

Life Group Discussion—April 3, 2024

John 20:1-18—I have seen the Lord

John 20:1–18 (ESV) 1 Now on the first day of the week Mary Magdalene came to the tomb early, while it was still dark, and saw that the stone had been taken away from the tomb. 2 So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him." 3 So Peter went out with the other disciple, and they were going toward the tomb. 4 Both of them were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. 5 And stooping to look in, he saw the linen cloths lying there, but he did not go in. 6 Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen cloths lying there, 7 and the face cloth, which had been on Jesus' [a] head, not lying with the linen cloths but folded up in a place by itself. 8 Then the other disciple, who had reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; 9 for as yet they did not understand the Scripture, that he must rise from the dead. 10 Then the disciples went back to their homes. 11 But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb, and as she wept she stooped to look into the tomb. 12 And she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had lain, one at the head and one at the feet. 13 They said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping?" She said to them, "They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him." 14 Having said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing, but she did not know that it was Jesus. 15 Jesus said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you seeking?" Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away." 16 Jesus said to her, "Mary." She turned and said to him in Aramaic, [b] "Rabboni!" (which means Teacher). 17 Jesus said to her, "Do not cling to me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father; but go to my brothers and say to them, 'I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'" 18 Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, "I have seen the Lord"—and that he had said these things to her.

4 SCENES AS MARY ENCOUNTERS THE RISEN LORD (1–18)

1. MARY REACTS TO THE OPEN TOMB (1–2)

The Word of God was written so that you would believe. In what ways have you struggled to believe the Word of God? What helped you work through those struggles?

*What verses can you think of that speak about Jesus and His relationship to the church?
What do those verses teach us about the new paradigm of living in the church age.*

2. MARY RETRIEVES THE DISCIPLES (3–10)

How important is the resurrection to our faith in Christ?

What scriptures help us understand the relationship between seeing and believing?

3. MARY REMAINS IN THE GARDEN (11–15)

Are there certain sins you personally treat lightly? Do you minimize sins in your own life while magnifying sins in others? Do you avoid people because their sins are too violent of an offense?

How would you witness to a person who said, “Oh I believe in God, but I don’t go to church?”

4. MARY RESPONDS TO THE LORD (16–18)

Why is it important to identify Jesus as Lord of your life? What are the implications of calling Jesus Lord?

What does it mean to be a citizen of God’s kingdom? Part of the body? Adopted as sons and daughters into the family?