

Scripture Reading: John 20:1-18

The gospels do not explain the resurrection; the resurrection explains the gospels.

When Ross and Sherrill Cryder arrived at the daycare center to pick up their 8-month-old daughter, Riley (not their real names), a staff member told the Cryders that Riley seemed to be having trouble breathing. At first, Ross and Sherrill were not too concerned. It was probably asthma, a condition which runs in their family.

But Riley didn't improve. They rushed to the ER, but her condition worsened. Only a few hours after midnight, doctors ordered her to be transferred to Children's Hospital. As the ambulance drove furiously through the city streets, EMTs worked on the little girl. But by the time they reached the ER, she had stopped breathing.

Her parents watched as CPR was performed. It must have been the scariest thing they'd ever witnessed, and the worst experience they'd ever had to endure.

Riley recovered. Tests showed that she did not have a respiratory problem, but a rare heart condition known as mitral valve stenosis. (The mitral valve allows blood to flow through the heart's upper and lower chambers and to the rest of the body.) This valve had tightened up; blood was barely flowing, and instead, it was backing into her lungs and filling them up. Riley was stabilized and two months later, when she was 10-months-old, she had open heart surgery and the valve was fixed.

Her parents called her "the comeback kid," and there are thousands of stories like hers.

In fact, people from all walks of life make comebacks every day. Although hit with adversity, they find a way to survive and thrive.

We love comeback stories.

But today, we praise God for the greatest comeback story of all time.

We should not be surprised. Jesus was always coming back from attacks from his enemies, until, finally, they put him on a cross and then put him in a grave. That's that, they thought.

But Jesus came back. He came back to a new, resurrected life. And, as he said to his disciples, someday he is coming back again!

He is risen! The comeback story of the Bible!

—Timothy Merrill

Prayer: Loving and powerful God, thank you for reaching out to restore Jesus to life. On this glorious Easter Sunday, may I be grateful for my new life in Christ. Amen.

Week of April 4, 2021

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

- Sunday:** Luke 1-3
Monday: Deuteronomy 23-25
Tuesday: Deuteronomy 26-28
Wednesday: Deuteronomy 29-31
Thursday: Deuteronomy 32-34
Friday: Joshua 1-3
Saturday: Psalm 33

Verse to Remember

“This book of the law shall not depart out of your mouth; you shall meditate on it day and night.”

—Joshua 1:8

April 2021

| S | M | T | W | T | F | S |
|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| | | | | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
| 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 |
| 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 |
| 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | |

GLIDOGRAM

Theme: Countries of the world. **Letter:** I

Directions: Write a country in row 1 whose name begins with I. On line 2, the “I” should “glide” to the second position, then the third, fourth, fifth and sixth position. Then reverse the order to fifth, fourth, third, second and, finally, first position. Do not use any country twice.

| | | | | | | | | |
|------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|--|--|
| 1. | I | | | | | | | |
| 2. | | I | | | | | | |
| 3. | | | I | | | | | |
| 4. | | | | I | | | | |
| 5. | | | | | I | | | |
| 6. | | | | | | I | | |
| 7. | | | | | I | | | |
| 8. | | | | I | | | | |
| 9. | | | I | | | | | |
| 10. | | I | | | | | | |
| 11. | I | | | | | | | |

Having trouble thinking of countries for the GLIDOGRAM?

Unscramble the countries in the list below, and then write them on the appropriate lines in the table to the left.

| | |
|----------|-------|
| ITIHA | _____ |
| DELAINC | _____ |
| IWK TUA | _____ |
| EHIPAITO | _____ |
| IMACAJA | _____ |
| MLIA | _____ |
| IJF | _____ |
| INCAH | _____ |
| ERLDAIN | _____ |
| ALIWMA | _____ |
| EMAVNIT | _____ |

SOLUTION: — Scrambled countries: Haiti, Iceland, Kuwait, Ethiopia, Jamaica, Mali, Fiji, China, Ireland, Malawi, Vietnam. Glidogram: 1. Iceland, Vietnam, Haiti, Ethiopia, Jamaica, Malawi, Kuwait, Mali, China, Fiji, Ireland.