



# WITNESS

Easter at Grace

## WEEK 8 - EASTER SUNDAY - THE EMPTY TOMB AND MARY

### OVERVIEW

Of all the disciples of Jesus, Mary Magdalene had one of the most troubled pasts. The gospels of Mark and Luke tell us that Jesus had cast seven demons out of her when he called her to follow him. It is little wonder she become one of the most devoted of his disciples. Upon the death of Jesus, it is Mary Magdalene, weeping at the tomb, who first encounters the risen Lord. It is Mary who is first sent out by Jesus with the good news that he has risen from the grave. What can we learn from this remarkable woman about what it means to follow Christ? And what is God's invitation to us this Easter as we consider not just what God has done for us in the past, but who he longs for us to become in the future?

*"Mary!" Jesus said. She turned to him and cried out, "Rabboni!" (which is Hebrew for "Teacher"). "Don't cling to me," Jesus said, "for I haven't yet ascended to the Father. But go find my brothers and tell them, 'I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'"*

**John 20:16-17**

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Have you ever experienced a time of feeling like an outcast? If so, share what that was like.
2. Read [Luke 8:1-3](#). What do we know about Mary from Magdala? What can we infer about her?
3. Read [John 20:1-2](#), [11-18](#), and [John 10:3](#). Why Mary? Why do you think she was a central figure in Jesus' ministry and was mentioned in all four gospels?
4. What impact did Jesus have on Mary's life? How did he call her to more?
5. What can we learn about Jesus by seeing him through Mary's eyes?
6. How can Mary Magdalene's story give us hope for worth, community, and purpose?
7. Questions to help us engage our hearts and minds each week of this series:
  - a. **How do I relate to Mary?** What part of her story do you relate to? Do you see any part of yourself in her? Can you relate to the way she reacts to certain things? Do you identify with her in any way?
  - b. **How did I encounter Jesus?**
  - c. **What is God's invitation to me today?**

### RESOURCES

Watch *The Chosen*, free online, [here](#).