



07 session 7 COME SEE, GO TELL



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."



EXPLORE options

1. Is This for Real?

Prior to your group meeting, gather a few fake news headlines and a few real ones. You could also create your own fake headlines and combine them with real headlines. Make a list and at the start of your group, read each of the headlines aloud. After each one, ask the students to vote on whether it is real or fake, and reveal the correct answer. After you've gone through a number of these, talk about how it can be tempting to believe everything we read and consume these days. Different news sources often have different information and social media can make the truth more difficult to discern. The news the women heard on Easter morning might have been difficult to believe—Jesus had risen from the dead! But with that news came the invitation to come and see for themselves, then to go and share the news with others. While we may not yet be able to physically see Jesus, the invitation remains in His gospel to come and see who He is and what He has done. We come and see Jesus so that we can go and tell the good news.

2. Tell Us About It

At the start of your group, ask your students to think about one of the best or most exciting experiences they have had. Maybe it was a fun trip with their family or a big win for their team. Ask them to share about why it was such a great memory and experience. Talk about the reasons we love sharing great experiences with people around us. In today's session we will read about the women at the tomb, who heard the greatest news of their lives and couldn't wait to share it with the other disciples. We come and see Jesus so that we can go and tell the good news.



LET'S talk

What is an experience you have had that completely shocked you? Why?

How did that experience make you want to tell other people?



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.



CONVERSATION questions

READ 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.”

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

.02 What might they have been feeling when the angel appeared? What would you have been thinking and feeling?

The women had seen it all happen just two days before. Jesus had died. They watched Him hanging on the cross. They watched Him breathe His last breath. It must have seemed such an abrupt ending to the story—to the man who was supposed to be their Savior. But even in the midst of such tragedy, the women planned to serve their Savior in one last way—or so they thought. Once the Sabbath had passed, Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of James went first thing in the morning to the tomb where they had seen Jesus buried. According to Mark and Luke’s accounts, they took spices to anoint His body properly for burial (Mark 16:1; Luke 24:1). But they never expected the encounter they had at the tomb. After a great earthquake, an angel appeared, rolled away the stone, and sat upon it. It was such an astonishing event that even the guards were terrified and passed out.

KEY QUESTION

.03 How was God offering comfort to the women through the angel’s message?

Don't be afraid. The two women needed to hear those words. We need these words of reassurance more often than we would care to admit. When circumstances are different than we expected, we need reassurance not to let fear lead the way. When we are overcome with anxiety, uncertainty, or insecurity, we need the reminder not to walk in fear.



BE VULNERABLE

When and where are you most prone to fear? Prone to fear others, your circumstances, or even the future? Consider sharing with your students about how you have experienced fear and how God has met you there.

They didn't have to be afraid, because Jesus was alive; He had risen from the dead. The angel invited them to come and see the empty tomb. But there was more. Because He had risen, there was news to share. The angel gave the women a command and a word of comfort. He instructed them to go at once to tell the disciples what they had seen and what he had told them. And as if he knew the women might be overwhelmed at the prospect of carrying such a message, he gave them a word of comfort: Jesus had already gone ahead of them.

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

What hope—to hear the confirmation that the Savior who had just died before your eyes has, in fact, not left you! He has gone ahead of you and He will meet you, if only you will follow after Him. In these simple words, we as believers take heart knowing that Jesus has already walked our journey ahead of us and He has made a way. We just have to follow. We just have to carry the good news so others might come with us.

MATTHEW 28:1-7

28:1. These events occurred early Sunday morning. Since the ancients did not view women as trustworthy, a writer who made up an account designed to convince readers of Jesus's resurrection would not have made women the first witnesses of the resurrection. That Matthew included the women confirms that he was faithful to record actual events, even if they would be seen as discreditable by society.

28:2. The angel's *sitting* perhaps indicates a note of completion or triumph. The *earthquake* may have dislodged the *stone* but was not needed to enable Christ to be raised.

28:3. The angel's appearance identified him as a heavenly being (see Dan. 7:9; 10:6).

28:4. The soldiers lost consciousness and fell to the ground.

28:5. On their arrival, the women were understandably terrified. The angel revealed his understanding of their mission. They were looking for a corpse, but no body remained. Jesus was resurrected, not just spiritually alive, so that the tomb was empty. *Who was crucified* underlines the reality of Jesus's death. *Come and see the place* verifies that this was the correct tomb and correct location within the tomb, thus stressing that He really was and is alive.

28:6. The words *just as he said* recall Jesus's prophecies about His resurrection (12:40; 16:21; 17:23; 20:19). Jesus taught that the Old Testament prophecies had to be fulfilled since they came from God (5:18; 26:54,56).



CONVERSATION questions

READ 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.”

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

In a way, the women’s response is comfortingly human. It certainly wasn’t surprising that their immediate response was fear. This whole situation had gone very differently than they had probably imagined when they left for the tomb that morning. Even in knowing Jesus was alive, the women were still afraid. Perhaps they were afraid to get their hopes up after just experiencing such deep grief. Certainly the sight of the angel and the earthquake accompanying his arrival must have been terrifying in and of itself.

But they had good news. The angel had just told them their Savior was not dead, and His other followers needed to know, too. But the women couldn’t fathom it at that moment and instead reacted in fear. Surely we can relate. Hearing the truth of God, we often respond in fear instead of faith. This scene reminds us that even the miraculous and glorious triumph of Jesus’s resurrection is still a mystery for our human perception. But our job is not to understand (at least not completely)—it is to simply proclaim the mystery of faith.

Their response was a mixture of fear and joy—as our own response often is, even in obedience. With one word (“He has risen” is one word in the Greek), the whole story had been reversed. Suddenly, the Savior they had followed—their Teacher and Rabbi, whom they watched hang on a Roman cross—was miraculously alive and standing right in front of them! The words of Psalm 30:5 were probably ringing true for the mourning women, “Weeping may stay overnight, but there is joy in the morning.” They had spent two nights weeping, but early on this first Easter morning, joy was a possibility again.

.06 How does the women’s response to Jesus inform how we should also respond?

As they met Jesus face to face, everything was made right again. And so they worshiped—right there in the middle of the road. Then He called them to respond. Jesus was returning to Galilee, the place where it all began. That is where He was raised and began His public ministry, and that is where He would send them out to carry the good news of His resurrection. He wanted the women to go and make sure the other disciples would meet Him there. In fear and joy, we are still called to carry the name of Jesus—wherever and whenever He calls!



CULTURE | Why did Jesus reveal Himself to the women first after His resurrection?

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.

MATTHEW 28:8-10

28:8. *Departing quickly* matches the command “go quickly” of verse 7. Their emotions understandably mix *fear* and *joy*.

28:9. During His wilderness temptation, Jesus quoted Deuteronomy 6:13, saying “Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him” (Matt. 4:10). By accepting worship here, Jesus identified Himself as their Lord and God.

28:10. Jesus now calls the disciples His *brothers*—the only such place in the Gospels (but compare with Rom. 8:29 and Heb. 2:11), disclosing keen psychological insight. Not only does he show Himself as still loving and accepting those who had abandoned Him, but He even treats them as equals! In other words, they remain laborers with Him in the work of the Father. Jesus is neither denying His uniqueness nor deifying the disciples. But He is portraying the church as a brotherhood that manifests more equality than hierarchy, even if some functional differentiation between leaders and followers is clear from other Scriptures (e.g., 1 Pet. 5:1-5; Heb. 13:17).



CONVERSATION questions

READ 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.”

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

KEY QUESTION

.08 How does the Great Commission (Matt. 28:19-20) reflect the heart of the Great Commandment (Matt. 22:36-40)?

The disciples followed Jesus’s instructions and met Him in Galilee. Immediately they worshiped Him. This was the man they had done life and ministry with for the last three years. He had been dead just two days earlier, and suddenly they were reunited. They couldn’t help but worship. But some were more skeptical. This is a reminder that we will all, at some point, experience doubt—even when the truth is standing right in front of us. Doubt can often arise when our perspective changes. We still believe the same things to be true, but our circumstances have changed our field of vision. Maybe we experienced an unexpected loss. Plans changed. Someone left. Healing came too slowly. For some of the followers that day, perhaps that grief was still too fresh and it was causing them to doubt. But for those who believed as well as those doubted, Jesus came near to them.

Everything changed on that first Easter morning as a few women made their way to the tomb. This has to inform everything that we do in response. As believers, everything in our lives ultimately comes down to this command and commission from Jesus. Making disciples of all nations is the driving force for how we

live in response to following Him. It is the result of what happens if we are living out the scriptural call to love God and love people (Matt. 22:36-40). It should inform how we live on mission, how we share the gospel, how we invest in other people, and how we multiply our lives in the kingdom of God.

Having responded to God's call, our lives get put on a new missional trajectory. This isn't a call reserved just for pastors or missionaries. This commission is for every single son and daughter of God. Which means that whether we are a pastor or a doctor or a student, we are called to make disciples. If we are a missionary or a teacher or an accountant, we are called to make disciples.



THEOLOGY | Why is the Great Commission so important?

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.

MATTHEW 28:16-20

28:16-17. The lingering confusion among the disciples about Jesus's resurrection undermines the skeptical theory that the disciples shared a hallucination of Jesus's resurrection because they all expected Him to arise.

28:18. Even before the resurrection, Jesus had authority (7:29; 9:6,8; 11:27; 21:23). However, through the resurrection, the Father granted Him *all authority over heaven and . . . earth*, an authority far greater than that which Satan had vainly promised Him (see 4:8-9).

28:19. The command to extend their mission worldwide brings to a climax Matthew's repeated theme of Gentile participation in God's salvation. The inclusion of four Gentile women in Jesus's genealogy and the summons of the magi to worship the infant Christ foreshadowed the disciples' mission of making *disciples of all nations*. Baptism marked a person's entrance into the faith community. *In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit* is a reference to the Trinity. Matthew's language shows that a clear understanding of Jesus's nature and identity as God was required before baptism.

28:20. The Great Commission (vv. 19-20) is preceded by a reference to Jesus's authority and followed by the promise of Jesus's spiritual presence among us. Both are necessary if we are to fulfill our God-given mission.



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 Where do you need Jesus to go ahead of you and make a way? How can you start to follow Him, even now?

.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?

KEY QUESTION

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



THE STUDENT LEADER PACK is available for purchase on lifeway.com/explorethebiblestudents. It includes valuable posters that are referenced throughout the *Leader Guide*, Family Connection guides that equip families to discuss the Bible on the go, a Midweek study of a complementary book of the Bible, a link to training audio to help leaders prepare for each session, and PowerPoint templates with graphics from the quarter study to help prepare slides for teaching.



DAILY devotions

The Bible is no ordinary book—it is God’s powerful Word and it is given to us for our good (2 Tim. 3:16-17; Heb. 4:13). So we should read the Bible more carefully and thoughtfully than any other book. This is where the 7 Arrows of Bible Reading come in—these 7 questions will train you and your students to get more out of your time in the Bible and experience its life-transforming power. Your students’ *Daily Discipleship Guide* (item 005646504) contains five days of Daily Devotions built on the 7 Arrows. Here is a summary of the texts they will be studying. We encourage you to follow along and use the 7 Arrows questions to guide your own study of God’s Word.

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?

LEADER challenge

MEMORIZE

Matthew 28:6

CONNECT

Send a group email or group message to your students, encouraging them to complete their daily devotions. You might also consider sharing your own insights from the daily readings as a means of encouraging them.

DAY 1 MATTHEW 28:1-4

DAY 2 MATTHEW 28:5-7

DAY 3 MATTHEW 28:8-10

DAY 4 MATTHEW 28:11-15

DAY 5 MATTHEW 28:16-20