



## Resurrection Sunday Study Guide

Message:

**“The Borrowed Tomb”**

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### SCRIPTURE

Main Text:	Cross References:
<i>Luke 24:1–8</i> <i>John 20:1–16</i>	<i>1 Corinthians 15:17</i> <i>John 11:25</i> <i>Romans 6:5–11</i>

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### UNDERSTANDING THE STORY

*(This section focuses on understanding what the text means —  
before jumping to what it means for us.)*

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## **Read Luke 24:1–3**

**Main Idea:** *The women approach the tomb expecting death.*

### **Commentary:**

Luke intentionally highlights the women's purpose: they bring spices to anoint a dead body. This reflects first-century burial customs and confirms that Jesus' followers did not anticipate His resurrection, despite His earlier predictions. Their expectations are shaped by grief and recent events, not by faith in His promises.

The stone being rolled away is presented as a completed action before their arrival. This emphasizes divine initiative — *God has already acted*. Yet the empty tomb alone does not produce understanding. Instead, it creates confusion. The absence of Jesus' body, without explanation, leaves the women uncertain about what has occurred.

### **Discussion Question:**

1. What do the women's actions reveal about their expectations regarding Jesus?
2. What is the significance of the stone already being rolled away when they arrive?
3. Why does the empty tomb initially create confusion rather than belief?

### **Takeaway:**

*When expectations are shaped by circumstances instead of God's promises, hope is replaced with despair—even when God has already been at work.*

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## **Read Luke 24:4–8**

**Main Idea:** The resurrection is made known through divine revelation and remembrance of Jesus' words.

### **Commentary:**

The appearance of the two angels shifts the scene from confusion to revelation. Their question—“***Why do you look for the living among the dead?***”—is not simply informational; it is corrective. It exposes the women's misplaced assumptions and redirects their understanding — helping them seek what they should be seeking: The ***Living*** Savior.

The angels do not present new teaching but call the women to remember what Jesus had already said. This highlights a key theme in Luke's Gospel: understanding comes through recalling and rightly interpreting Jesus' words. The resurrection is not an isolated miracle—it is the fulfillment of His own prophecy (**See: Luke 9:22; 18:31–33**).

The turning point comes in verse 8: “***Then they remembered.***” Jesus's words become the mechanism through which confusion gives way to hope.

### **Discussion Questions:**

1. What does the angels' question reveal about the women's misunderstanding?
2. Why do the angels emphasize remembering Jesus' earlier words?
3. How does remembering transform the women's understanding of the situation?

### **Takeaway:**

*Hope can come through remembering and trusting Jesus' word.*

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## Read John 20:1–10

**Main Idea:** The empty tomb begins to produce belief, though understanding is still developing.

**Commentary:**

John's account begins by zooming in on Mary's personal events on the morning of the resurrection. Mary initially interprets the empty tomb as grave robbery, demonstrating that resurrection is not the assumed explanation. This reflects the realism of the Gospel accounts: *belief is not immediate or automatic.*

The details surrounding Peter and John's interactions in the tomb are significant. The orderly placement of the linens suggests intentionality rather than theft. This visual evidence begins to shift understanding.

John's statement that he "saw and believed" indicates the beginning of faith, but verse 9 clarifies that this belief is not yet complete. The disciples do not yet fully understand the scriptural necessity of the resurrection. This moment captures the early stage of resurrection faith: *belief emerging before full comprehension.*

**Discussion Questions:**

1. How does Mary initially interpret the empty tomb, and what does that reveal?
2. What is the significance of the grave clothes being left behind?
3. What does it mean that John "believed" but did not yet fully understand?

**Takeaway:**

*Awakening to faith begins before full understanding is formed.*

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### **Read John 20:11–13**

**Main Idea:** Grief and misunderstanding can persist even in the presence of evidence.

**Commentary:**

Mary remains at the tomb, weeping, even after seeing the empty tomb and encountering angels. Her interpretation of events has not changed—she still believes Jesus' body has been taken.

This highlights the depth of her grief and the power of expectation. Even supernatural encounters do not immediately correct her understanding. The presence of the angels emphasizes that something significant has occurred, yet without proper interpretation, Mary remains in sorrow.

**Discussion Questions:**

1. Why does Mary continue to weep despite what she has seen?
2. What does her response reveal about the role of *expectation* in understanding events?
3. What is the significance of the angels' presence in this moment?

**Takeaway:**

*Without proper understanding, even clear signs can be misinterpreted.*

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### **Read John 20:14–16**

**Main Idea:** The risen Jesus is recognized through personal revelation.

**Commentary:**

Mary turns and sees Jesus but does not recognize Him. This lack of recognition likely reflects a combination of grief, expectation, and the transformed nature of Jesus' resurrected body.

The turning point comes when Jesus speaks her name: "Mary." Recognition is immediate and relational. This moment reflects a key theme in John's Gospel—Jesus is known personally, not just intellectually (See John 10:3).

Jesus does not merely provide evidence of His resurrection; He reveals Himself.

**Discussion Questions:**

1. Why might Mary fail to recognize Jesus at first?
2. What changes when Jesus speaks her name?
3. What does this reveal about how Jesus makes Himself known to people?

**Takeaway:**

*Jesus makes Himself known in a way that moves someone from confusion to relational certainty.*

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## **MAKE IT PERSONAL**

**The resurrection is not just something to understand—it is something to respond to.**

The angels' question still speaks:

***"Why do you look for the living among the dead?"***

## Reflect honestly:

1. Are there areas of your life where you are operating in hopelessness as if the resurrection never happened?
  2. Are there “tombs” you keep going back to in your life? (*Think: patterns, habits, or mindsets you return to that cannot produce real life.*)
  3. What does it mean for you to truly believe that Jesus is alive right now? How do you respond to the Living Savior?
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## LIVING IT OUT

### Let the truth of the resurrection reshape your daily life in tangible ways:

#### **1. Re-center your thinking on the living Christ.**

Spend time this week meditating on the reality that Jesus is alive—not just historically, but presently. Let that truth reshape how you view your circumstances.

#### **2. Stop returning to “dead places.”**

Identify patterns, habits, or environments that continually leave you empty. Make intentional decisions to step away from what does not lead to life.

#### **3. Practice remembering truth.**

Like the women, growth comes through remembering Jesus’ words. Revisit Scripture daily and allow it to reframe your thinking.

#### **4. Respond to Jesus personally.**

Mary's moment changed when Jesus called her name. Create space in your life to listen, pray, and respond to Him relationally—not just intellectually.

**5. Walk in resurrection identity.**

*Reflect on Romans 6:5–11.* How can you live as someone who is “dead to sin” and “alive to God” — not defined by past sin or old identity?

**6. Share the reality of the resurrection.**

The first witnesses went and told others. Look for opportunities this week to share what Jesus has done and why it matters.

*\*These practices can help move the truth of this passage from something we understand to something that shapes the way we live.*

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**For LifeGroups:**

## **ENCOURAGE EACH OTHER**

**The resurrection is not just a truth to believe—it's a reality to live in together.**

**Be an encourager:**

**1. Remind each other that Jesus is alive.**

If someone in your group feels stuck, discouraged, or hopeless, point them back to the reality that Jesus lives!

**2. Help each other identify “dead places.”**

LifeGroup is a safe space to talk about patterns that aren't producing life, and encourage one another toward change.

**3. Speak truth over confusion.**

Just as the angels redirected the women, help each other remember what Jesus has said.

**4. Celebrate signs of new life.**

Share ways you've seen growth, freedom, or renewed hope—these are evidences of resurrection life at work.

**5. Pray for renewed vision.**

Ask God to help each person see clearly, recognize Jesus more fully, and walk in the life He offers.