



"I would get up every morning and smoke a couple of bowls of meth and go to work. Meth was the cure-all. It was the end all. I used meth for fourteen years solid every day."

Have you ever wondered if Jesus' resurrection matters to your life? It mattered to Sarah's.

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As a single mother, Sarah tried to offset heavy drug use during the day with alcohol abuse at night. Meals were an afterthought. Joy and peace were evasive at best. Her only desire was an escape — escape from the pain, brokenness, and shame of a life of fear and struggle. Sarah had given up hope. But this was not the end of her journey. Love hadn't given up on Sarah.

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FIND PURPOSE

Jesus knows you and loves you. He created you for a purpose. That purpose is found in a relationship with Him.

Jesus' desire for a relationship is the basic, underlying meaning of life. We were made to know Him and be known by Him.

Take the next step to know Him today.

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To watch Sarah's testimony of God's redemptive love, scan the **QR code** or visit **www.redostory.com**



Laying in the grass, intoxicated in a dingy city park, Sarah saw a group of people approaching. A slow murmur came, "Oh man, here come these crazy church people. They're going to try to pray for us, I know it."

Nobody from the group prayed for Sarah. But Caleb stopped, and with one simple phrase, changed Sarah's attitude about life. For years, she thought of the abuse and the pain — she saw herself through her failures and struggles. In the rare instances when she did think of God, she pictured an angry dad, disappointed and disconnected from her life.

"You are awesome, Sarah," Caleb said, over and over again. "Sarah, God thinks you're awesome."

Sarah's mindset shifted. She felt empowered by Caleb's words. Truth began to resonate. God had sent Caleb to remind Sarah of the most important part about her life: she was made in God's image, and she was awesome — not for what she'd done or hadn't done, but because she was unique, and there was a purpose for her life. God loved her and wanted her to know it. It took some time to sink in, but eventually, she saw what Caleb saw, what God saw: beauty in the midst of junk and new life in the midst of death.

We want to know that we are accepted and loved, valued and pursued. But we rarely feel this way. We know our guilt. We feel ashamed for wrong choices, and the trouble we have caused. Just like Sarah, we imagine God to be angry and frustrated with us. But that's not the case. Jesus gives us a different picture. He went to the cross to take our guilt and shame upon Himself, putting an end to our separation from God.

The resurrection gives my life meaning and direction and the opportunity to start over no matter what my circumstances.

Robert Flatt

Because of Jesus' life, death, and resurrection we have an opportunity for a completely new life. Easter is the signal to broken humanity that new life can always grow out of the old. Every spring we see it in each fresh blade of grass and new tree bud. With each flower that pushes through thawing soil, we are reminded of the power of life's statement to death that even the grave doesn't have to be the end of our story.

"Therefore if anyone is in Christ, they are a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come."

2 Corinthians 5:17

Shame says you've messed up too many times that you'll never recover. Fear says that it's hopeless, that there is no point. But resurrection is God's new beginning when all other possibilities have ended. Jesus died for love, and He rose from the dead because love makes all things new. Find that love, and you will find a new life too. God knows you, and He knows why He made you. You are amazing, and He wants you to see it.

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