



**Week of April 4, 2021**

**Discussion Questions:**

1. What Easter family traditions did you have growing up? How has the meaning of Easter changed for you?
2. Given the status of women at the time, what is the significance of womens' eyewitness accounts of Jesus' resurrection being recorded in Scripture?
3. Read John 20:1-2. Imagine what Mary Magdalene must have felt. How would you have reacted in this situation? What conclusions would you draw?
4. Which of these statements that Paul said is most powerful to you?
  - a. Because of the resurrection, you can pray knowing God hears your prayers.
  - b. Because of the resurrection, you can live knowing there is life beyond this life.
  - c. Because of the resurrection, you can sacrifice, knowing your faithfulness matters.
  - d. Because of the resurrection, you can be certain God is for you.
5. Paul said, "Jesus rose again so you can begin again." Share a time in your life when God helped you begin again. Right now, what area of your life do you feel you need to begin again? How can this group encourage, challenge, and pray for you?

## **Moving Forward**

Reflect on the words of this song, and allow the message of the resurrection to fill you with hope that because of God, you can begin again.

*Alone in my sorrow and dead in my sin/Lost without hope with no place to begin.  
Your love made a way to let mercy come in/When death was arrested, and my  
life began.*

## **John 20:1-2, 9-18**

Now on the first day of the week Mary Magdalene came early to the tomb, while it was still dark, and saw the stone already taken away from the tomb. <sup>2</sup> So she ran and came to Simon Peter and to the other disciple whom Jesus loved, and said to them, "They have taken away the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid Him.

<sup>9</sup> For as yet they did not understand the Scripture, that He must rise again from the dead. <sup>10</sup> So the disciples went away again to their own homes.

<sup>11</sup> But Mary was standing outside the tomb weeping; and so, as she wept, she stooped and looked into the tomb; <sup>12</sup> and she saw two angels in white sitting, one at the head and one at the feet, where the body of Jesus had been lying. <sup>13</sup> And they said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping?" She said to them, "Because they have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid Him." <sup>14</sup> When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, and did not know that it was Jesus. <sup>15</sup> 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." <sup>16</sup> Jesus said to her, "Mary!" She turned and said to Him in Hebrew, "Rabboni!" (which means, Teacher). <sup>17</sup> Jesus said to her, "Stop clinging to Me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father; but go to My brethren and say to them, 'I ascend to My Father and your Father, and My God and your God.'" <sup>18</sup> Mary Magdalene came, announcing to the disciples, "I have seen the Lord," and that He had said these things to her.