



How We Have Seen Jesus

John 20:11-18 | August 2, 2026

What's your story? Why do you follow Jesus?

How you tell your story is far less important than having the **courage** to share your story with those you are blessed to do life with.

One Simple Question to your friend: *"What do you believe to be true about Jesus?"*

Jesus' instruction to Mary Magdalene at the Resurrection was simple: **Go** and **tell** what you have seen!

Mary of Magdala was:

- » The first to see the empty tomb
- » The first to see the resurrected Jesus
- » The first to tell anyone that Jesus defeated death

All I desire is the **courage** to **share why I follow Jesus** with the people I'm **blessed** to do life with.

NOTES: _____

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

First Step: August 16 at 9:00 AM

NextGen Sunday: August 16

DivorceCare begins: August 19 at 6:45 PM

Download our WCChurch app or scan the QR code for more info or to sign up!



STUDY QUESTIONS

GETTING STARTED:

What is one story — from a book, movie, or real life — that has genuinely stayed with you, and why?

A DEEPER DIVE:

- » Mary Magdalene had experienced extraordinary trauma — deliverance from seven demons, witnessing the crucifixion, and encountering angels — yet she remained at the tomb while others went home; what does her persistence in grief tell us about the kind of people Jesus chooses to entrust with his most important moments?
- » In John 20:8, John sees the empty tomb and believes, yet verse 9 clarifies that even then the disciples did not fully understand the scriptures about resurrection — how is it possible to believe something and still not fully understand it, and where does that tension show up in your own faith?
- » Jesus chose a woman as the first witness and herald of the resurrection in a culture that would not have accepted a woman's testimony as legal evidence — what does that radical choice say about how Jesus values people that the surrounding culture dismisses or overlooks?
- » Mary did not recognize the resurrected Jesus until he spoke her name — what does it mean to you that Jesus knows your name personally, and how might that reality change the way you approach him in moments of confusion or grief?
- » Jesus told Mary 'Do not cling to me' before sending her to tell others — what does it suggest about the nature of following Jesus that an encounter with him is meant to send you outward rather than keep you to yourself?
- » Mary's story can be summarized in five words: 'I have seen the Lord' — if you had to summarize your own story of faith in a single sentence, what would it be, and does that sentence reflect something you have actually experienced or something you are still searching for?

NEXT STEPS:

- » Identify one person in your life who does not follow Jesus or who is exploring faith. At a natural moment this week, ask them: "Hey, what do you believe to be true about Jesus?" Then listen without immediately responding.
- » Read John 20:1-18 again on your own this week — slowly. Put yourself in the story. Where do you see yourself? With Mary at the tomb? With Peter stepping inside? Somewhere else entirely? Journal what comes up for you.