

## **John 20:1-18 Easter**

1. Have you had any conversations with people who aren't Christians about the resurrection of Jesus? What kinds of things do they say about the claim that Jesus rose from the dead?

### **Read John 20:1-18**

2. The disciple's first reaction to the empty tomb is that the body had been stolen. Peter however steps in and sees the linens clothes still twisted around – as if the body had passed right through them. John uses the Greek word for saw from which we get our word theorize – meaning that Peter is looking at the empty tomb and trying to figure out a theory to explain what he sees. How do you theorize the empty tomb? (Although it doesn't prove Jesus' resurrection it does demand an explanation)

3. John steps in behind Peter (8) he sees and believes. The word there is to see into – meaning he sees with meaning and believes – putting his active trust in the resurrection. What would active trust in the resurrection look like? (It might be helpful to first explore what the implications of the resurrection are to allow for your conversation to be more expansive)

Note: John locates these events on the first day of the week (vs. 1) – a very strong echo of the creation account of Genesis 1 – he is wanting us to see that in Jesus' resurrection there is an entirely new creation that is born.

4. Jesus specifically chooses Mary to be the first messenger of the gospel. Who was Mary? (See Luke 8:1-3, for a picture of what Mary's life would have been like see Mark 5:1-20) What is Jesus communicating about the new creation in choosing Mary?

5. In the sermon Tim made the point that God, when he created the heavens and the earth ordains humanity to a particular task – that is to carry the praises of creation, and to steward God's creation for the good of all. This is the task to which Mary is called, and everyone after her chosen by grace. What would this look like practically?