

- In John's resurrection account, he focuses on what Mary Magdalene experiences at the empty tomb ... Seeing that the body of Jesus is missing, Mary runs to inform Peter and John ... Her statement calls them to **come and see** for themselves that the tomb is empty – Jesus isn't there ... After encountering Jesus personally, Mary again goes to the disciples and calls them to **come and see** for themselves that Jesus is alive ... She has seen Him, heard Him, touched Him ... He's alive ... And this changes everything
  
- Throughout John's gospel are **come and see** moments ... Moments where people are invited to encounter Jesus for themselves ... And as they answer this invitation, and they encounter Jesus, their life is changed ... **Ch1** is the first **come and see** moment ... John the Baptist sees Jesus walking and declares, "Behold the Lamb of God" ... Two of his disciples decide to follow Jesus ... When He notices them, He invites them to **come and stay** with Him
  - Next day, Andrew goes off to find his brother Peter: "We've found the Messiah, come and see"
  - It's assumed John goes off to find James and invites him to come and see Jesus
  - Next day, Jesus encounters Philip, from the same town as Andrew and Peter, and says, "Follow Me"
  - Philip finds Nathanael: "We've found the Messiah, come and see"
  
- With all these encounters, what are people being invited to **come and see** ... They're invited to encounter Jesus for themselves ... The reality of who He is – the Messiah, the Son of God ... The reality of what He's accomplished – defeated the grave, destroyed the power of sin, reconciles to God those who believe in Him ... They invite people to be changed by the life of Jesus ... They invite people to become disciples of Jesus
  - Practical example – Vinson and Lauber family ... Hainline and Hendricks family
  - This is connecting people to Jesus ... This is joining God in what He's already doing in the lives of those you're already in relationship with ... This is being available to God
  
- What are people being invited to **come and see** ... It's not about making our church big and famous ... It's not about getting butts in the seats ... It's about seeing people encounter Jesus, right where they're at, and seeing Him take their life in a totally different direction ... It's about seeing families changed because of Jesus ... It's about our circles of influence encountering the risen Son of God ... We invite people to **come and experience** for themselves who Jesus is, what Jesus has accomplished for them and how Jesus means to change their life
  - This is why we're about **connecting with others to grow together in Jesus** ... It's about being disciples and making disciples ... "I've seen the Lord. Because of Him, my life isn't the same. Come and see!"