

Resurrection Sunday / Baptisms 2026

Intro: Culture is Created

- Conviction - what you believe
- Commitment - what you think
- Confession - what you say
- Conduct - what you do

Nine-year-old Philip had Down's syndrome. In Sunday School, the kid's made fun of him because he was 'different'.

The Sunday before Easter, the teacher gave each child a plastic egg and asked them to look for symbols of new life, like seeds and leaves, then place them inside the egg. The idea was to open their eggs next Sunday and discuss what they'd found.

When the kids gathered, they'd collected things like flowers, butterflies and rocks. But when the teacher opened Philip's egg, it was empty. One kid said: '*That's not fair, he didn't do it right!*'

Philip tugged at the teacher's sleeve and said: '*I did do it right. It's empty because the tomb is empty. That's why we have new life.*' The class gasped – and from then on he became part of the group.

- Jairus' request

Mark 5.23– *He pleaded earnestly with him, "My little daughter is dying. Please come and put your hands on her so that she will be healed and live."*

- Interruptions may come

Tell story of unknown lady

Mark 5.33-34 *Then the woman, knowing what had happened to her, came and fell at his feet and, trembling with fear, told him the whole truth. He said to her, "Daughter, your faith has healed you. Go in peace and be freed from your suffering."*

- What about Jairus?

Mark 5.35-36 *While Jesus was still speaking, some people came from the house of Jairus, the synagogue leader. "Your daughter is dead," they said. "Why bother the teacher anymore?"*

Overhearing what they said, Jesus told him, "Don't be afraid; just believe."

- Don't be afraid
- Let faith work (ignore the scoffers)

2. Jesus can Resurrect your Faith (John 11)

- Martha's faith was shaken

John 11:21 *"Lord," Martha said to Jesus, "if you had been here, my brother would not have died..."*

- Conviction & commitment hold

John 11:22 ...*But I know that even now God will give you whatever you ask.*"

- Confession still strong

John 11:27 "Yes, Lord," she replied, "I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, who is to come into the world."

- 'But Lord.....

John 11:39 "Take away the stone," he said.

"But, Lord," said Martha, the sister of the dead man, "by this time there is a bad odour, for he has been there four days."

- Jesus' reply:

John 11:40 Then Jesus said, "Did I not tell you that if you believe, you will see the glory of God?"

3. Jesus can resurrect your future

How do I KNOW? Because He lives, I can face tomorrow.

He appeared to:

- The fearful

Luke 24.38-43 He said to them, "Why are you troubled, and why do doubts rise in your minds? Look at my hands and my feet. It is I myself! Touch me and see; a ghost does not have flesh and bones, as you see I have."

When he had said this, he showed them his hands and feet. And while they still did not believe it because of joy and amazement, he asked them, "Do you have anything here to eat?" They gave him a piece of broiled fish, and he took it and ate it in their presence.

- The doubters

John 20:25, 27-28 So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord!"

But he said to them, "Unless I see the nail marks in his hands and put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into his side, I will not believe."

...Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe."

Thomas said to him, "My Lord and my God!"

- The masses

Corinthians 15:6 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

- Apostle Paul former terrorist.

Acts 22.6-10,12-13,15-16 "About noon as I came near Damascus, suddenly a bright light from heaven flashed around me. I fell to the ground and heard a voice say to me, 'Saul! Saul! Why do you persecute me?'

"Who are you, Lord?' I asked.

“I am Jesus of Nazareth, whom you are persecuting,” he replied. My companions saw the light, but they did not understand the voice of him who was speaking to me.

“What shall I do, Lord?” I asked.

“Get up,” the Lord said, ‘and go into Damascus. There you will be told all that you have been assigned to do....

“A man named Ananias came to see me. He was a devout observer of the law and highly respected by all the Jews living there. He stood beside me and said, ‘Brother Saul, receive your sight!’ And at that very moment I was able to see him...

You will be his witness to all people of what you have seen and heard. And now what are you waiting for? Get up, be baptized and wash your sins away, calling on his name.’



- Does this still happen today?

Several former terrorists from the Middle East have converted to Christianity, often following visions, dreams, or personal revelations that transformed their lives.

Afshin Javid¹

Afshin Javid, a former Hezbollah soldier and devout Muslim, shared that he once admired Hitler and participated in violent acts, including working on landmines and executions. While imprisoned in Malaysia, he experienced a vision of Jesus, described as a radiant figure whose holiness revealed Javid's own lack of righteousness. This encounter led him to weep and ultimately embrace Christianity, transforming from someone who harbored hatred toward Jewish people into a follower of Christ who learned to love others.

Taysir "Tass" Saada²

Taysir Saada, formerly associated with Fatah and the Palestinian Liberation Organization, converted to Christianity in the 1990s. He recounted a life consumed by rage and violence, including serving as a sniper and personal driver for Yasser Arafat. Saada now believes that the ongoing conflicts in the Middle East are prompting many Muslims to reconsider radical

¹ Crosswalk

² christiandaily.com

ideologies, making them more open to the Gospel. He plans to return to Gaza to participate in what he calls the "harvest" of new believers.

Ahmed from Egypt³

Ahmed, a former Islamic extremist in Egypt, was deeply involved in persecuting Christians, including burning homes and kidnapping girls.

Despite memorizing the Quran and following Islamic law rigorously, he felt disturbed and questioned the morality of his actions. A dream in which the Son of God appeared led him to read the teachings of Christ, particularly the Gospel of John, and he experienced a profound transformation from darkness to light, leaving behind his violent past.

Bashir Mohammad⁴

Bashir Mohammad, a 25-year-old former fighter for the Nusra Front in Syria, described himself as a "jihadi who turned to Jesus." Witnessing extreme brutality and genocide during the Syrian civil war led him to question his beliefs. He eventually embraced Christianity, now leading Bible study groups and sharing his testimony of transformation from radicalized violence to faith in Christ.

Muhammad, Former ISIS Leader⁵

Muhammad, once known as the "Prince of ISIS," converted to Christianity after a series of dreams and divine encounters. Guided by a Christian friend and local ministry support, he transitioned from planning violent acts to becoming a devoted Christian, gaining employment, marrying, and leading Bible studies. His story highlights the role of dreams, visions, and community support in the conversion of former extremists.

Summary

³ Global Christian Relief

⁴ Christian Today

⁵ Help The Persecuted

⁶*These testimonies illustrate that former terrorists from diverse backgrounds— Hezbollah, Fatah, Nusra Front, ISIS, and other extremist groups— have experienced profound spiritual transformations. Common elements include visions or dreams of Jesus, personal reflection on past violence, and a subsequent commitment to Christian faith. Their stories emphasize the potential for radical change and reconciliation, even for those previously committed to violent ideologies.*

- Science and Christianity are not in opposition as a growing number of scientists hold faith and true science together
- Miracles are still happening
- Prayers are still being answered
- Lives are still being changed.

Transition to Baptisms

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- Commitment - what you think
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