

## “Believe!” - John 20:1-17

Ask - “Have you ever mistaken someone for someone else? Share what happened.”

Background - This week we will deviate from our regular study in Genesis to focus on the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Our special Easter lesson for this year comes from the gospel of John.

“Coming to the Tomb” - John 20:1-4

(v1-2) Who came to the tomb first, when did she come, and what did she see? Upon seeing it, who did she go tell and what did she think had happened?

(v3-4) When Mary told them about what she'd seen, what did Peter and John do? Who ran faster and got to the tomb first?

MARY WAS THE FIRST PERSON TO VISIT JESUS' TOMB. DISCOVERING THAT THE STONE HAD BEEN ROLLED AWAY, SHE HURRIED TO TELL PETER AND JOHN. THEN THEY CAME ALSO.

“Going Into the Tomb” - John 20:5-10

(v5-6) When John arrived outside the tomb, what did he do and see? When Peter arrived at the tomb a few moments later, what did he do? What did he see up close that John had seen from a distance?

(v7) What else did Peter see that John hadn't yet seen? What did the rolled-up face cloth suggest? Discuss.

(v8-10) What did John do after Peter went into the tomb? Now did John believe Mary's report that the tomb was empty? Did either of the disciples yet believe that Jesus had risen from the grave? What did they do?

PETER WENT INTO THE TOMB FIRST, FOLLOWED BY JOHN. THEY SAW THE LINEN WRAPPINGS AND ROLLED-UP FACE CLOTH. STILL, NEITHER ONE OF THEM THOUGHT THAT JESUS HAD RISEN. THEY WENT HOME.

“Standing Outside the Tomb” - John 20:11-17

(v11-12) After Peter and John left, what did Mary do? What could she see inside the tomb? Where were they seated?

(v13) What did they ask her and how did she answer? Did she still believe that Jesus' body had been stolen?

(v14-15) When she turned around, who did she see? What did He ask her? Who did she think that He was? What did she say to Him?

(v16-17) When did Mary realize that the man she was speaking with was Jesus? What did she call Him? What did she do? What does her “clinging” to Him reveal? (*answer: Jesus was physically risen*) What did Jesus say to her?

MARY SAW ANGELS IN THE TOMB AND SPOKE WITH THEM. THEN SHE BEGAN TALKING TO A MAN SHE THOUGHT WAS THE GARDENER. WHEN HE CALLED HER BY NAME, SHE REALIZED IT WAS THE RISEN JESUS!

Application - According to the Bible, Mary Magdalene was the first person to see and interact with the risen Jesus. Originally she believed that His body had been stolen from the tomb, which would have been a natural conclusion for her or anyone to make. But when Jesus personally and physically appeared to her and spoke of His coming ascension, she knew for a fact that He had been raised from the dead. She would be the first of hundreds to personally witness the resurrected Jesus Christ. What is your favorite part of this (true) story?