

## **This Changes Everything: Resurrection Sunday      April 5, 2026**

<sup>1</sup> Early on Sunday morning, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and found that the stone had been rolled away from the entrance. <sup>2</sup> She ran and found Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved. She said, “They have taken the Lord’s body out of the tomb, and we don’t know where they have put him!”

<sup>3</sup> Peter and the other disciple started out for the tomb. <sup>4</sup> They were both running, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. <sup>5</sup> He stooped and looked in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he didn’t go in. <sup>6</sup> Then Simon Peter arrived and went inside. He also noticed the linen wrappings lying there, <sup>7</sup> while the cloth that had covered Jesus’ head was folded up and lying apart from the other wrappings. <sup>8</sup> Then the disciple who had reached the tomb first also went in, and he saw and believed— <sup>9</sup> for until then they still hadn’t understood the Scriptures that said Jesus must rise from the dead. <sup>10</sup> Then they went home.

<sup>11</sup> Mary was standing outside the tomb crying, and as she wept, she stooped and looked in. <sup>12</sup> She saw two white-robed angels, one sitting at the head and the other at the foot of the place where the body of Jesus had been lying. <sup>13</sup> “Dear woman, why are you crying?” the angels asked her.

“Because they have taken away my Lord,” she replied, “and I don’t know where they have put him.”

<sup>14</sup> She turned to leave and saw someone standing there. It was Jesus, but she didn’t recognize him. <sup>15</sup> “Dear woman, why are you crying?” Jesus asked her. “Who are you looking for?”

She thought he was the gardener. “Sir,” she said, “if you have taken him away, tell me where you have put him, and I will go and get him.”

<sup>16</sup> “Mary!” Jesus said.

She turned to him and cried out, “Rabboni!” (which is Hebrew for “Teacher”).

<sup>17</sup> “Don’t cling to me,” Jesus said, “for I haven’t yet ascended to the Father. But go find my brothers and tell them, ‘I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.’”

<sup>18</sup> Mary Magdalene found the disciples and told them, “I have seen the Lord!” Then she gave them his message.

—*John 20:1-18*

### ***Discussion/Journal Questions***

Share a positive, joyful memory of either celebrating the resurrection or of springtime in general.

Have two or three people read John 20:1-18 out loud slowly. After some time of reflection, ask each other what words, phrases, or ideas stand out to everyone. What questions come to mind as you meditate on this scripture?

What do you know about Mary Magdalene or the other women who followed Jesus?

What were their initial thoughts upon seeing the empty tomb? Why do you think they failed to understand Jesus's teachings about the resurrection?

Do you believe that Jesus rose from the grave? Why or why not? What reasons would you give to someone who doubted the resurrection?

Read 1 Corinthians 15:12-20. What does Paul say here about the importance of Jesus's resurrection?

Read 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18. How does the resurrection of Jesus change how we face death?

How does the resurrection of Jesus change how we live now?

Spend some time in prayer praising God and thanking Him for the resurrection.