

## Plot Twist

### Part 5 (Easter Sunday): The Story Of My Life

What kinds of things might cause you to say “That’s the story of my life”?

The life and ministry of Jesus is full of plot twists. What are some of those plot twists?

In what ways is Jesus’ betrayal and death a plot twist?

In what ways is Jesus’ resurrection a plot twist?

How can you be certain Jesus really did rise from the dead?

#### Read 1 Corinthians 15:1–20:

*“Let me now remind you, dear brothers and sisters, of the Good News I preached to you before. You welcomed it then, and you still stand firm in it. It is this Good News that saves you if you continue to believe the message I told you—unless, of course, you believed something that was never true in the first place. I passed on to you what was most important and what had also been passed on to me. Christ died for our sins, just as the Scriptures said. He was buried, and he was raised from the dead on the third day, just as the Scriptures said. He was seen by Peter and then by the Twelve. After that, he was seen by more than 500 of his followers at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have died. Then he was seen by James and later by all the apostles. Last of all, as though I had been born at the wrong time, I also saw him. For I am the least of all the apostles. In fact, I’m not even worthy to be called an apostle after the way I persecuted God’s church. But whatever I am now, it is all because God poured out his special favor on me—and not without results. For I have worked harder than any of the other apostles; yet it was not I but God who was working through me by his grace. So it makes no difference whether I preach or they preach, for we all preach the same message you have already believed. But tell me this—since we preach that Christ rose from the dead, why are some of you saying there will be no resurrection of the dead? For if there is no resurrection of the dead, then Christ has not been raised either. And if Christ has not been raised, then all our preaching is useless, and your faith is useless. And we apostles would all be lying about God—for we have said that God raised Christ from the grave. But that can’t be true if there is no resurrection of the dead. And if there is no resurrection of the dead, then Christ has not been raised. And if Christ has not been raised, then your faith is useless and you are still guilty of your sins. In that case, all who have died believing in Christ are lost! And if our hope in Christ is only for this life, we are more to be pitied than anyone in the world. But in fact, Christ has been raised from the dead. He is the first of a great harvest of all who have died.” 1 Corinthians 15:1–20 (NLT)*

What does Paul say is the “Good News”?

Why does Paul say that if Christ hasn’t been raised from the dead “we are more to be pitied than anyone in the world”?

**Read Romans 8:10:**

*“It stands to reason, doesn't it, that if the alive-and-present God who raised Jesus from the dead moves into your life, he'll do the same thing in you that he did in Jesus, bringing you alive to himself? When God lives and breathes in you (and he does, as surely as he did in Jesus), you are delivered from that dead life. With his Spirit living in you, your body will be as alive as Christ's!”*  
Romans 8:11 (The Message)

What does it mean to have God “*living and breathing within you?*”

**How does the resurrection of Jesus give you hope and encouragement in the story of your life?**

In what ways do you sometimes resist change?

Fill in this sentence: “Sometimes we're looking for a change in our     [circumstances]    , and what we really need is a change in our     [heart]    .”

**Read Romans 12:2:**

*“Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think.”* Romans 12:2 (NLT)

What does the word “transform” mean?

Why do we need to be transformed?

Brandon and Christina were Baptized Easter weekend. What do you remember about their story?

**Read Romans 6:1-5 in the Message translation:**

*“So what do we do? Keep on sinning so God can keep on forgiving? I should hope not! If we've left the country where sin is sovereign, how can we still live in our old house there? Or didn't you realize we packed up and left there for good? That is what happened in baptism. When we went under the water, we left the old country of sin behind; when we came up out of the water, we entered into the new country of grace—a new life in a new land! That's what baptism into the life of Jesus means. When we are lowered into the water, it is like the burial of Jesus; when we are raised up out of the water, it is like the resurrection of Jesus. Each of us is raised into a light-filled world by our Father so that we can see where we're going in our new grace-sovereign country.”* Romans 6:1–5 (The Message)

Do you need a “plot twist” in your life? Explain.

Pray for one another.