

Royal Redeemer

CGS Community Discussion Guide

Based on the sermon for April 16, 2017:
What are You Putting On for Easter?



(For use as an opening Devotion, use only the highlighted portion)

- **Begin by sharing a high and/or a low from your week**
- **Connect**
 - Share a fun, funny, or embarrassing memory from family Easter celebrations
- **Grow** (read this passage aloud and listen for words or phrases that speak into your life now)

Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene went to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the entrance. So she came running to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one Jesus loved, and said, "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we don't know where they have put him!"

John 20:1-2

- Share any words or phrases that speak into your life today.
- What do you imagine Mary was thinking and feeling as she made her way to Jesus' tomb?
- When she sees the empty tomb, what does she assume? What reasons might she have to assume this?

*Now Mary stood outside the tomb crying. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb and saw two angels in white, seated where Jesus' body had been, one at the head and the other at the foot. 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." At this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not realize that it was Jesus. 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." Jesus said to her, "Mary." She turned toward him and cried out in Aramaic, "Rabboni!" (which means "Teacher"). 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.'" 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***

- Why do you think Mary does not recognize Jesus? What prompts her to recognize Him?
- If you were to invent an account of Jesus resurrection to convince other people, what would you change from this account?
- What do you believe about Jesus' resurrection from the dead?
- How does Jesus' resurrection impact your life today?

Reflect: If Jesus rose from the dead, then you have to accept all that he said; if he didn't rise from the dead, then why worry about any of what he said? The issue on which everything hangs is not whether or not you like his teaching but whether or not he rose from the dead. -Timothy Keller

- **Serve**
 - Who in your life today might struggle with hope for tomorrow? How can you be a witness of resurrection hope to them?
- **End with Prayer and the Lord's Prayer**