

**Sermon-Based Questions**  
**April 21, 2019**  
**Dave Gustavsen**

**Easter Sunday**  
**Morning Has Broken**  
John 20:11-18

**Introduction (choose 1):**

1. Pastor Dave shared the resurrection of Tiger Woods winning The Masters Golf Tournament last weekend. Share one of your favorite resurrection stories.
2. Have you experienced resurrection in your life? If so, share your experience.
3. Why do we love stories of resurrection and redemption so much?

**Understanding (choose 4-6):**

4. *Read John 20:11-18*
  - Take a moment to put yourself in Mary's shoes and think about how she must have felt.
  - Pastor Dave explained that at one time Mary Magdalene was possessed by demons, and Jesus set her free from her demons. After this encounter, Mary committed her life to following and supporting Jesus.
  - Share your testimony with the group. How did you come to believe in Jesus?
    - What was the turning point in your life?
    - How was your life different after you accepted Jesus?
  - Or, if you are not a believer yet, what is holding you back from believing in Jesus?
5. Have you experienced a dark time in your life? Share that experience.
  - How did you feel while you were going through it?
  - What helped you get through it?
  - How do you feel about that experience now that it is over and you can look back on it?
  - What did you learn from that experience?
6. *Read John 20:14-16*

Mary didn't recognize Jesus at first, but once he says her name, "Mary", her eyes are opened and she cries out, "Rabboni!"

  - Here we see Mary struggling with doubt.
    - What doubts do you struggle with? What keeps you from being all in for Jesus?
  - Mary needed to hear Jesus say her name and she believed.
    - During times of doubt, what helps you fight against those doubts?
    - What do you, or did you, need from Jesus to cast off your doubts?
    - How has Jesus worked in your life or how is Jesus working in your life now to help you believe and trust in him?
7. Pastor Dave mentioned some compelling evidence for the resurrection of Jesus. For

example, the incredibly unlikely survival and growth of the church with the Roman Empire.

- Can you think of other examples of compelling evidence that the Bible and the life of Jesus as written in the Gospels is true?
  - How does this evidence help you personally with your faith?
  - Do you know or lean on these truths? Why or why not?
8. Jesus allowed Mary to feel alone and helpless before he revealed himself to her.
- Share a time when you felt utterly alone.
  - How can we remind ourselves that Jesus is always with us?
  - What are ways in which this small group help each other combat loneliness?
9. After seeing and experiencing the resurrected Jesus, Mary and the disciples came out from hiding and overcame their fears. They went out and boldly preached the Gospel.
- What fears are holding you back from preaching the Gospel to your neighbors, coworkers, friends, family, or a stranger on the street?
  - How does Jesus give us courage to go out and boldly live for him?

**Application:**

10. What does the resurrection story mean for you personally? Does it give you the courage to live boldly knowing that Jesus is alive and has already won?
11. How can this small group help you fight your doubts and live life boldly? How can we support and encourage each other to remember that our Savior is alive and in control?

April 21, 2019

### Lectio Divina

1. **Opening Prayer:** Ask God for insight into His Word, for open hearts and minds, for hunger to know Him better, and for an attitude of learning from one another.
2. **Reading:** Have someone from your group read the passage aloud. It is best to print out a copy for each group member so they can read along, make notes, or go back as needed.
3. **Meditation:** Spend *an entire minute in complete silence*, contemplating what was just read. Feel free to re-read the passage quietly to yourself or jot down thoughts/highlight what stuck out to you.
4. **Sharing:** At the leader's signal, invite group members to share their insights for about 5 minutes.
5. **Repeat:** After the 5 minutes are over, repeat the process 2 more times using the same passage. Listen/read like you haven't heard this passage before. If there are longer moments of silence, the leader can prompt discussion with the following questions:
  1. What did you hear and what seems important?
  2. What is the Holy Spirit impressing on you?
  3. What does it make you think of from your life?

<sup>11</sup> Now Mary stood outside the tomb crying. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb <sup>12</sup> and saw two angels in white, seated where Jesus' body had been, one at the head and the other at the foot.

<sup>13</sup> They asked her, "Woman, why are you crying?"

"They have taken my Lord away," she said, "and I don't know where they have put him." <sup>14</sup> At this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not realize that it was Jesus.

<sup>15</sup> He asked her, "Woman, why are you crying? Who is it you are looking for?"

Thinking he was the gardener, she said, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have put him, and I will get him."

<sup>16</sup> Jesus said to her, "Mary."

She turned toward him and cried out in Aramaic, "Rabboni!" (which means "Teacher").

<sup>17</sup> Jesus said, "Do not hold on to me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father. Go instead to my brothers and tell them, 'I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'"

<sup>18</sup> Mary Magdalene went to the disciples with the news: "I have seen the Lord!" And she told them that he had said these things to her.

-John 20:11-18

But if it is preached that Christ has been raised from the dead, how can some of you say that there is no resurrection of the dead? <sup>13</sup> If there is no resurrection of the dead, then not even Christ has been raised. <sup>14</sup> And if Christ has not been raised, our preaching is useless and so is your faith. <sup>15</sup> More than that, we are then found to be false witnesses about God, for we have

testified about God that he raised Christ from the dead. But he did not raise him if in fact the dead are not raised. <sup>16</sup> For if the dead are not raised, then Christ has not been raised either.<sup>17</sup> And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins.<sup>18</sup> Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ are lost. <sup>19</sup> If only for this life we have hope in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied.

-1 Corinthians 15:12-19

<sup>20</sup> But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. <sup>21</sup> For since death came through a man, the resurrection of the dead comes also through a man. <sup>22</sup> For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive. <sup>23</sup> But each in turn: Christ, the firstfruits; then, when he comes, those who belong to him. <sup>24</sup> Then the end will come, when he hands over the kingdom to God the Father after he has destroyed all dominion, authority and power. <sup>25</sup> For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. <sup>26</sup> The last enemy to be destroyed is death. <sup>27</sup> For he “has put everything under his feet.”<sup>[c]</sup> Now when it says that “everything” has been put under him, it is clear that this does not include God himself, who put everything under Christ. <sup>28</sup> When he has done this, then the Son himself will be made subject to him who put everything under him, so that God may be all in all.

-1 Corinthians 15:20-28