

05 THE EMPTY TOMB

KEY TEXT: JOHN 20:1-17

CENTRAL truth

The empty tomb points to God's gift of salvation. Through Jesus's sinless life, death, and resurrection, the powers of sin, death, and evil have been defeated. When we place our trust in this news, we are not only saved *from* something, but *for* something. What exactly are we saved for? To experience reconciliation with God and inclusion into His eternal family. **Jesus offers salvation to all who believe in Him.**

key question

How has Jesus used other people in your life to give you a better understanding of who He is?

Mary's response to the good news of her risen Master was to share her discovery with her friends. Overwhelmed with joy and excitement, she refused to keep this news to herself. Many of us who follow Jesus were introduced to Him by a friend. Like Mary, this friend ran to us, eager for us to also believe the transformative news of Jesus. Who has been like Mary for you? Help students reflect on the roles that various people have played in their stories.

keep in mind

- Students don't need to look far to see reminders that disease and death are still active in the world. Why is the case if Jesus has conquered the grave? Remind students that the physical world God created wasn't spared when sin came on the scene; it awaits restoration too. God cares about the sickness, disease, and pain we experience. Jesus's resurrection assures us that not only are we forgiven, but that one day, God will restore everything in creation that has been broken, both spiritually and physically. Students need hope that the resurrection not only brings spiritual change but will bring physical healing to our world as well.
- Students may be familiar with arguments opposing Jesus's resurrection, or they may have doubts of their own. Listen graciously when and if these questions arise. Take time to reflect on your own doubts as you've walked with the Lord. In this session, you will have the opportunity to provide a basic apologetic for the resurrection using the commentary and context notes.

application

Are you convinced of the truth of Jesus's resurrection? If so, what evidence convinced you? If not, what questions do you have?

the win

FOR THE STUDENT: Students will have the opportunity to grow in their understanding of the historical validity and importance of Jesus's resurrection.

FOR THE LEADER: As the apostle Paul highlights in 1 Corinthians 15, Jesus's resurrection is integral to the Christian faith. Help students find ways to live in light of its importance through the Holy Spirit's strength.

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