MIDDLE school

07

MATTHEW 28:1-10,16-20

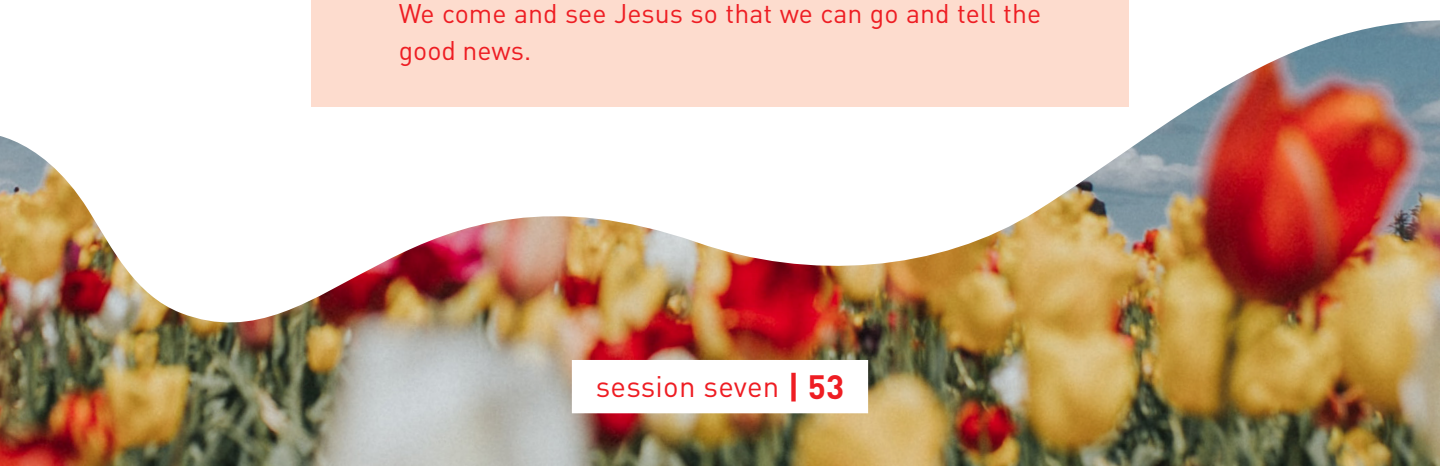
COME SEE, GO TELL

THIS WEEK'S focus

When astounding things happen to us, it can often be hard to keep it to ourselves. If we receive an incredible gift or witness something bizarre, we want other people to know about it! Once we have seen, we can't help but tell. The women who went to the tomb on that first Easter morning experienced that in the biggest way. Once they saw the empty tomb, the angel instructed them to spread the news about what they had seen firsthand, and they did so joyfully. Each of us are called to do the same with the news of the resurrection: we come and see Jesus so that we can go and tell the good news.

CENTRAL truth

We come and see Jesus so that we can go and tell the good news.



EXPLORE scripture

MATTHEW 28:1-10,16-20

MATTHEW 28:1-7

1 After the Sabbath, as the first day of
the week was dawning, Mary Magdalene
and the other Mary went to view the
tomb. 2 There was a violent earthquake,
because an angel of the Lord descended
from heaven and approached the tomb. He
rolled back the stone and was sitting on it.
3 His appearance was like lightning, and his
clothing was as white as snow. 4 The guards
were so shaken by fear of him that they
became like dead men. 5 The angel told the
women, "Don't be afraid, because I know
you are looking for Jesus who was crucified.
6 He is not here. For he has risen, just as he
said. Come and see the place where he lay.
7 Then go quickly and tell his disciples, 'He
has risen from the dead and indeed he is
going ahead of you to Galilee; you will see
him there.' Listen, I have told you."

MATTHEW 28:8-10

8 So, departing quickly from the tomb
with fear and great joy, they ran to tell his
disciples the news. 9 Just then Jesus met
them and said, "Greetings!" They came up,
took hold of his feet, and worshiped him.
10 Then Jesus told them, "Do not be afraid.
Go and tell my brothers to leave for Galilee,
and they will see me there."

MATTHEW 28:16-20

16 The eleven disciples traveled to
Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus
had directed them. 17 When they saw
him, they worshiped, but some doubted.
18 Jesus came near and said to them, "All
authority has been given to me in heaven
and on earth. 19 Go, therefore, and make
disciples of all nations, baptizing them
in the name of the Father and of the Son
and of the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them
to observe everything I have commanded
you. And remember, I am with you always,
to the end of the age."

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MATTHEW 28:1-10,16-20

CONVERSATION

questions

READ MATTHEW 28:1-7.

.01 How do you think the women were feeling when they went to the tomb that morning?

.02 How did the women and the guards respond when the angel appeared? Why? How do you think you would have felt?

.03 The angel's message was one of comfort. What was comforting about it? Do you think the women felt comforted?

CULTURE

One of the significant cultural aspects around Jesus's resurrection is the involvement of women. According to all four Gospels, it was women who first went to the tomb. Then Jesus appeared to several more in the moments and days that followed. This has actually served to give more credibility to the historical account of the resurrection. If someone was making up this story at the time, they certainly would not have used the accounts of women to lend strength to their argument. At the time, women weren't normally given much credibility as legal witnesses. Yet we see them making the first appearance at the tomb, encountering the risen Jesus, and taking the news to the other disciples. By giving the women such an important role, Jesus was once again turning cultural norms upside down and inside out.

.04 Why was it important that Jesus had already gone ahead of the women to Galilee?

READ MATHEW 28:8-10.

.05 If the women knew Jesus was alive, why were they still fearful?

.06 What can we learn from how the women responded to Jesus's appearance? How can we respond to the gospel like this?

READ MATHEW 28:16-20.

.07 Why did some people still doubt, even when Jesus was with them?

.08 What do the Great Commission (Matt. 28:19-20) and the Great Commandment (Matt. 22:36-40) have in common? How are they related?

THEOLOGY

It is no accident that Jesus's final words on earth would set the tone for the ministry that was to follow. Making disciples is the plan for expanding God's kingdom here on earth. We see this modeled in the life of Jesus and commanded here after His resurrection. We come together so that we can learn how to love and serve God better and how to love and serve others better. We echo Paul's call to follow him as he follows Christ (see 1 Cor. 11:1). In other words, we should be inviting others to learn alongside us as we learn from the gospel of Jesus. That is what it means to be a disciple—a student. This call to make disciples includes people who look like us and those who don't. Those who have more money than us and those who have less. Those who have the same political opinions and those who don't. The call is to make disciples of all nations—around the block and around the world.

07

MATTHEW 28:1-10,16-20

NOW what?

CENTRAL truth

We come and see Jesus so that we can go and tell the good news.

.09 What are you afraid of right now? What unknown future, current struggle, or recent loss has left you fearful?

.10 What are some ways that Jesus goes ahead and makes a way for us in our lives?

.11 How can you be obedient to share the gospel, even when you're afraid? How can you be joyful as you share the good news of Jesus?

.12 How can we live out Jesus's Great Commission in our lives, even as students?

DAILY devotions

MEMORIZE MATTHEW 28:6

7 ARROWS FOR BIBLE READING

What does this passage say?

What does this passage tell us about God?

What did this passage mean to its original audience?

How does this passage change the way I relate to people?

What does this passage tell us about man?

How does this passage prompt me to pray?

What does this passage demand of me?

day 1

MATTHEW 28:1-4

DWELL

Three days after Jesus was crucified, two women who were among His followers visited His tomb to mourn, expecting to find it sealed. Imagine how they must have reacted when instead there was a violent earthquake, and an angel of God came down and opened the sealed tomb—an angel so terrifying that it made trained Roman soldiers faint out of fear. The women were expecting the ordinary, but as followers of Jesus we should learn to expect the extraordinary.

What extraordinary details about the day of the resurrection does Matthew share in these verses? Why are these details important?

How can you live in expectation of extraordinary experiences in your walk with Christ?

MEMORIZE

Write Matthew 28:6 in a prayer journal or on a note card, and read it to yourself each morning and evening.

PRAY

Pray that you would live in eager expectation of the extraordinary as you follow Jesus this week.

day 2

MATTHEW 28:5-7

DWELL

The angel reminded the women what Jesus Himself had taught: He would rise from the dead on the third day after His death. Then the angel offered them further proof that Jesus was alive by showing them the empty tomb. But the angel didn't go to share the news with the other disciples; instead, he told the women to hurry and tell the disciples themselves. God was once again giving regular human beings an amazing opportunity to take part in the story He was telling.

What important task did the angel give the women? How do you think they felt about being given such an important task?

How might Jesus be asking you to share the good news of His resurrection?

MEMORIZE

Find a recording of Matthew 28:6 online, or record yourself reading it. Listen to it at least once a day.

PRAY

Thank God that He includes us in His story by calling us to tell others about life with Him.

day 3

MATTHEW 28:8-10

DWELL

The women didn't waste any time in obeying the angel's instructions, and rushed away to tell the disciples the wonderful news. But before they even made it to their destination in Galilee, Jesus met them on the road and greeted them. He knew how overwhelming this probably all was for them, because He echoed the words of the angel and told them, "Do not be afraid." We can be confident in our walk with Jesus because we know He Himself is with us every step of the way.

Why might Jesus have repeated the angel's words and instructions to them?

When you are overwhelmed or anxious, how could Jesus's words here help you?

MEMORIZE

Ask a friend or family member to memorize Matthew 28:6 with you this week. Quiz each other several times during the week.

PRAY

Thank Jesus for being with us in every moment of our lives, from the ordinary to the extraordinary.

day 4

MATTHEW 28:11-15

DWELL

↓ **Why were the priests and elders so concerned with keeping the truth of the resurrection quiet?**

↔ **What might you tell someone who claims that Jesus's body was simply stolen from the tomb?**

Not everyone was happy about the miracle of Jesus's resurrection. The missing body at the tomb worried the priests, because they knew that this would simply add more fuel to the growing sect of Jesus followers threatening the priests' power and authority. So they bribed the guards to spread stories that the body had been stolen away while they were sleeping—even though admitting to being asleep on watch (even if it was a lie) could cost them their lives. The gospel is the greatest news in history, but there are those who will still chase after power and riches rather than experience the new life that Jesus offers.

MEMORIZE

Break Matthew 28:6 into 3–5 smaller parts and try to recite a different part to yourself from memory throughout each day.

PRAY

Pray that God would use your example of faith to show others that Jesus is better than riches or power over others.

day 5

MATTHEW 28:16-20

DWELL

Having doubts doesn't mean that there's something wrong with our faith. It's natural to doubt sometimes—after all, faith doesn't always come naturally to us. It's something we have to work at and constantly recommit ourselves to. Notice that Jesus didn't only talk to the disciples who hadn't doubted when He gave His instructions to spread the word of God throughout the world. His command was for everyone who was present, regardless of whether they had doubts or not. It's the same for us. Having doubts doesn't change our calling to share Jesus with others. We can trust that He will help us when we doubt and draw us back to Him in love.

↑ **What does it mean that all authority was given to Jesus? Who gave Him that authority?**

→ **What does it mean to make disciples? How can you do this in your daily life?**

MEMORIZE

Use colored pencils or markers to colorfully draw Matthew 28:6 on a piece of paper or note card, and place it somewhere you can see it often

PRAY

Thank Jesus that He doesn't call us just when we are free of doubts, but promises to be with us always, no matter what.