



Sermon Discussion Guide

Resurrection Sunday

4/17/22

Leader Preparation

1. Take some time to look over these questions ahead of time. Choose the ones that you want to make sure you cover with your group. We have highlighted what we think are **key ideas/questions by bolding them.**
2. Pray for your group and your time together as you prepare. This is so helpful!
3. When meeting online you as the leader will need to be more directive than in person. Don't be afraid to invite everyone to answer a question, invite them to share by name, and thank them when they finish. The online format requires a little more intentional orchestrating than an in-person group.
4. Try to start the gathering by getting everyone talking at least once to begin. The Hook section is great for this. When in doubt, have people share stories about their past. (How the week was, favorite memories about the topic for the day, etc). This is a great way to help your group continue to get to know one another.
5. Next, look at the Scripture and what it means. We believe Jesus is discipling people through this Word. Get people into the Scriptures and the Scriptures into people!
6. Finally, end with what God is saying to people and how God is inviting them to respond. These aren't just ideas to know but realities to live in!



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Hook - Getting to know one another

- 1. What is your favorite story of a time Jesus surprised you?
- 2. Share a story about a time when something you thought was really bad happened, but it unexpectedly turned into something wonderful.

Book - Scripture

- Read the scripture, and discuss a few questions to understand **what the text is saying**.
- Read John 20:1-18
- Who is the first person to Jesus' tomb the Sunday after the crucifixion?
- Who raced to the tomb when they heard Mary's story? Who won the race and who entered the tomb first?
- Put yourselves in the shoes of the women who waited through the Sabbath to be able to go and attend to Jesus' body following his crucifixion. They don't know they are about to be witnesses to the fact that Jesus rose from the dead. When Mary Magdalene arrived at the tomb that Sunday morning she was sure someone had done something with the body and she ran to tell the disciples.
- Imagine being in her position, what would you have assumed happened?
- Who does she mistake Jesus for?
- What message does Jesus have for Mary to give to the disciples?

Look - Connections to our world today

- This section focuses on implications about **what this text means** about what's wrong in the world, about trusting God, about who God is, etc.



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- The prominent role that Mary Magdalene plays in this story is unusual as women were far from equal with men in the Roman Empire during the 1st century. What does this tell us about who Jesus will use to carry his message?
- Peter and John race to the tomb to verify Mary's story that Jesus wasn't in the tomb. The author tells us that they still didn't understand why Jesus had to rise from the dead, but they believed. What did it take for you to believe that Jesus was the Son of God?
- Jesus did not look like himself or Mary would have recognized him when she saw him. What do you think was different about Jesus?
- Women were essentially invisible to men in the 1st century and yet Jesus repeatedly put women in the center of attention in good ways. Who are the invisible members of our church family today?

Took - Personal Application

- This application focuses on **how God is calling us to respond**. This could be personally, as a family, small group, or church. It could be something to believe, to meditate on, to say or do this week.
- When we choose to follow Jesus we are made new. How can we be different to the point of not being recognizable because of the positive impact of Jesus on our lives?
- Why do you think seeing the grave clothes carefully folded in the tomb was enough to convince Peter and John to believe? How much evidence do we need?
- How can we show those who do not believe that Jesus is alive and at work in our world today?
- Jesus trusted Mary Magdalene, someone who was a social outcast at best, to carry a critical message to his disciples. Who might Jesus be using to bring a similarly critical message to our lives today?



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Time of Prayer

- Celebrate together that Jesus conquered death and he will return again to renew the heavens and the earth. We will worship him as he sits on the throne, what could be better than that?
- Spend a few minutes praising Jesus for what he has done, is doing and will do in our lives and this world.