

looking... seeing... believing

John 20.1-18

This discussion guide includes preparation BEFORE the group and some guidance DURING the group meeting. Preparation before the group will help you, your leader, and your group to engage and respond to the living and active Word of God.



PREPARATION BEFORE THE GROUP MEETS:

The aim of this preparation is to encourage good & prayerful observation of the text of God's word and the joyful experience of discovering its truth.

Pray & read John 20.1-18

What are the two most striking things in this reading?

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What puzzles you the most in this reading?

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How does this reading make you **feel**?

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What do you **think** in response to this reading?

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What will you **do** in response to this reading?

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WHEN THE GROUP MEETS: Pray for your discussion time

Discuss some things you are sceptical about (scepticism is generally any questioning attitude or doubt towards one or more items of ... knowledge or belief). **Do you value scepticism, why/why not?**

read John 20.1-18 – [check to see if anyone had a stand-out or something puzzling from this section]

- What is Mary expecting when she goes to the tomb of Jesus? What does she think has happened? (vv1-2)

- What are the disciples expecting when they go to the tomb of Jesus? What do they think has happened? What do they not know yet? (vv3-9, 'believe' (v8) may mean believe the testimony of Mary Magdalene)

- What is the obvious explanation for an empty tomb?

- Why might the angels be surprised by Mary's tears? What is the unexpected explanation for the empty tomb?

- What are the great explicit and implicit promises for the disciples of Jesus in verse 17?

- Trace the progression of the faith of Mary Magdalene in this account. Share your own story about looking for, seeing and believing in Jesus. Is there a similar pattern?

- Scepticism is right when things are claimed for which there is little or no evidence. Discuss how you might affirm the scepticism of someone who does not have faith in Jesus:

- What evidence would you provide to someone to help overcome their skepticism about Jesus? (n.b. v9)

PRAYER time! Take time to thank God for the great Good News of the resurrection of Jesus from the dead. Thank God for all that this means for you personally. Pray earnestly, by name, for people you know who might look, see and believe this Easter.