



April 20, 2025

I Am

“The Appearance”

John 20:1-18

Early on Sunday morning, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and found that the stone had been rolled away from the entrance. ²She ran and found Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved. She said, “They have taken the Lord’s body out of the tomb, and we don’t know where they have put him!” ³Peter and the other disciple started out for the tomb. ⁴They were both running, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. ⁵He stooped and looked in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he didn’t go in. ⁶Then Simon Peter arrived and went inside. He also noticed the linen wrappings lying there, ⁷while the cloth that had covered Jesus’ head was folded up and lying apart from the other wrappings. ⁸Then the disciple who had reached the tomb first also went in, and he saw and believed—⁹for until then they still hadn’t understood the Scriptures that said Jesus must rise from the dead. ¹⁰Then they went home. ¹¹Mary was standing outside the tomb crying, and as she wept, she stooped and looked in. ¹²She saw two white-robed angels, one sitting at the head and the other at the foot of the place where the body of Jesus had been lying. ¹³“Dear woman, why are you crying?” the angels asked her. “Because they have taken away my Lord,” she replied, “and I don’t know where they have put him.” ¹⁴She turned to leave and saw someone standing there. It was Jesus, but she didn’t recognize him. ¹⁵“Dear woman, why are you crying?” Jesus asked her. “Who are you looking for?” She thought he was the gardener. “Sir,” she said, “if you have taken him away, tell me where you have put him, and I will go and get him.” ¹⁶“Mary!” Jesus said. She turned to him and cried out, “Rabboni!” (which is Hebrew for “Teacher”). ¹⁷“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.’” ¹⁸Mary Magdalene found the disciples and told them, “I have seen the Lord!” Then she gave them his message.

Ice Breaker Questions:

1. What is your favorite tradition of Easter?
2. What is your favorite childhood memory of Easter?
3. What’s your favorite Easter candy?
4. When is the last time you dyed Easter eggs?
5. What is a family Easter tradition that your kids (regardless their ages) look forward to?

Scripture Study Questions:

1. Why did Mary go to the tomb early in the morning?
2. What assumptions did Mary make about what happened to Jesus’ body?
3. What is the difference between Peter and John’s responses?
4. Verse 8 says John believed. What do you think he believed at that moment?
5. Verse 9 says they “still did not understand from Scripture.” What does this teach about how belief and faith and understanding can grow over time?

6. Why do you think the author, John, makes it clear the grave clothes were separate from the cloth that had covered Jesus' head and it was neatly folded?
7. Why do you think Mary didn't recognize Jesus?
8. What is the meaning of Mary's response "Rabboni"? What does it reveal about her faith?
9. What is the significance of Mary being sent to share the news with the disciples?
10. How does this encounter with the resurrected Jesus change Mary's perspective on her previous grief and loss?

Application Questions:

1. Have you ever experienced a moment where Jesus was present, but you didn't recognize it at the time?
2. The following reasons were supposed for Mary not recognizing Jesus:
 - She was consumed with her personal circumstances
 - She was looking for her own version of Jesus
 - She was searching in the wrong places
 - She didn't believe in the resurrection of Jesus

Which one do you see yourself in?

3. Have you ever had a moment that God spoke to you personally and it changed your perspective?
4. How can the resurrection encourage us to actively share the good news of Jesus with others?