

# Devotional Guide

April 6-11, 2026



## The Empty Tomb Changes Everything

***Jesus' empty tomb changes everything  
—transforming defeat into victory.***

Speaker: Mike Kleven, Lead Pastor

*Guilt, fear, and worry causes many to live under a “defeated” version of their story. On the first Easter morning, women arrived at Jesus’ tomb expecting only death. Instead, they discovered the stone rolled away, the tomb empty, and angels declaring, “He is not here, but has risen.”*

*The sermon unpacks Luke 24:1-12, revealing three life-changing truths: Jesus is far more than anyone ever expected, the crucifixion and resurrection are God’s winning plan that defeats sin and death, and each person must personally investigate the empty tomb like Peter did. The result is forgiveness for the past, peace for the present, and resurrection-shaped hope for the future.*

### **How to Use This Guide:**

Set aside 10-15 minutes daily. Read the Bible, reflect on the thought, answer questions, pray, and take the action step.

Commit to this for growth—journal insights and share with a friend for accountability.

## Day 1: The Fog of Defeat

**Bible Reading: Luke 24:1-3; Romans 5:12**

### **Devotional Thought:**

The sermon opened with the Battle of Waterloo, where fog hid the full victory message and left England believing “Wellington Defeated.” In the same way, guilt, fear, and worry create an unseen fog that makes many feel defeated.

The women came to the tomb expecting only a dead body. Their story mirrors our own when we live under partial truth. Yet God’s love breaks through the fog. The Big Idea reminds us Jesus’ empty tomb changes everything—transforming defeat into victory—even for you if you embrace him. Reflect on areas where fog still clouds your view.

### **Reflection Questions:**

1. What does Luke 24:1-3 reveal about the women’s expectations?
2. Where have you felt “defeated” by guilt, fear, or worry lately?
3. How does Romans 5:12 connect sin’s entry to our sense of defeat?
4. What “fog” in your life needs the light of the empty tomb?
5. How does the Big Idea give you hope today?

### **Prayer Prompt:**

Lord, lift the fog of defeat in my life. Forgive my past, calm my fears, and fill me with resurrection hope. Thank You that Jesus is risen. Amen.

**Action Step:**

Write down one area of defeat and beside it write the Big Idea as a declaration of truth.

## Day 2: Perplexed at the Empty Tomb

**Bible Reading: Luke 24:4-8****Devotional Thought:**

The women were “perplexed” when they found the tomb empty. They had come to the right place but for the wrong reason—preparing a dead body.

The angels’ words, “Why do you seek the living among the dead?” began to lift the fog. The sermon reminds us the first-century world knew dead people stay dead, yet Jesus had told them He would rise.

Their perplexity turned to remembrance and joy. The Big Idea, Jesus’ empty tomb changes everything—transforming defeat into victory—even for you if you embrace him, invites us to move from confusion to clarity as we remember Jesus’ words. In daily life, when circumstances perplex us, the empty tomb reorients our hearts.

**Reflection Questions:**

1. Why were the women perplexed according to Luke 24?
2. What “dead places” do you sometimes look for life in?
3. How do the angels’ words challenge your expectations of Jesus?
4. Share a time when remembering God’s promises shifted your perspective.

**Prayer Prompt:** Father, when I feel perplexed, remind me of Your promises. Open my eyes to see the risen Jesus. Fill me with wonder at the empty tomb. Amen.

**Action Step:** Memorize Luke 24:6 and repeat it when you feel confused today.

## Day 3: Jesus Far More Than Expected

**Bible Reading:** Luke 24:5-7; Colossians 1:15-17

### Devotional Thought:

Many expected Jesus to be only a good teacher or a crucified prophet. The angels declared He is the living Son of God whose death and resurrection were God's plan from the beginning.

The sermon shows Jesus is far more than anyone ever expected—Creator, Redeemer, and Victor. This truth shatters limited views of Him. The Big Idea, Jesus' empty tomb changes everything—transforming defeat into victory—even for you if you embrace him, calls us to see Jesus as He truly is.

In real life, when we underestimate Him, we live beneath our inheritance. Embrace the wonder that the tomb is empty because He is risen and alive.

### Reflection Questions:

1. What do the angels reveal about Jesus in Luke 24:5-7?
2. How does Colossians 1:15-17 expand your view of who Jesus is?
3. Where have you limited Jesus in your thinking?
4. How does knowing He is “far more” change one situation you face?

**Prayer Prompt:** Jesus, forgive me for seeing You too small. Reveal Yourself as the risen Lord. I embrace You today as my living Savior. Amen.

**Action Step:** Tell one person today something new you discovered about Jesus.

## **Day 4: Anchor Your Heart in the Plan That Wins**

**Bible Reading:** Luke 24:6-7; 1 Corinthians 15:54-57

### **Devotional Thought:**

The crucifixion and resurrection were not a backup plan—they were God’s necessary plan to set the world right. The sermon calls this “the plan that wins,” defeating sin, death, and every power that holds us captive.

Jesus’ resurrection is the ultimate victory, greater than any earthly battle. The Big Idea, Jesus’ empty tomb changes everything—transforming defeat into victory—even for you if you embrace him, gives us solid ground to stand on. In daily struggles, anchor your heart here instead of in circumstances.

The same power that raised Jesus is at work for you.

### **Reflection Questions:**

1. Why was the resurrection part of God’s plan according to the angels?
2. How does 1 Corinthians 15:54-57 describe the victory Jesus won?
3. What area of life feels like a losing battle right now?
4. How can anchoring in God’s plan change your response to it?

**Prayer Prompt:** Lord, thank You for the winning plan of the cross and resurrection. Anchor my heart in Your victory today. I trust You completely. Amen.

**Action Step:** Choose one worry and declare the Big Idea over it three times today.

## **Day 5: Take the Step No One Can Take for You**

**Bible Reading: Luke 24:9-12**

### **Devotional Thought:**

The women ran to tell the disciples, but their words seemed an “idle tale.” Peter, however, rose and ran to the tomb himself.

The sermon highlights that no one can investigate the empty tomb for you—you must take the step. Peter saw the linen cloths and marveled.

The Big Idea, Jesus’ empty tomb changes everything—transforming defeat into victory—even for you if you embrace him, becomes personal when we stop dismissing and start discovering.

In real life, skepticism gives way to faith when we check it out for ourselves.

### **Reflection Questions:**

1. Why did the disciples first dismiss the report?
2. What motivated Peter to run to the tomb?
3. What step of investigation is God inviting you to take?
4. How has personal discovery of Jesus changed you before?

**Prayer Prompt:** Jesus, I don’t want to live on second-hand faith. Help me run to You like Peter. Show me the empty tomb is real for my life. Amen.

**Action Step:** Read Luke 24:1-12 slowly and journal one thing that stands out as if you are seeing it for the first time.

## Day 6: Living in Resurrection Victory

**Bible Reading:** Luke 24:8-12; Colossians 1:13-14

### Devotional Thought:

Review the week: from fog to clarity, from defeat to victory. God has rescued us from darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son He loves.

The sermon challenges us to bring our past for forgiveness, embrace peace in the present, and claim resurrection-shaped hope for the future. The Big Idea, Jesus' empty tomb changes everything—transforming defeat into victory—even for you if you embrace him, now becomes our daily reality.

Share this hope with others and keep returning to Jesus, our risen savior.

### Reflection Questions:

1. What does Colossians 1:13-14 promise about our rescue?
2. How has this guide shifted your view of the empty tomb?
3. Which application (past, present, or future) do you need most this week?
4. Who can you tell about Jesus' resurrection victory?
5. How will you celebrate the risen Jesus today?

**Prayer Prompt:** Risen Lord, thank You for transforming my defeat into victory. Help me live forgiven, peaceful, and hopeful. Use me to share this good news. Amen.

**Action Step:** Text or tell one person the Big Idea and invite them to hear the message. Review the guide weekly for ongoing momentum.



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