

# He Has Overcome the World

April 12, 2020



## Daily Devotions

### SOAP Introduction

As an individual or as a family, use this SOAP study to connect with Jesus each day this week. SOAP stands for Scripture, Observation, Application, and Prayer. When we do a SOAP study, we want to root ourselves in the Scriptures, observing what they have for us, applying them to our lives, and then communing with God in prayer both before and after our time in the Bible.

Each day there will be multiple Scriptures for you to ask questions about, sit with, hear from God, and be invited to respond in action to.

If you're doing this individually, be sure to prayerfully consider each day's truth, each day's passages, and each of the questions. If you are doing this as a family, don't be afraid to have each person in your family read one of the verses or to "popcorn read" if it's a longer passage (meaning, don't be afraid to have one person read a verse or two and then another read a couple verses and then another a couple verses).

Parents, if you are going through this with your children, be sure to ask questions that will help your children engage with the daily Scriptures by asking good, concrete questions.

## Day One // Resurrection, Scene 1

The images of his death kept playing themselves over and over in her mind – his limp body, the way the soldiers pierced his side, the blood everywhere. It was early, not even dawn yet, but all Mary could think about was Jesus...

*Why?*

*How?*

*It wasn't supposed to be this way.*

*Can we start over?*

*Jesus.*

*Jesus.*

*Jesus!*

Scripture: **Read Matthew 28:1-10**

Observation: *What do I see in this passage?*

- What words or phrases resonate inside of you as you read and re-read these passages?
- Imagine you're Mary before and after you encounter the angel. What thoughts or feelings would race through your mind before you heard the good news? What about after hearing the angel's message?
- Upon seeing Jesus resurrected, Mary grabbed ahold of Jesus' feet and worshipped him. What word would you use to describe your feelings towards the resurrected Christ? Why?

Application: *What do I do with what I've read?*

- In what ways does Jesus' resurrection, not diminish, but shed light on your current circumstances?
- Where do you feel like God is inviting you as a result of your reflection today?

Prayer: Write a prayer to Jesus expressing your thoughts and feelings regarding him being the resurrected Lord.

## Day Two // Resurrection, Scene 2

In John's gospel we get another look at Jesus' interaction with Mary. Shortly after Jesus' resurrection, Jesus appeared to Mary Magdalene. What's interesting is that he wasn't immediately recognizable to her. She mistook him for a gardener. Theologians have interpreted Mary mistaking Jesus' identity as the gardener as a subtle way of telling us readers that Jesus, is in fact a gardener – a gardener sowing seeds of new creation.

In Mary's experience with Jesus, it wasn't until he spoke her name that she realized who it was that she was speaking to. Maybe it was his accent; maybe it was the inflection he used; or maybe it was the intimacy with which he said it; we do not know why she didn't recognize his voice. What we do know is that Jesus was revealed to Mary when he called her name and the same is true for us too.

Jesus is calling us to himself – Jesus is calling each of us by name. What will our response be?

Scripture: **Read John 20:10-18**

Observation: *What do I see in this passage?*

- Read and re-read this passage slowly. In what ways do you think you miss out on identifying Jesus? Where have you missed him? Have there been any moments in your life where you feel like Jesus has shown up, but you didn't recognize him?
- How can you be open to Jesus' presence in your life?
- Place yourself in Mary's shoes again. What would it be like to go from weeping at Jesus' death to then realizing your loved one is alive?
- Imagine Jesus looking at you warmly. Then, imagine him saying your name. What thoughts or feelings come to mind?
- How have you seen Jesus sow seeds of hope and renewal in your life?

Application: *What do I do with what I've read?*

- How can you help foster seeds of hope in the lives of others around you?
- Where do you feel like God is inviting you into greater stewardship as a result of your reflection today?

Prayer: Reflect on who Jesus is to you and thank him for sowing seeds of hope in your life.

### Day Three // Resurrection, Scene 3

Thomas usually gets a bad rap for being “doubting Thomas.” Out of all the other disciples, he’s the only one we remember negatively (unless you count Judas!). I have a hard time labeling Thomas as a doubter, or at least, doing so with derision. The reason for that is because if I were in his shoes, I’d probably be the same: *“Unless I see in his hands the mark of the nails, and place my finger into the mark of the nails, and place my hand into his side, I will never believe.”*

Scripture: **Read John 20:24-29.**

Observation: *What do I see in this passage?*

- What words or phrases resonate inside of you as you read and re-read these passages?
- How similar or dissimilar do you feel that you are to Thomas? What do you think undergirds your answer to this question?
- When was a time when you experienced doubt? How do you think doubt and faith intertwine? How has doubt in your own life affected your faith?
- What was Jesus’ response to the doubts of Thomas? How did Jesus resolve Thomas’ doubts? What do you sense God’s invitation is to you in the midst of your doubt?

Application: *What do I do with what I’ve read?*

- What questions do you have about Jesus that you need to explore right now that would either help solidify your own faith or help you to help others in theirs?
- How do you feel like God is inviting you into greater faith as a result of your reflection today?

Prayer: *Father, just as you invited Thomas to explore and discover his faith, thank you for extending that invitation to me as well. Open my heart so that I might see and not be hardened to the truth of the resurrection of Jesus and its implication for my life. Amen.*

## Day Four // Resurrection, Scene 4

Just as Jesus appeared to Mary and Thomas, the two disciples that Jesus encounters today are no different. They had followed Jesus for a while and had even heard some strange story about him being raised from the dead. Easy to say, harder to believe. They saw the tomb, but hadn't actually witnessed the resurrected Christ. They had a hard time comprehending the idea of their Messiah dying by crucifixion.

Jesus needed to sit with them and explain, through the Scriptures, how they always pointed to his death and resurrection. It was a paradigm shift.

Scripture: **Read Luke 24:13-35**

Observation: *What do I see in this passage?*

- Read and re-read this passage slowly. What resonates with you from these verses?
- Imagine yourself in this scene. What would it be like to go walking on the road and have a stranger approach you and start asking questions about what happened in Jerusalem?
- In this passage, the disciples had dashed hopes. When in your life have you had hopes that were crushed? How have you experienced Jesus drawing near in those times?
- How do you think the Scriptures in the Old Testament point to Jesus?

Application: *What do I do with what I've read?*

- How would you describe the state of your relationship with Jesus? Does it feel like he is gone like the disciples felt in the beginning of this passage (**verses 13-16**)? Does it feel like you're on a journey of exploration, needing to understand and know more (**verses 25-27**)? Does it feel like you're walking with him on the path (**verses 28-29**)? Does it feel like a blissful communion (**verses 30-35**)? Explain.
- How do you feel like God is inviting you into greater trust as a result of your reflection today?

Prayer: Pray with Jesus and describe your relationship with him today. Explain where you'd like it to be. Ask for God's help in leading you there.

## Day Five // Resurrection, Scene 5

Jesus' resurrection wasn't just based on the experience of one or two people. It is based on the testimony of many!

Paul says in 1 Corinthians when describing the gospel that, "He [Jesus] appeared to Cephas [Peter], and then to the Twelve. After that, he appeared to more than five hundred of the brothers and sisters at the same time, most of whom are still living, though some have fallen asleep. Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles, and last of all he appeared to me also..." (**1 Corinthians 15:5-8**).

The resurrection is a reality shaping event. Once you come to grips with the reality of that news, life cannot stay the same. That's what Jesus wants to get across to Peter. And that's what Jesus wants to get across to me and you.

Scripture: **Read John 21:1-19**

Observation: *What do I see in this passage?*

- If you were having breakfast with Jesus like the disciples do in this passage following his resurrection, what things would you see? What would you smell? What questions would you ask Jesus?
- Imagine if you were Peter in **verses 15-19**. What would it be like to experience that conversation with Jesus?
- Simple but important question: Do you love Jesus?
- How is your response to that question similar or dissimilar to how you would answer it if you were asked about a spouse, a great friend, a sibling, or a parent?
- What does Jesus mean when he says, "Feed my sheep?" What is the connection between loving Jesus and caring for others?

Application: *What do I do with what I've read?*

- How can you "feed Jesus' sheep" in light of COVID-19 today?
- How do you feel like God is inviting you to follow him practically as a result of your reflection today?

Prayer: *Father, I love you. I love you, not because I loved you first, but because you first loved me. And you showed me your love in that you were willing to die on the cross for my sins. Thank you, Jesus. Help me to follow you every day of my life until I enter your courts with thanksgiving and praise. Amen.*

