

Small Group Guide: The King Buried

Opening Prayer

Begin your time together by asking God to open your hearts to the power of his resurrection.

Key Scripture

John 20:1-18 (Focus: Mary's encounter with the risen Jesus)

Supporting Scripture: John 10:1-18 (The Good Shepherd)

Key Takeaways

1. **Recognition Through His Voice** - Mary didn't recognize Jesus by sight, but immediately knew Him when He spoke her name.
2. **The Good Shepherd Knows His Sheep** - Jesus knows each of His followers personally and individually—calling them by name.
3. **The Shepherd's Sacrifice** - Jesus laid down His life for His sheep, fulfilling His role as both King and Shepherd.
4. **Personal Relationship** - Our faith is not just about believing facts, but about knowing and being known by Jesus personally.

Discussion Questions

Understanding the Story

1. Why do you think Mary didn't recognize Jesus at first? What might have prevented her from seeing Him clearly?
2. What is the significance of Jesus calling Mary by name rather than just appearing to her?
3. How does Mary's encounter at the tomb fulfill Jesus' earlier words about being the Good Shepherd in John 10?

Going Deeper

4. Jesus describes Himself as both King and Shepherd. Biblically, how do these two roles work together? Why are both important?

Prayer Focus

- Thank Jesus for being the Good Shepherd who knows each of us by name
- Ask for ears to hear His voice more clearly in the week ahead
- Pray for anyone in the group who is struggling to recognize Jesus' presence in their current circumstances
- Celebrate the resurrection and the personal relationship we have with the risen King