



ALIVE

EASTER

AT PRAIRIE LAKES

INTRODUCTION

On this Easter weekend, we finish the *I Am* series with Pastor John's message on "I am the Resurrection and the Life." Many of us are stuck in our disappointments, fears or doubts and end up "performing a dull religious duty to a dead savior." Through the lives of Mary Magdalene and Jesus' disciples, the book of John shows us if we'll believe He isn't dead but is really alive, He'll give us new life and a fresh start.

DISCUSSION

1. **Read John 20:11-18.** Mary Magdalene obediently did what she thought was right even though she was disappointed in Jesus. How did this encounter with the living Jesus change her? As a group, discuss times when people may not recognize Jesus in their disappointment. What could you say to them to point them to Jesus?
2. **Read John 20:19-23.** Everyone has fears preventing them from seeing Jesus clearly, even when He's right in front of them. Take five minutes to pray silently and ask God to reveal any fears hindering your faith. Write them on a sheet of paper, and release them to God, either through tearing, throwing away or some other act that gives you a visual image of letting go of fear and grabbing hold of Jesus.
3. **Read John 20:24-29.** What are some typical doubts people in your circle [or you] have about Jesus? Even though we can't physically touch Jesus as Thomas did, what are some ways we can help someone overcome their doubts and take next steps in their faith?
4. Of the three questions above, which was the hardest for you to let go—disappointment, fear or doubt? Share with your group what you think would be a next step for you to overcome this struggle. What habits or patterns do you need to change to be able to see Jesus more clearly?

DO SOMETHING

1. The best way to see the "alive Jesus" is to read the Bible in a regular rhythm. If you are not currently in a rhythm, look at Resource #1 & 2 below or ask a friend or small group leader to point you to a sustainable reading plan and rhythm.
2. If your group does not have accountability partners [someone who walks alongside you as you learn to navigate the Bible, pray, overcome struggles, etc.], talk about how to incorporate this practice into your group.
3. Spring is here, with more opportunities for gatherings. As a group, plan a time to invite or bless someone in your neighborhood or circle through a cookout, sports event, concert, etc.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

1. Bible Gateway reading plans
2. Install the YouVersion app on your mobile device and search the reading plans.
3. The Bible Project videos on John 13-20