



SONGS: "Freedom Looks Good On YOU"  
"Jesus We Love You"  
"Grave Into Gardens"

TITLE: IN BETWEEN: Graves of Sorrow into Gardens of Hope

ICE BREAKER: Share about a time where you walked into an amazing situation, but had no idea what was going on.

BIG IDEA: Seeking Jesus in the Grave of Sorrow leads us to a Garden of Hope

MAIN SCRIPTURE:

John 20:11–17

<sup>11</sup> Now Mary stood outside the tomb crying. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb <sup>12</sup> and saw two angels in white, seated where Jesus' body had been, one at the head and the other at the foot. <sup>13</sup> They asked her, "Woman, why are you crying?" "They have taken my Lord away," she said, "and I don't know where they have put him." <sup>14</sup> At this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not realize that it was Jesus. <sup>15</sup> He asked her, "Woman, why are you crying? Who is it you are looking for? "Thinking he was the gardener, she said, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have put him, and I will get him." <sup>16</sup> Jesus said to her, "Mary." She turned toward him and cried out in Aramaic, "Rabboni!" (which means "Teacher"). <sup>17</sup> Jesus said, "Do not hold on to me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father. Go instead to my brothers and tell them, 'I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'"

OPENING THOUGHTS:

Jesus wants to meet us in the Grave of our Sorrows with a Garden of Hope. Today let's learn and grow together, as we understand from the Story of Mary Encountering Jesus at the Garden Tomb. By Identifying our Sorrows, Meeting Jesus in midst of them, and clinging to Hope; we can be sent to to continue this race of life life knowing that God is with us no matter what we face.

MAIN POINTS IN TEACHING:

- SORROWS OF THE GRAVE
  - Disappointment & Misunderstanding
  - Evil done to us, and Evil we've done to others
  - Death and Loss
- GARDEN OF HOPE
  - Crucified
  - Risen
  - Ascended
- AN ORDER TO GO

- o Honestly
- o Diligently
- o Personally
- o Obediently

#### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. Why does all Hope rest in the Crucifixion, Resurrection, and Ascension of Jesus?
2. How do we see Jesus show up in midst of Mary's sorrow? Why do you think she doesn't immediately recognize Jesus?
3. How can we know if we are bringing our Sorrows and Pains to Jesus?
4. What does it look like for you to Honestly, Diligently, Personally, and Obediently follow Jesus?
5. Read Luke 19:37-44 Why do you think the people were celebrating but Jesus was weeping? Was there a disconnect between the people's expectations and the reality of Jesus' mission?

#### FURTHER STUDY (IF APPLICABLE)

Matthew 21:1-11, Mark 11:1-11, Luke 19:28-41

CHALLENGE: Whatever your sorrows or trials of yesterday or today, you can have hope because Jesus won the victory over death. He has risen and He asks us the same questions that He asked Mary: "Why are you crying?" "Whom are you looking for?" If through your tears, you will seek the risen Savior honestly, diligently, personally, and obediently, He will turn the sorrows of your grave into a garden of hope.

#### CLOSING PRAYER:

Lord, help me to hear you saying to me today, "I am your hope", in the midst of sorrow. Lord, your word says, you are the hope for hopeless so I'm running to you with both hands stretched out and grabbing on to you. I have seen you and know you as Lord. Fill me up with hope and give me a tangible reminder today that hope is an unbreakable spiritual lifeline (Hebrews 6:19-20) because you were crucified, you rose from the dead, you ascended to the Father, and you are coming again. God, you know those things in my heart that I barely dare to hope for, today I give them to you, I trust them to you, and ask that you because I know that you can do more than I could ever even Hope of Imagine in the midst of my trials (Eph 3:20). God, you are my hope and I trust you. Amen.