

# Sermon Guide



## **Toward the Dawn: The Mourning before the Morning** **April 9, 2023**

“Now after the Sabbath, toward the dawn of the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb.”

**Matthew 28:1-10**

1. **RD said, “God is honoring our tears and our weeping. There is much to be sad about, and you must feel it.”** Think about the messages you received about emotions. Some Christians are taught that there are “positive” emotions (emotions related to happiness) and “negative” emotions (emotions related to sadness). How were you disciplined to understand and express emotions?
2. **In his song “Always Good,” Andrew Peterson says, “The sorrow is shaping my heart like it should... The heartache is moving me closer than joy ever could.”** Have you been shaped by sorrow? Share a story of being formed by pain.
3. **RD said that Mary “carried the oil of gladness to rooms filled with sadness. But before that, Jesus meets her in her sadness.”** When feel sadness, do you pursue encounter with God? If no, why not? If yes, what helps you draw close to God in those times? (Example: writing laments, praying your sorrow, etc.)

**We often talk about taking your next step of faith with Jesus.** As you reflect on this week's teaching, what is the next step of faith you'll commit to?