

LifeGroups

“The Difference”

Part 1 - Easter Sunday

John 20:1-18

For the four weeks after Easter we will take a break from our study of Mark's gospel and focus on the difference Jesus makes to the world and in our lives. These four weeks provide a great connection point for people who are new to Christianity or who have not yet made a faith commitment to Jesus. Use this sermon discussion guide with your Life Group, your family, or in your private devotions to study the Bible and reflect on the Sunday sermon.

This week's main point: *The resurrection of Jesus Christ displays both his supremacy and his grace. Because of the resurrection, the life of the person who puts his or her trust in Jesus will never be the same. Joy, peace, and purpose flow from the empty tomb into the hearts of Jesus' followers.*

Share

How do you think the world would be different today if Jesus had not risen from the dead?

Study

1. Read John 20:1-18.

2. Mary Magdalene features prominently in this week's passage. Many legends have developed about her through the centuries, including that she was married to Jesus and had a child with him. There is not a shred of Biblical evidence to support that theory. This Mary is not to be confused with the sister of Martha and Lazarus or the sinful woman of Luke 7:36-50. It is often said that Mary Magdalene had been a prostitute, but nowhere does the Bible say that. The only thing we know about her past from the New Testament is given in Luke 8:1-3. What does that passage tell us? What else can you say about Mary from this week's text?

3. Who was "the other disciple" mentioned in John 20:2-8? Why is he called "the one whom Jesus loved"?

4. Why do you think John goes into some detail in vss. 5-8 about the linen cloths that had been used in Jesus' burial?

5. *Why did Mary not recognize the risen Jesus? What was it that caused her to see that it was he?*

See Jesus

1. *What does Jesus' resurrection from the dead mean to you personally? On a grander scale, what is its cosmic significance? What does the empty tomb prove?*
2. *Why did Jesus tell Mary not to cling to him?*
3. *What difference did the resurrection make to the eleven disciples?*
4. *Can you think of other Bible passages that teach the fact and importance of Christ's resurrection?*

Send

1. *Assuming you are a Christian, if someone were to ask why you follow Jesus, what would you say?*
2. *If you are not a Christian, what do you do with the resurrection of Jesus? How do you respond to the evidence for the resurrection given in the Sunday sermon?*
3. *What is the good news of this passage? How might you communicate it to a non-Christian?*
4. *What are the implications of the resurrection for our mission as believers?*

Supplicate

- ◆ *Pray for Central Florida Presbytery, meeting this coming Tuesday in Lecanto. Lee Wright, a candidate for RUF campus minister at UCF, will be introduced to the presbytery and considered for provisional approval.*
- ◆ *Pray for the "A Praying Life" seminar on May 2-3, that it will be of great benefit for our church and for those who attend.*
- ◆ *Pray for Pastor Matt's four-week sermon series that begins this week. Ask God to use it for gospel transformation in both our church and east Orlando.*
- ◆ *Pray for our church of the week: Grace Journey Community Church*
- ◆ *Pray for our missionaries of the week: Devon Jankowski*
- ◆ *Pray for our unreached people group of the week: Baangi of Nigeria*