



March 27, 2016 | John 20

In John 19, Jesus' work on the cross, of suffering the wrath of God in our place, was finished. Thankfully, the gospel story was not.

Read John 20:1-10.

[Q] From Luke 8:1-3, John 19:25 and today's passage, what do we know about Mary Magdalene? Why do you think a woman was given the honor of seeing the resurrected Jesus first?

[Q] What makes this account seem like it was written by an eyewitness?

Read John 20:9: *for as yet they did not understand the Scripture, that he must rise from the dead.* (ESV)

[Q] Why *must* Jesus rise from the dead according to Scripture? (See John 2:18-22; 10:17-18.)

John may have been thinking of specific Old Testament passages such as Psalm 16:10; Isaiah 53:10–12; Hosea 6:2.

[Q] Why do you think Peter and John went back to their homes (John 20:10)? With whom might John have shared the good news? Review John 19:27.

Read John 20:11-18.

[Q] What is Mary's focus throughout the process of encountering the risen Lord?

[Q] Have you wished you could see Jesus in the flesh? Explain.

[Q] Why is the truth of the resurrection such an important and indispensable basis of the Christian faith? Check 1 Corinthians 15:12-22 for ideas.

[Q] What does Jesus' resurrection mean to your outlook on life?

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, 1 Peter 1:3 (NIV)

Read John 20:19-31.

[Q] Later that same day, at nighttime, Jesus appears to His disciples. Why do His disciples have the doors locked?

[Q] Why is the reminder of Jesus' promise of John 14:27 and 16:33 so important at this time? Why would Jesus' commission in John 20:21 also be reassuring?

[Q] Note the continuation of this Gospel's theme of *believing* in John 20:27-29 and then verses 30-31. In what ways does Thomas' declaration in verse 28 bring a huge climax to this chapter and this book?

[Q] Do you think John has achieved his purpose for writing (verse 31) in *your* life? Explain.

Pray

Next week is World Outreach Week!