



Check-In

- Check in. How is everyone doing? How were your Holy Week and Easter experiences?

Scripture: John 20:1-18

Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb. So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, “They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him.” Then Peter and the other disciple set out and went toward the tomb. The two were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. He bent down to look in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he did not go in. Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen wrappings lying there, and the cloth that had been on Jesus’s head, not lying with the linen wrappings but rolled up in a place by itself. Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed, for as yet they did not understand the scripture, that he must rise from the dead. Then the disciples returned to their homes. But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb, and she saw two angels in white sitting where the body of Jesus had been lying, one at the head and the other at the feet. They said to her, “Woman, why are you weeping?” She said to them, “They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him.” When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to her, “Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you looking for?” Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, “Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away.” Jesus said to her, “Mary!” She turned and said to him in Hebrew, “Rabbouni!” (which means Teacher). Jesus said to her, “Do not touch me, because I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to my brothers and say to them, ‘I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.’” Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, “I have seen the Lord,” and she told them that he had said these things to her.

Prayer Requests

Spend some time sharing prayer requests with each other. As the small group leader, we ask that you do two things:

1. write them down
2. ask someone to pray

Discussion Questions

- **Can you remember a small detail from an important moment in your life?** Why do you think certain details “stick” with us—and how might that relate to the way John tells the Easter story?
- **What difference does it make that the resurrection is presented as an historical event rather than just a metaphor?** Why do you think the disciples were willing to die for this message?
- **How do you respond to the idea that resurrection doesn’t explain away suffering but declares that it isn’t the end of the story?** What “resurrection hope” do you need in your own life right now?

Did You Know? Theologian: N.T. Wright (b. 1948)

Nicholas Thomas (N.T.) Wright is one of today’s most influential Christian thinkers. A former Bishop of Durham and a prolific author, Wright has spent much of his life helping everyday people and scholars alike understand the meaning of Jesus’ life, death, and resurrection. What sets Wright apart is his deep belief that **Easter is not just about going to heaven someday—it’s about the beginning of a whole new world.** The resurrection, he says, is God’s way of launching new creation right in the middle of the old one.

He writes: “*The message of Easter is that God’s new world has been unveiled in Jesus Christ and that you’re now invited to belong to it.*”

For Wright, Easter isn’t just a moment in the past or a hope for the future—it’s a call to live **resurrection-shaped lives** now, filled with courage, compassion, and hope.