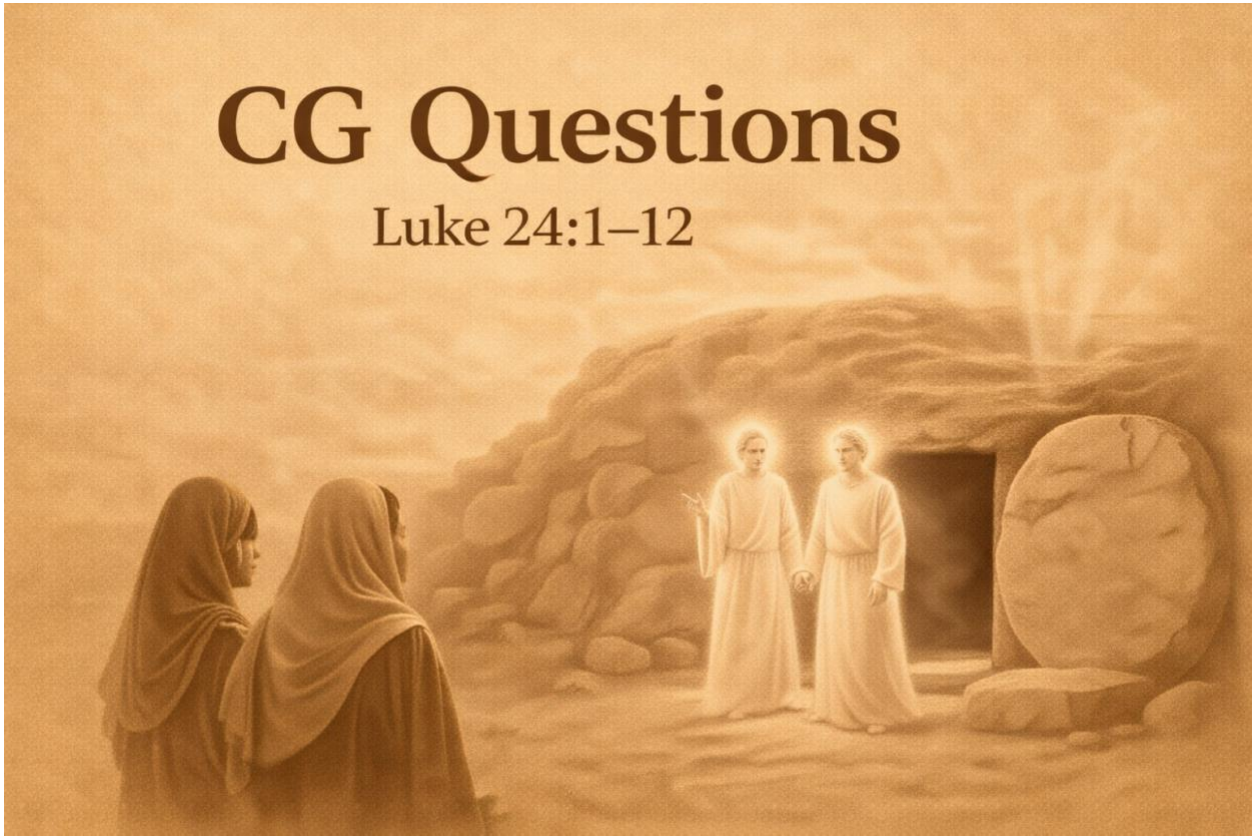
So, you and I are not being invited to create meaning out of this text. *'Here's what I think it means...'*

We are being confronted with reality. *"He is not here. He has risen."*

And now every life and everything about life must be reckoned in light of that fact.

CG Questions

Luke 24:1–12



Observation (What does the text say?)

1. What specific details does Luke give about the timing and the women's purpose in coming to the tomb (vv. 1–3)?
2. What do the women expect to find, and what do they actually find?
3. How does Luke describe the appearance of the two men and the reaction of the women (vv. 4–5)?
4. What question do the angels ask in verse 5, and what declaration do they make in verse 6?
5. What sequence of events do the angels say “must” happen (vv. 6–7)?
6. What happens when the women remember Jesus' words (v. 8)?
7. How do the apostles respond to the women's report (v. 11)?
8. What does Peter do, and what is his response when he sees the empty tomb (v. 12)?

Interpretation (What does the text mean?)

9. Why is it significant that the women brought spices? What does that reveal about their expectations?
10. What is the importance of Luke simply stating that the tomb is empty without explaining how it happened?
11. What does the angels' question, “Why do you seek the living among the dead?”, teach us about who Jesus is now?

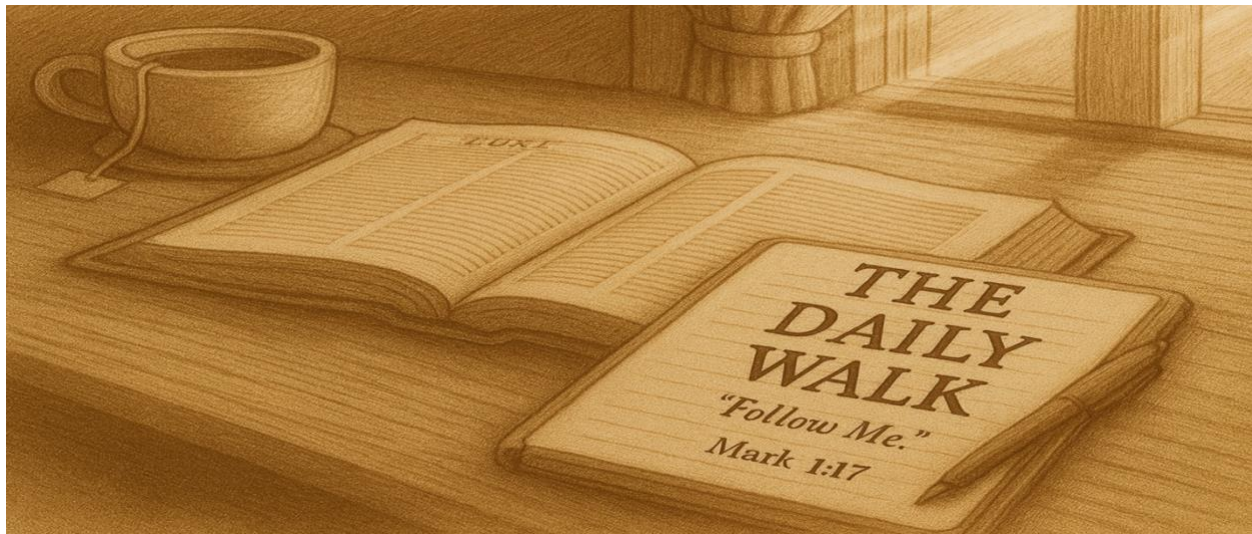
12. Why do the angels point the women back to Jesus' words instead of offering a new explanation?
13. What does the word "must" (v. 7) reveal about God's sovereignty and plan in the cross and resurrection?
14. Why does Luke include the apostles' disbelief? What does that reveal about the nature of the Bible?
15. What is the theological significance of "the first day of the week"? Why does that detail matter?

Correlation (How does this connect to the rest of the Bible?)

16. Read Luke 9:22. How does this earlier prediction connect directly to Luke 24:6–7?
17. How does Psalm 16:10 help us understand why Jesus could not remain in the grave?
18. Read 2 Corinthians 1:20. How does the resurrection prove that all God's promises are fulfilled in Christ?
19. How does Luke 20:37–38 (God is the God of the living) deepen the meaning of the resurrection?
20. Read 1 Corinthians 15:20–23. How does the idea of "firstfruits" connect to the "new creation" emphasis?
21. How do 2 Corinthians 5:17 and Revelation 21:5 show that the resurrection is not just past, but ongoing in its effects?

Application (How should we respond?)

22. Where are you tempted to interpret your life based only on what you see rather than what God has done?
23. The angels call the women to "remember." What truth from the Bible do you need to bring back to the center right now?
24. The resurrection proves God keeps His promises. Which promise do you struggle to trust?
25. In what area of your life are you still living as though death, sin, or defeat has the final word?
26. Which response in the text best reflects you right now: remembering, dismissing, or moving toward the truth?
27. How can you lead others this week to focus on what God has done in Christ rather than on subjective responses?



Monday. Read: Luke 24:1–3

Think. The women come to the tomb with spices. They are prepared for death, not resurrection. Yet the stone is already rolled away, and the body is not there.

Reflect. God had already acted before they arrived. That is often how He works. We walk into situations expecting more of the same, but the decisive work has already been accomplished in Christ.

Apply. Where are you interpreting your life based on what you expect rather than what God has already done? Name one situation where you need to let the empty tomb reshape your faith and expectations.

Pray. Father, help me see my life through what You have done in Christ, not through what I assume is happening.

Tuesday. Read: Luke 24:4–5

Think. The women are confused until heaven interrupts. Two men in dazzling apparel stand beside them and confront their assumptions.

Reflect. Left to yourself, you will misread reality. God must interpret His own work. Without His Word, even the clearest evidence can still leave you confused.

Apply. What situation in your life feels unclear right now? What Bible text speaks to it. Bring that under the authority of Scripture instead of your own interpretation.

Pray. Lord, correct my thinking. Help me trust Your Word to interpret what I see.

Wednesday. Read: Luke 24:6–7

Think. “He is not here, but has risen.” The angels remind the women that everything happened exactly as Jesus said it would.

Reflect. The resurrection is not a surprise. It is the fulfillment of God’s plan. That means your salvation rests on divine certainty, not human effort. And your future is secure in Christ.

Apply. Where are you living as though your standing with God depends on you? Rest today in what Christ has already accomplished.

Pray. Father, thank You that my salvation is grounded in Your plan, not my performance.

Thursday. Read: Luke 24:1

Think. Luke notes that this happened on “the first day of the week.” This is not just timing. It is a new beginning.

Reflect. The resurrection marks the start of new creation. In Christ, you are not tied to the old order of sin and death.

Apply. In what area of your life are you still thinking like the old life defines you? Take one step today that reflects your identity in Christ and live the resurrected life.

Pray. Lord, help me live as someone made new by Your resurrection power.

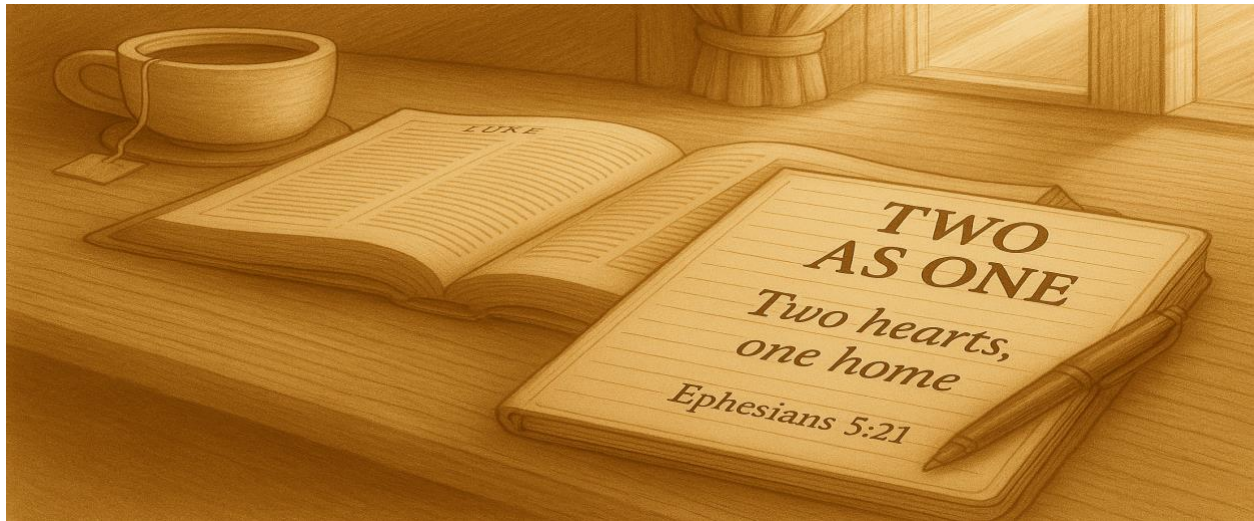
Friday. Read: Luke 24:8–12

Think. Some people remember what Jesus said. Some dismiss it altogether. Peter runs to see for himself. The same truth produces different responses in people.

Reflect. The resurrection does not depend on human responses, but it demands one. You are not asked to create meaning out of the resurrection. You are called to respond to what is true.

Apply. Which response best describes you right now? Are you remembering, doubting, or seeing? Take one clear step toward living by faith today.

Pray. Lord, give me a willing heart to respond to the truth of Your resurrection.



Monday. Read: Luke 24:1–3

Think. The women arrive expecting death, but God has already acted. The tomb is empty before they even understand what has happened.

Reflect. In your life together, it is possible to assume nothing is changing when God has already begun His work. That's a sobering and encouraging thought.

Apply. Where might you as a couple be assuming stagnation instead of asking what God is already doing? Identify one area of your life that needs God's intervention and talk about it.

Pray. Lord, help us see our lives through the reality of Your work, not just our expectations.

Tuesday. Read: Luke 24:4–5

Think. The women are confused until God speaks. Their understanding changes when heaven interprets what has happened.

Reflect. Every relationship is shaped by how it interprets reality. If your understanding is not shaped by God's Word, it will drift toward confusion.

Apply. What is one area in your relationship where you need to return to Scripture for clarity? Read a passage together this week that speaks into that area.

Pray. Father, shape our thinking and our relationship by Your Word and help us live it.

Wednesday. Read: Luke 24:6–7

Think. Jesus said these things “must” happen. The cross and resurrection were part of God’s plan all along.

Reflect. There are crosses before tombs. That means even the difficult parts of life are not outside of God’s purposes. That truth steadies your relationship in hard times.

Apply. Where do you as a couple need to trust that God is working through your circumstances, not just in spite of them? Encourage each other in that truth today.

Pray. Lord, help us trust Your plan together, especially when it is hard to understand.

Thursday. Read: Luke 24:1

Think. The resurrection happens on the first day of the week, signaling a new beginning.

Reflect. In Christ, your relationship is not trapped in old patterns. The new creation has already begun.

Apply. What is one old pattern in your relationship that needs to be replaced with something shaped by Christ? Define it clearly and take one step this week.

Pray. Jesus, renew our relationship by Your resurrection power.

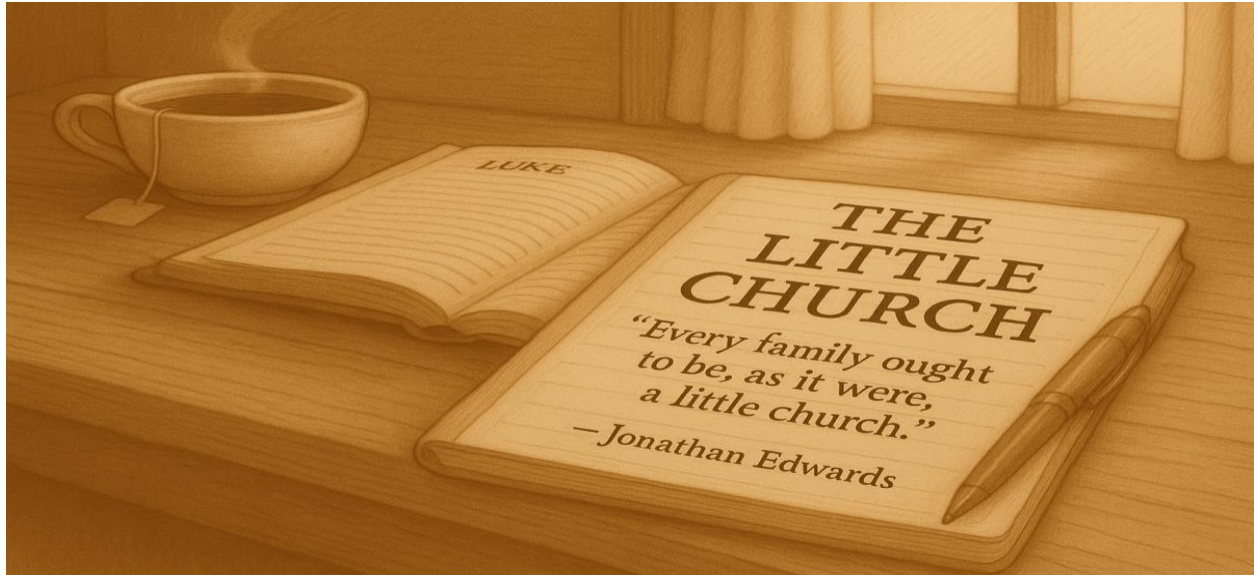
Friday. Read: Luke 24:8–12

Think. The same resurrection produces belief, doubt, and curiosity.

Reflect. Your shared response to truth matters. You are shaping the spiritual direction of your home together.

Apply. How can you encourage one another to move toward faith together this week? Identify one specific way to strengthen each other spiritually.

Pray. Father, help us respond to Your truth with faith and obedience together.



Monday. Read: Luke 24:1–3

Think. The women went to the tomb expecting Jesus to be dead, but the tomb was empty.

Reflect. God had already done something amazing before they even got there.

Apply. What helps us trust God when we cannot see what He is doing? Today, let’s remind each other that God is always working in each of our lives, even when we don’t see it.

Pray. Lord, help our family trust that You are always at work even when we don’t see it.

Tuesday. Read: Luke 24:4–5

Think. The women were confused until the angels spoke to them.

Reflect. God helps us understand what is true by speaking to us through His Word.

Apply. Why is it important for our family to listen to what God says in the Bible? Talk about one way you can do that together this week.

Pray. Father, help our family listen to Your Word and trust it.

Wednesday. Read: Luke 24:6–7

Think. The angels remind the women that Jesus had already told them this would happen.

Reflect. God always keeps His promises, even when people forget them.

Apply. Can you think of a promise God has made that we can trust today? Share it together as a family.

Pray. Lord, help our family trust Your promises.

Thursday. Read: Luke 24:1

Think. The resurrection happened on a new day, showing that something new had begun.

Reflect. Jesus makes people new, and He is making the world new.

Apply. What does it mean that Jesus makes us new? How can we live differently because of that today?

Pray. Jesus, help our family live as people You are making new.

Friday. Read: Luke 24:8–12

Think. Some people believed the good news, and some did not.

Reflect. Everyone has to decide what they believe about Jesus.

Apply. What do you believe about Jesus rising from the dead? (Parents, this can be a very important moment for your children to construct their own faith and make it their own).

Pray. Lord, help our family believe what is true and follow You.