

The background of the poster features a central sunburst of light rays in shades of blue and white, radiating from the center. The rays are set against a light blue background with a faint, repeating pattern of a rabbit and floral motifs. The overall aesthetic is bright and celebratory.

# EASTER

*At SGC*

# EASTER DEVOTIONAL GUIDE

## 2019

Thank you for taking one of our Easter Devotional Guides! This is designed for everyone: any stage of life or any age! Each devotion you will have questions, food for thought, scripture, and a prayer prompt for fill in the blank prayer. You will also find a video for each one, created by The Bible Project, at this link: [sgc.org/easterdevo](http://sgc.org/easterdevo). We have added family questions at the end of each devotion for further reflection. Our hope and prayer is that this guide will help you anticipate and celebrate the death and resurrection of our Savior, Jesus Christ!

# HOPE - WEEK 1

Christ's death on Good Friday and Resurrection on Easter Sunday provide a hope that will stand the test of time. As we look at the world around us, it does not take long before one can recognize that things are incredibly broken. Because of Christ's death and resurrection, we can eagerly anticipate the return of the King when He makes all things new.

*What is hope? How do the Easter events lead to hope?*

**Scripture:** Psalm 146

**Food for Thought:** “At the center of the Christian faith is the history of Christ's passion. At the center of this passion is the experience of God endured by the godforsaken, God-cursed Christ. Is this the end of all human and religious hope? Or is it the beginning of the true hope? Beneath the cross of Christ hope is born again out of the depths. The person who has once sensed this is never afraid of any depths again. [Their] hope has become firm and unconquerable: “Lord, I am a prisoner—a prisoner of hope!”

~Jürgen Moltmann, German Systematic Theologian

**Family Engagement:**

What are you excited about this spring? What does it mean to be excited about the return of Christ?

**Prayer Prompt:**

Lord, we place our hope in you because...

**Bonus Video:** [sgc.org/easterdevo](http://sgc.org/easterdevo)

# SIN - WEEK 2

Sin is the failure to live up to God's standard and we are all guilty of that, aren't we? Sin drives a wedge into God's created order, splitting the good relationships he established. People are cut off from God, estranged from one another, and perpetually at odds with nature. The wedge of sin does not remain external but goes deeper still, piercing to death the heart of every person. It disintegrates the human person, pitting our minds, bodies, and hearts against one another as bitter rivals. Sin un-creates creation and dehumanizes humanity.

*How did Christ's death defeat sin? Why did Christ come to die?*

**Scripture:** 1 Peter 2:21-25

**Food for Thought:** "When you reflect upon Jesus Christ hanging on the cross of shame, you understand the depth and weight of human sin. How do you measure the size of a fire? By the number of firefighters and fire engines sent to fight against it...How do you measure the gravity of sin and the incomparable vastness of God's love for us? By looking at the magnitude of what God has done for us in Jesus, who became like a common criminal for our sake and in our place. When you really come to know the unconditional love and forgiveness of Jesus, then you will also come to know the depth of our own participation in sin." ~Fleming Rutledge, Contemporary American Theologian

**Family Engagement:**

Though it is sad, how can we celebrate the death of Christ? How does sin put us at odds with nature?

**Prayer Prompt:**

Lord, forgive me for my sin of...

# DEATH - WEEK 3

The somber reality of Christ's birth is that He came to die. The purpose of Christ's coming was Christ's eventual dying to do what none of us could do—to pay the price of sin and to die in our place. The purpose of Christ's coming was to deal with the consequences of sin.

*How could death be good news? What was your experience at the last funeral you attended?*

**Scripture:** James 1:13-15; Romans 5:12-14

**Food for Thought:** “Let us say again: Into God as God, no pain, grief, or dislike can come. Yet God is grieved on account of our sin... Sin is such a pain to God, it saddens him so much, that he would himself be tortured and bodily die so that he might thereby wipe out a person's sin. If we asked God if he would live so that sin should remain, or die in order to destroy sin, he would choose death. For God feels more pain over our sin and it gives him more grief than his own torture and death.” ~Martin Luther, Protestant Reformer

## **Family Engagement:**

Do you think that death is sad? Why or why not? What does Jesus say about death?

## **Prayer Prompt:**

Lord, your death is good news because...

**Bonus Video:** [sgc.org/easterdevo](http://sgc.org/easterdevo)

# RESURRECTION - WEEK 4

The resurrection of Jesus Christ signifies the defeat of death. As his death has defeated sin, his resurrection has defeated death. And as a follower of Christ, we know that death will not have the final say as we will also share in Christ's resurrection. The defeat of death and the hope that resurrection provides is the only true source of hope on this earth.

*Why does our faith rest upon the resurrection? How is the resurrection the basis for our hope?*

**Scripture:** 1 Corinthians 15:1-26

**Food for Thought:** "Resurrection – not progress, not evolution, not enlightenment, but a call from heaven to us: "Rise up! You are dead, but I will give you life." That is what is proclaimed [in Easter], and it is the only way that the world can be saved. Take away this summons, and make something else of it, something smaller, less than the absolute ultimate, or less than the absolutely powerful, and you have taken away all, the unique, the last hope there is for us on earth." ~Karl Barth, German Theologian

**Family Engagement:**

What is the most important part about Easter? Why do you think that? Why might the resurrection be the most important part about Easter?

**Prayer Prompt:**

Jesus, we praise you for your resurrection because...

**Bonus Video:** [sgc.org/easterdevo](http://sgc.org/easterdevo)

# LIFE - WEEK 5

Through Christ's life, death, and resurrection we have access to true life. The Gospel, the good news of Jesus Christ, is the source of life that we are all longing for. What would Easter be if we refused to share what we have just celebrated on Good Friday and Easter Sunday? We ourselves can relish daily that our Savior, Jesus Christ, has given us life and life abundantly. Now, we live in the already, but the not-yet. The already true reality that we have life, but the not-yet reality that we await true life once Christ returns.

**Scripture:** Revelation 21:1-7; John 10:10

**Food for Thought:** “The earliest Christians believed, in fact, that resurrection was what every human being really needed—not just in the end, in the new world that God will eventually make, but in the present life as well. God intends, in the end, to give us a new life, in comparison with which the present one is a mere thing of shadows. He intends to give us new life within his ultimate new creation. *But the new creation has already begun with the resurrection of Jesus*, and God wants us to wake up *now*, in the present time, to the new reality. We are to come through death and out the other side into a new sort of life; to become daytime people, even though the rest of the world isn't yet awake. We are to live in the present darkness by the light of Christ, so that when the sun comes up at last we will be ready for it...That's what it means to respond to the call of the Christian gospel.” ~NT Wright, New Testament Scholar in the UK

**Family Engagement:**

What would it look like for you to share the life you have in Christ with others?

**Prayer Prompt:**



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