



Main Passage: John 20

Theological Theme

The cross did not defeat our Savior and death did not win the battle. This was proven in dramatic form when Jesus rose from the dead and appeared to many.

Introduction

- ① What have you felt compelled to tell others about?
- ② How does social media reinforce the idea that people want others to know about things that have made a difference in their lives?

1. The Empty Tomb (John 20:1-10)

The crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus are central points of Scripture and God's redemptive plan. As we sought to study the crucifixion with fresh eyes last week, this week we must also open our hearts to what we need to learn from Scripture regarding the empty tomb, seeking a fresh perspective on the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

- ① What do we learn about Jesus through the fact that others knew of the prophecies about His rising but still had no power to hold Him in the grave?
- ② How would you describe the difference between knowing a fact about Jesus, like the resurrection, and placing your faith in Him?
- ③ Application: Where is God calling you to move from knowledge to belief in Him?

2. The Risen One (John 20:11-16)

After the disciples investigated the tomb and left, we learn Mary remained outside the tomb crying. As a woman she was considered a second-class citizen in that time and culture, yet the Lord chose women as the ones to discover the resurrection and to have divine encounters. The world does not value people in the same way Jesus does. He values and loves all people enough that He died on the cross for their sins.

- ① What is significant about the fact that Mary and other women were the first to see the empty tomb? How does this record stand out culturally? What can it teach us about Jesus?
- ① When was a time you felt hindered from seeing Jesus? How does this passage remind you of His nearness in these moments?
- ① Application: How does it build your faith to remember the way Jesus fulfills prophecy repeatedly? How does that give you reason for confidence in Him in the future?

3. The Reunion (John 20:17-23)

After realizing the man she'd believed a gardener was Jesus, Mary was likely tempted to grab onto Him so as not to lose her beloved Savior and teacher again. But Jesus had a plan for Mary as the first witness to see Him risen. Jesus told Mary to go and let the others know about His resurrection.

- ① What does this moment teach you about Jesus's willingness to forgive all who trust in Him?
- ① How might Jesus's scars have served to emphasize the peace the disciples now had available at His return? How do we see their reception of this peace on display?
- ① Application: Why must we have the Holy Spirit to complete the task Jesus has given the church?

Conclusion

- ① Why do the crucifixion and resurrection matter to you personally? Why do they matter to the church as a whole?
- ① How can we support one another in obediently seeking to fulfill the mission of Jesus?
- ① How can you seek a gospel conversation with another person this week by sharing the events of the resurrection?