



The Gospel – Week 5 (John 20:1-10)

Discussion:

1. What was the most important take-away for you from this week's message?
2. What is significant about Mary Magdalene being the one to discover the empty tomb? What was special about her relationship with Jesus? (See Luke 8:1-3)
3. Why was it such a shock that the stone was taken away from the tomb? See Mark 16:3-4 and Matthew 27:65-66 for more info. What does this first sign tell us about the nature of what's taken place?
4. What do you make of Mary's response to her discovery in v. 2? Application: How have you struggled to understand or believe fully in Christ's resurrection (beyond mere intellectual assent, in a way that truly changes the way you live)? Can you identify with Mary's lack of understanding?
5. What do you think was going through the minds of Peter and John (most likely "the one whom Jesus loved" in v. 2)? Did they understand immediately what had happened? What accounts for their lack of understanding or belief?

Small Group Discussion Guide | 10.25.2020

6. Peter and John both had to 'experience' the empty tomb before they believed (see vv. 6-8). Application: How did you first see for yourself the truth that Christ is risen? How might we continue to live in a state of truly 'experiencing' the empty tomb?

7. The male disciples saw the empty tomb and believed (at least they believed that the tomb was, in fact, empty!), and they returned home. Mary stayed and saw Jesus Himself! What do you think caused this different response?

8. Application: How do you respond to the empty tomb? Like Peter and John, who saw, believed, and left? Or like Mary, who saw and stayed there?

9. It's clear that the Resurrection was a key truth prophesied in Scripture (v. 9). Why is the Resurrection central to the claims and the truth of the Gospel (the Good News)? Application: What does the Resurrection mean for you and me as Christ-followers?

10. Can you summarize the theological message of this text? How would you state the core message in one sentence?