



Mary Magdalene and the Resurrected Lord

INTRODUCTION

Christianity is not based on a private encounter with God, but a public execution and a public resurrection. First to see the Lord is none other than a former demoniac: Mary Magdalene.

INSTRUCTIONS

This guide is meant to facilitate discussion which will lead to a response to God's word. Therefore please use it as tool that best fits the needs of your community group.

OPENING DISCUSSION

- What was the most interesting idea/concept about Sunday's sermon?
- What would you say to someone who said all religions are the same?
- Why is the historical fact of resurrection so important?

REVIEW

- Have someone read **John 20:1-18**
- Describe the evidence of the resurrection found in this passage?
- Why did Mary conclude that the grave was robbed, rather than the resurrection (**v2**)?
- What about **vv5-7** show that this was no grave robbing?
- Read **Luke 8:1-3**. What do you learn about Mary Magdalene? How does this help understand her behavior on Easter morning?
- Why do you think she did not recognize Jesus at first? Why does she recognize him once he calls her name **v16**?
- What is the significance of **v17**?

APPLICATION

- How would you begin to reach out to someone who has only an intellectual belief in Jesus?
- What would you say to someone who said "I'm glad Jesus works for you, but he is not what I am looking for."
- Why does the resurrection of Jesus matter to all people? (Perhaps read **Acts 17:30-31** and discuss).
- How has the resurrection of Jesus impacted you personally? How should it impact you moving forward?
- How does the resurrection give hope to the hurting and faith to the doubting? How can you minister to those who are hurting with these truths?
- Why was Mary the first person to see the resurrected Lord? What does that tell us about our Lord?

PRAYER (divide the group based on gender if desired)

- What action/repentance does God want you to take according to the truths of this text?
- Are there any other prayer needs?