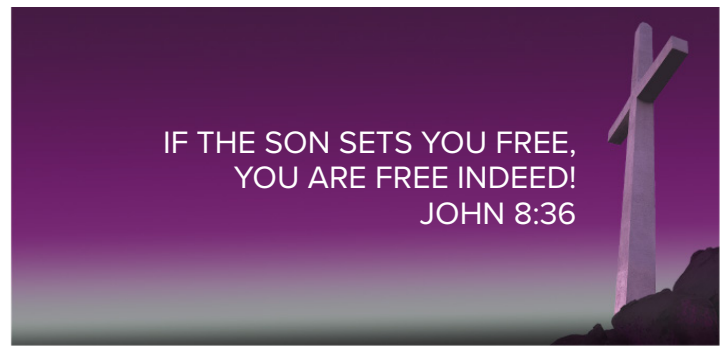


# Jesus IOI

## “Grace Thoughts”



A short devotional to help get you excited about Jesus!

*“But go, tell His disciples and Peter, ‘He is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see Him, just as He told you.’ ” —Mark 16:7*

My husband Patrick was walking with a friend on a long bridge over a busy high-speed freeway in the city of Buenos Aires. When he had almost crossed over, he looked back and saw a man swinging one of his legs over the railing. Patrick started running back; the man was already on the outer side of the bridge, ready to jump to his certain death. Patrick was able to lock his own hands around the man's chest, preventing him from jumping. The man kept screaming, “Let me go!” But Patrick kept telling him, “God loves you!” And God’s love prevailed!

Peter’s desire to stay close to Jesus is commendable. While Jesus is beaten and spit upon, Peter follows at a distance (see Mark 14:54). A servant girl recognizes him: “You also were with Jesus the Nazarene”; Peter denies it (verses 67, 68). And he refuses to acknowledge his relationship with Jesus two more times, saying that he definitely does not know this Man (verse 71). “Immediately a rooster crowed a second time, And Peter remembered how Jesus had made the remark to him, ‘Before a rooster crows twice, you will deny Me three times!’ And he began to weep.” (verse 72). He had been so sure that he wouldn’t fail, but he did. When you hit bottom and realize your true condition, that’s when you can allow life-changing help in your life; that’s when we realize that we really need a Savior. But what if he had gone too far? Should he jump from a bridge or hang himself, like Judas had done? Mark tells us something about the morning of the Resurrection that no other Gospel writer records. When the women went to the tomb on Sunday morning, they found an angel who told them that Jesus had risen! Then the angel added: “But go, tell His disciples and Peter, ‘He is going ahead of you to Galilee’ ” (Mark 16:7). Did you catch that? Did you see the two words? Can you imagine Jesus that morning, giving specific instructions to the angel to mention Peter by name? His blood had covered even his ransom. Peter was in His grip, and Jesus didn’t want to let him go. And you are in Jesus’ grip, and He is calling you by name!