

The CROSS

AND WHAT IT MEANS FOR FALLEN HUMANITY

Week 4: Mary Magdeline

HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE

A group's health relies on four key components: Word, prayer, relationships, and outreach. This guide helps you explore a biblical passage through observation, interpretation, and application. As the leader, feel free to use any part of this guide to assist you.

CONNECT

- When was a time that you did not feel qualified for something? How did you overcome that?
- Choose two people to share their "two-minute-miracle" (how they came to faith, in story form, in under two minutes). Time them to see if they can do it!

INTRODUCTION

At the start of Mary's story, her past—marked by shame, regret, and darkness—could have easily define her. Many of us can relate to living with a "backdrop" we wish we could erase.

Though Mary has a background scene that she may have wished was left out of the story, it is merely the backdrop. The real story is about Jesus and what happened to Mary as she followed him. Her background scene sets the stage for her life-changing deliverance, which is the start of her new story.

This week's big idea is that **our mandate is to go and tell all to come and see that Jesus saves.**

OBSERVATIONS & INTERPRETATION

Read: Luke 8:1-3

Discuss: This text provides background about Mary and the other women. What do you notice? What does Luke highlight?

Read: John 20:1-3, 11-18

Discuss: In John 20:11-18, Mary Magdalene stands weeping outside the empty tomb, reflecting both her deep sorrow and her confusion over Jesus' missing body. Only when Jesus calls her by name does she truly perceive who He is, and He then commissions her to announce His resurrection to the other disciples, underscoring her pivotal role as a witness.

- Why does Mary initially fail to recognize Jesus, and what prompts her to finally realize who He is?
- After recognizing Jesus, what significant task does He give Mary to carry out, and why is it important?

APPLICATION

- In what ways might we, like Mary, fail to recognize Jesus in our current circumstances, and how can we be more attentive to His presence?
- What does Jesus calling Mary by name tell us about His personal care for individuals, and how does that affect the way we respond to Him?
- Our mandate is to go and tell all to come and see that Jesus saves. How do you see this expressed in Mary's situation? To whom is God sending you?

PRAYER

- Ask God to speak to you about who to share your faith with, and to open a door for the gospel.