

# Rising of the Son:

## A Family Devotional Celebrating the Coming of Easter

*And when the sabbath was past, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome, had bought sweet spices, that they might come and anoint him. And very early in the morning the first day of the week, they came unto the sepulchre at the rising of the sun. And they said among themselves, Who shall roll us away the stone*

*from the door of the sepulchre? And when they looked, they saw that the stone was rolled away: for it was very great. And entering into the sepulchre, they saw a young man sitting on the right side, clothed in a long white garment; and they were affrighted. And he saith unto them, Be not affrighted: Ye seek Jesus of Nazareth, which was crucified: he is risen; he is not here: behold the place where they laid him. But go your way, tell his disciples and Peter that he goeth before you into Galilee: there shall ye see him, as he said unto you. And they went out quickly, and fled from the sepulchre: for they trembled and were amazed: neither said they any thing to any man: for they were afraid. Now when Jesus was risen early the first day of the week, he appeared first to Mary Magdalene, out of*

*whom he had cast seven devils. And she went and told them that had been with him, as they mourned and wept. And they, when they had heard that he was alive, and had been seen of her, believed not. After that he appeared in another form unto two of them, as they walked, and went into the country. And they went and told it unto the residue: neither believed they them. Afterward he appeared unto the eleven as they sat at meat, and upbraided them with their unbelief and hardness of heart, because they believed not them which had seen him after he was risen. And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved. (Mark 16:1-9)*

By Nathan and Anna Rugg

*Rising of the Son:*  
*A Family Devotional Celebrating the Coming of Easter (Sample)*



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# *Introduction*

**E**aster, or Resurrection Sunday, is truly the most joyous of all holidays for a Christian.

Christ arose!

Jesus conquered death so that we all can live forevermore!

Nothing can compare to this great Good News, and the whole family should share the excitement. Whether you have always celebrated Lent or are simply looking for a new way to better prepare your heart for the coming celebration of Easter, this devotional looks at Jesus Christ's life, death, and resurrection in a way that attempts to involve everyone in the family.

## **How to Use This Book**

This book is divided into 50 sections each with a scripture readings, thoughts on the passage, discussion questions, and suggested hymns and activities.

We tried to include a variety of levels for the questions and activities so that this book would be applicable for a wide range of ages. Easier questions and activities are marked with a palm branch, and more challenging ones are marked with an empty tomb.

Traditionally, there are said to be 40 days in the season of Lent, but this does not include Sundays. So from Ash Wednesday to Easter Sunday, there are actually 47 days. We have included 3 more days after Easter bringing the total number of sections in this book up to 50. The traditional Holy Week readings begin on Day 40 with Palm Sunday and continue through Day 47 Easter Sunday. They are clearly labeled for ease of use.

We designed each section to be for an individual day, but, of course, you can go as fast or as slow as you like. And if you don't wish to follow the traditional lent schedule, you can either start later in the book or skip lessons as needed. We've tried to make this devotional easy for you to adapt to your family's own needs.

Use as much or as little of the book as you want, whatever draws your heart toward God. And if all you use is the scripture references as a jumping off point to read out of your own Bible and have you own reflection or discussion, that is great too. After all, only the Word is infallible, and we are far from it.

Thank you for taking time to read these words and desiring to celebrate Christ's resurrection.

## **Printable Resources**

We have also included a variety of printable resources to go along with this book. You can use these to complete some of the activities if you like.

There are picture ornaments to correspond to each day's reading. There are colored versions all ready to print out and black and white versions that you can color yourself. You can use these to create countdown to Resurrection Sunday (or Lent) calendar or use them to decorate a Resurrection Tree if you like.

If you have very young children, or just want to simplify the activities, perhaps coloring the black and white ornaments is all the activity you need for each day.

There is also a printable set specifically for Holy Week, so each child can make his or her own *My Resurrection Book*. Print, and cut out the cover and the quarter sheet pages for days 1-8. Fold the pages and place them inside the cover and staple it (or fasten them together in another manner). Children can color the picture for each day and write a verse or thought or draw another picture in the box provided to go along with the reading.

There are also decorative printables that you can print out and use to decorate your home.

# Day 1: Light Dawns

## Genesis 1:1–5

<sup>1</sup>In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth. <sup>2</sup>And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness *was* upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters. <sup>3</sup>And God said, Let there be light: and there was light. <sup>4</sup>And God saw the light, that *it was* good: and God divided the light from the darkness. <sup>5</sup>And God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And the evening and the morning were the first day.

## John 1:1–5

<sup>1</sup>In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup>The same was in the beginning with God. <sup>3</sup>All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made. <sup>4</sup>In him was life; and the life was the light of men. <sup>5</sup>And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not.

**I**n the beginning there was nothing...except God.  
And God is light.  
Jesus is the Light.

And the first creation God speaks into existence is light.

“And God said, Let there be light: and there was light.” (Genesis 1:3)

Before our sun or any other celestial body, God created light.

Jesus is God, and He was in the beginning with God. All things were made with only God’s Word, which is Jesus.

“In him was life; and the life was the light of men. And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not.” (John 1:4-5)

God is incomprehensibly magnificent and glorious. But He truly desires that we know Him as intimately as possible for human beings. He shows us glimpses of Himself – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit – all throughout the scriptures. God wants us to know the Light. God wants us to know Him.

God wants us to walk in the light and to light up the world through us.

As we look at glimpses of God’s glorious Son throughout the scripture, may our lights burn brighter.

## Questions:



Who is the True Light?  
What was created first?



What does God want us to be for this world?  
What are some ways we can be a light in the darkness?

## Suggested Activities:



Draw a dark scene with a bright light entering it.



Light a candle in a dark room. Meditate on what it means to be a light in the darkness, and ask God to use you as a light for him.

# Beautiful Saviour

(Joseph A. Seiss, 1873)

*Fairest Lord Jesus, Ruler of all nature,  
O Thou of God and man the Son,  
Thee will I cherish, Thee will I honor,  
Thou, my soul's glory, joy and crown.*

*Fair are the meadows, fairer still the woodlands,  
Robed in the blooming garb of spring;  
Jesus is fairer, Jesus is purer,  
Who makes the woeful heart to sing.*

*Fair is the sunshine, fairer still the moonlight,  
And all the twinkling starry host;  
Jesus shines brighter, Jesus shines purer  
Than all the angels heaven can boast.*

*All fairest beauty, heavenly and earthly,  
Wondrously, Jesus, is found in Thee;  
None can be nearer, fairer or dearer,  
Than Thou, my Savior, art to me.*

*Beautiful Savior! Lord of all the nations!  
Son of God and Son of Man!  
Glory and honor, praise, adoration,  
Now and forever more be Thine.*

# Day 2: *The Birth of Christ*

## Luke 2:1–14

<sup>1</sup>And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus, that all the world should be taxed. <sup>2</sup>(*And this taxing was first made when Cyrenius was governor of Syria.*) <sup>3</sup>And all went to be taxed, every one into his own city. <sup>4</sup>And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judaea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; (because he was of the house and lineage of David:) <sup>5</sup>To be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child.

<sup>6</sup>And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered. <sup>7</sup>And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn.

<sup>8</sup>And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. <sup>9</sup>And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid. <sup>10</sup>And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. <sup>11</sup>For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. <sup>12</sup>And this *shall be* a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger. <sup>13</sup>And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, <sup>14</sup>Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.

**T**he only begotten Son of God is born.

He makes His entrance in a stable. A place no human would want to live. It is the humblest of beginnings.

But just outside of town, the most amazing birth announcement ever is delivered. Angels announce the Savior's arrival. The glory of the Lord fills the skies. The Light of men has entered the world, even though they comprehended it not.

Lowly shepherds come to pay their respects to the newborn Savior and leave rejoicing and praising God.

God seeks to reveal Himself to us too. Whether great or small in this world, He wants all to see and experience the True Light. Once we have experienced the Light, and met the Savior, let us too go out rejoicing and praising God, sharing this great Light with others.

## Questions:



- Where is the Son of God born?
- Who receives the announcement that a Savior is born?



- Whom does God now want to receive the announcement of a Savior?
- What should those who know the Light do after they have met the Savior themselves?

## Suggested Activities:



- Announce the birth of Christ to all those in your home who will listen. (Memorize Luke 2:11 to make a more "formal" announcement if you wish.)



- Ask God to help you rejoice in Him, and go about praising Him this day.

# Angels from the Realms of Glory

(James Montgomery, 1816)

*Angels from the realms of glory,  
Wing your flight o'er all the earth;  
Ye who sang creation's story  
Now proclaim Messiah's birth.*

*Come and worship, come and worship,  
Worship Christ, the newborn King.*

*Shepherds, in the field abiding,  
Watching o'er your flocks by night,  
God with us is now residing;  
Yonder shines the infant light:*

*Come and worship, come and worship,  
Worship Christ, the newborn King.*

*Sages, leave your contemplations,  
Brighter visions beam afar;  
Seek the great Desire of nations;  
Ye have seen His natal star.*

*Come and worship, come and worship,  
Worship Christ, the newborn King.*

*Saints, before the altar bending,  
Watching long in hope and fear;  
Suddenly the Lord, descending,  
In His temple shall appear.*

*Come and worship, come and worship,  
Worship Christ, the newborn King.*

*Sinners, wrung with true repentance,  
Doomed for guilt to endless pains;  
Justice now revokes the sentence;  
Mercy calls you; break your chains.*

*Come and worship, come and worship,  
Worship Christ, the newborn King.*

*Though an Infant now we view Him,  
He shall fill His Father's throne,  
Gather all the nations to Him;  
Every knee shall then bow down:*

*Come and worship, come and worship,  
Worship Christ, the newborn King.*

*All creation, join in praising  
God, the Father, Spirit, Son,  
Evermore your voices raising  
To th'eternal Three in One.*

*Come and worship, come and worship,  
Worship Christ, the newborn King.*

# *Thanks for Reading*

Thanks for reading *Rising of the Son: A Family Devotional Celebrating the Coming of Easter* sample. Visit [GreenfieldEducation.com](http://GreenfieldEducation.com) to find the full version of this and other educational books for your family.

# *About the Authors*

Nathan and Anna Rugg are currently living in China, learning Mandarin, and chasing their three active boys.

They are the founders of Greenfield Education ([GreenfieldEducation.com](http://GreenfieldEducation.com)), helping ordinary kids achieve their extraordinary potential.

Anna writes about their crazy/blessed life, cooking, DIY projects, and homeschooling adventures at [www.TheDoltYourselfMom.com](http://www.TheDoltYourselfMom.com).

For questions or comments, email [hello@greenfieldeducation.com](mailto:hello@greenfieldeducation.com).

Thanks for reading!

