

FAMILY DEVOTIONAL

SEPTEMBER 6

"NO GREATER LOVE"
LOVE THAT GIVES LIFE

Scripture References

- John 19:38–42
- Romans 8:37–39
- John 20:1–31

Quick Re-Cap

The greatest love isn't simply demonstrated through one very special moment. **It is an ongoing relationship that changes how we live.** Jesus willingly gave His life on the cross to forgive our sins and restore our relationship with God. But the story didn't end at the tomb! Jesus rose again, beating death and offering eternal life to those who believe in Him. Eternal life is more than living forever. **It is knowing and belonging to Jesus, a relationship that begins now and continues forever!** Jesus' death provides forgiveness and access to the Father, while His resurrection gives believers hope of eternal life. When Mary Magdalene encountered the risen Jesus, she didn't simply discover that the tomb was empty. She encountered her living Savior, who called her by name (John 20:1–18). Jesus coming back to life is key, because that is the reason we are able to have a real, ongoing relationship with Jesus forever! **He knows your name, and is with you every moment, because He is alive.**

Illustration

Have you ever been to a wedding? There's a big celebration for two people that love each other and want to spend the rest of their lives together. The wedding is a special moment, because it's a public way of saying that you want to be with this person forever! The wedding isn't the most important part though. What if you got married to someone and then you never saw them again? There wouldn't be any relationship.

Jesus made a very public display of His love for us by dying on the cross and offering forgiveness for our sins. It was so special and is the only reason we can be forgiven of our mistakes. **But Jesus didn't stop there!** He also rose back to life after He died! He did this so that we could have an actual, living, daily relationship with Him for the rest of eternity. He loves us so much that He died to cover our sins, and then rose again to be with us forever. How special is that?

Application

Jesus' love changes more than our future, it changes how we live today. **Talk to Jesus every day.** A relationship grows when we spend time together. Prayer is one way we spend time with Jesus. We can talk to Him about our fears, our questions, our friends, our school, our work, and the things that make us happy. **Spend time in God's Word.** The Bible helps us learn who Jesus is and what He has done. As we read Scripture, we can ask, "What does this teach me about Jesus?" and "How can I follow Him?" **Put your faith into action.** The sermon reminds us that biblical faith is more than simply believing that Jesus existed. Our faith should lead us to trust Him, obey Him, serve Him, and live for Him. **Share the whole story.** Jesus calls us to tell others about His love. The gospel is not only that "Jesus loves you." It is the whole story: God created us and loves us, sin separates us from God, Jesus died to forgive our sins, and Jesus rose again to give us life.

Convo Starters

- Why was Jesus' death on the cross important?
- Why is it important that Jesus rose from the dead?
- What are some ways our family can spend time with Jesus this week?