

## Jesus Appears to Mary Magdalene

April 19, 2020

For the next few weeks, I want us to continue thinking about the resurrection of Jesus. So, we'll be looking at different interactions Jesus had with his disciples. As you read these stories, imagine yourself in these situations and consider how *you* might react at seeing Jesus – whom you had seen crucified –brought back to life.

The first story we'll read is about Mary Magdalene (or Mary of Magdala, a town on the western shore of the Sea of Galilee). She is first identified as one of the women who ministered to Jesus, in Luke 8:2-3. He had freed Mary from seven evil spirits! Mary and the other women accompanied Jesus from Galilee into Jerusalem (Luke 23:55), were witnesses to His crucifixion (Matthew 25:55-56; John 19:25) and followed His body to the tomb (Matthew 27:61). It speaks highly of their devotion that they accompanied Jesus all the way to his burial, while His disciples all but abandoned him (Matthew 26:56).

Read John 20:1-18

- 1) When someone you love dies, how does the resurrection of Jesus help you deal with your pain?

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- 2) What do you rely on for evidence that Jesus rose from the dead?

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- 3) Does Mary appear to be quietly grieving, or more hysterical? What finally breaks through her grief and confusion?

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- 4) What term does Jesus use for his disciples here (v. 17)? What's new in their relationship (see 15:15)? What does that mean to you (to also be called a sibling of Jesus)?

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5) How has Jesus spoken your name in a time of grief? How did it affect you?

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Thank God for His faithful love, and comfort in times of grief.

Express your gratitude by reaching out to someone with encouragement this week.