

John 15:1-17 (NLT) - 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. 2 She 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!"

3 Peter and the other disciple started out for the tomb. 4 They were both running, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. 5 He stooped and looked in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he didn't go in. 6 Then Simon Peter arrived and went inside. He also noticed the linen wrappings lying there, 7 while the cloth that had covered Jesus' head was folded up and lying apart from the other wrappings. 8 Then the disciple who had reached the tomb first also went in, and he saw and believed— 9 for until then they still hadn't understood the Scriptures that said Jesus must rise from the dead. 10 Then they went home.

Jesus Appears to Mary Magdalene

11 Mary was standing outside the tomb crying, and as she wept, she stooped and looked in. 12 She 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."

14 She 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.'"

1 Corinthians 15:20-23 (NLT) - 20 But in fact, Christ has been raised from the dead. He is the first of a great harvest of all who have died.

21 So you see, just as death came into the world through a man, now the resurrection from the dead has begun through another man. 22 Just as everyone dies because we all belong to Adam, everyone who belongs to Christ will be given new life. 23 But there is an order to this resurrection: Christ was raised as the first of the harvest; then all who belong to Christ will be raised when he comes back.

*He died for our sin. He rose for our life.*

## Study Guide

This last Sunday was Resurrection Sunday where we spoke about Jesus and that: He died for our sin. He rose for our life. We talked about how Jesus died for the sins of the world so that we were free from them, and that he rose from the dead in order that we might also be able to join Him in new life. We have received new freedom, real freedom, because of the sacrifice that Jesus made. When you think about freedom and what it means to be free, what stands out to you?

Jesus has set us free, but the big question quickly becomes: Free to do what? Take a moment to read Galatians 5:13-15. Take a moment to imagine the two categories that Paul is talking about here. Make a list of all the things that people imagine they would do if they were totally free and then put them in one of the two categories. Is that a sinful desire? Or, is it a moment of serving another?

Now, how about the things you imagine when you think about being free? Which list would they be on? So often when we consider freedom we end up turning around and running back into the trap of sin and brokenness and, if we do that, our freedom was for only for a moment and then we are stuck in our sin again. However, if we are aware of what freedom actually releases us to do, we can chart a way forward with God that has us living in the freedom for the rest of our lives.

Take some time to talk about what it would be like to be free to serve others and pray for each other.