

Next Chapter

Almighty God, who through your only-begotten Son Jesus Christ overcame death and opened to us the gate of everlasting life: Grant that we, who celebrate with joy the day of the Lord's resurrection, may be raised from the death of sin by your life-giving Spirit; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Look

Our lives are stories. They aren't facts, or numbers, or dates or places. They are ongoing narratives filled with emotions and relationships and events. They are rich with details and too complex for mere words. Just like a story, there are twists and turns along the way, some of which are welcome and others not so much.

1. Describe the last chapter of your life. How did you feel about that chapter ending?
2. What are some common life chapters that people go through?
3. How does thinking about your life story in chapters help frame your growth as a person?

Book

John 20:1-18

This is a familiar story that we hear every Easter, so let's focus on Mary. She was one of the more loyal followers of Jesus, and she's gripped with sadness at his death. On this particular morning, before sunrise, Mary comes to the tomb for a surprise.

1. How does Mary's actions at the tomb vary from those of Peter and John?
2. What does Mary's response to the angels reveal about her thoughts and emotions?
3. Do you feel that Mary is excited to turn the page to a new chapter of faith, or is she being dragged into it? What makes you see it that way?

Took

We are all part of The Story. It's a story that includes all of our lives, and invites us all to participate in the storytelling together. We must look for God's hand in the story around us so that we can see what we are being called to do.

1. Why is it important to be sharing our life stories with each other to grow in faith?
2. What are common distractions that get in the way of faithful attention to our life stories and God's hand in them?
3. What is one thing you can do this week to help other people navigate their life story with faith?