



CHURCH

LOVE GOD, LOVE PEOPLE

## SERMON STUDY GUIDE

"John 20:1-23" on April 1st and 4th, 2021

### CONNECT

How did last week's passage we read/discussed from Matthew 18:15-20 affect your week?

### DISCOVER: JOHN 20:1-23

What did the passage say (in your own words) or did you take away from the sermon this week?

How does this passage or did the sermon point you to Jesus (teach us about Jesus)?

Did you find anything challenging about this passage (words you didn't understand, phrases that didn't make sense, etc.)?

HE IS RISEN! John 20 provides an account of Jesus' resurrection from the dead and the disciples' response to this life-saving event! A careful study of this passage causes us to look at the profound effect Jesus' resurrection had on the lives of those who were at the tomb and on our lives here and now!

SEARCHING FOR PURPOSE: Every person is searching for purpose in life, just as the disciples and followers of Jesus did. Searching for that thing/person/path that will 'fill us up,' making us feel whole and fulfilled in life. When we run to Jesus we find forgiveness, grace, purpose and power, but when we avoid running to Him, we continue running and searching, running and searching...

- For what are you searching in life right now? What would it take to make you feel whole and fulfilled?
- Who in your life is searching for purpose and needs to hear the story of hope the Resurrection brings, and how could you reach out to him/her?

THE MEANING OF GRAVE CLOTHES: Jason gave a wonderful example of the significance of Jesus' grave clothes being left as they were by using Lazarus' being raised from the dead as a comparison.

- Discuss the difference in the state of the grave clothes in Lazarus' and Jesus' stories of resurrection and how that is significant in encouraging us, giving us hope.
- Jesus conquered the greatest force of nature – death. He conquered death! How does this knowledge shape and direct the way you live out each day?

PIVOTAL POINTS: Jesus didn't need for the stone to be rolled away in order for Him to leave the tomb, but it WAS necessary for Peter, John, and Mary Magdalene to see the empty tomb and its contents. This was a pivotal point for Peter, John, and Mary Magdalene in their search for answers.

- Can you describe a pivotal point in your life when you encountered Jesus in a way that changed your perspective and brought you new life, new hope?
- Mary Magdalene didn't recognize Jesus in His resurrected body until He called her by name. Are you listening for Him as He calls you, seeking you out? Are you looking for Him, seeking Him out? Describe how this impacts your day-to-day living, and what might be holding you back from responding to His call.

HE IS RISEN! Jesus chose Mary Magdalene to be the first deliverer of the greatest message of all time, and the message of the risen Christ spread quickly, continuing to this day. The divine power that brought Jesus back to life is now available to us to bring our spiritually dead selves back to life, and to share the greatest victory of all time with others.

- Who in your life needs to have the opportunity to live a life in wholeness and fulfillment by your sharing the hope of the Resurrected Christ with them?
- What is the first thing you think of every morning when you wake - what propels you in your day? Does this align with Christ's commission for us to take the gospel into the world?
- What is stopping you from telling others of Jesus' victory over death and the hope it brings?



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## SERMON STUDY GUIDE CONT.

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### RESPOND

- How will you live out "HE IS RISEN!" this week?
- How does this passage encourage you, challenge you, or change you in your efforts to become more like Jesus?
- What is one thing you learned about yourself from God's Word? How will you respond in obedience this week?
- Who is someone you can have a conversation with about what Jesus is doing in your life or invite to join you at a CU Church gathering.

### PRAY

Pray for each other and spend time praising God. Pray that he will show you how to better love God and love people.