

VOLUNTEER DEVOTIONAL

PLOT TWIST

STUDY

A plot twist is a disruption to a story that the listeners think they've already figured out. Those who were close to Jesus (or hearing about the things he was saying or doing) already had some assumptions about how the Kingdom of God would be set up and what the Messiah would be like. The twists in the Easter story may come as less of a surprise to you on this side of history, but they were mic drop moments! Experiences Jesus delivered to a people who thought they knew the ending to the story. Imagine the surprise! Take a look at the six stories you'll be teaching teenagers this month. Look for the element of surprise in each story and ask God to reveal the plot twist that's most important for you.

To get ready for this series, **spend a few minutes reading the stories we'll be teaching students this month.** As you do, think about what God has taught you (and is still teaching you) about the story of Easter through these passages, and how these Big Ideas have been true in your life.

WEEK 1: When we're in trouble, God gives us help.

John 11:45-57; Psalm 46:1, 130:1-8

WEEK 2: When we turn away from Jesus, he doesn't turn away from us.

Matthew 21:1-11, 26:14-16, 27:22-26; Colossians 1:13-14; 1 John 1:9

WEEK 3: When sin brings death, Jesus gives life.

John 19:1-30, 20:1-18; Psalm 51:9-10

WEEK 4: When all seems lost, Jesus is our hope.

John 20:19-23; 1 Peter 1:3-9; Ephesians 1:18

WEEK 5: When we feel alone, Jesus is present.

Luke 24:13-35; Psalm 116:1-5, 139:7-10

WEEK 6: When we mess up, Jesus gives us another chance.

John 21:15-19; 1 Peter 2:23-25; Romans 6:11-14

PRAY

What kind of opinion do you think God has about you? The answer to this question can be found when having a conversation with God. Think about what Jesus was willing to go through for you – and all of humanity. Spend some time re-reading John 3:16. Then, read the verse that follows it. What do these verses suggest God's heart is toward you? Allow yourself to hear the Good News of Easter again and consider what new things God may be wanting to say to you.

Which passage of Scripture or Big Idea from this month is most relevant to you right now? Spend a few minutes asking God to show you how you've already grown in this area, plus the next step you need to take in order to keep growing.

GROW

So what's your next step? Do you need to ask God for some help right now? Have you had a season where you've walked away from your faith or aren't very close to God? Maybe it's time to remember that God isn't walking away from you. Do you need the life that Jesus brings or a new dose of hope? It could be simply remembering that Jesus is with you, no matter what you go through, and always willing to give us another chance.

Whatever your next step is right now, take it. Then help students do the same.