

EASTER

AT MARINERS CHURCH



A GARDEN OF VICTORY

GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

PREPARE

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MAIN POINT

Easter is the greatest reversal in history—from despair to peace, from failure to forgiveness, from death to life. Through Jesus' Resurrection, God rewrites our story and invites us into a life of hope, healing, and victory.

LEAN IN BREAK THE ICE

What's a moment in your life (funny, serious, or surprising) where things seemed like they were going one way—and then took a total turn?

LOOK DOWN LOOK AT GOD'S WORD

Read John 20:11-18 together.

But Mary stood outside the tomb, crying. As she was crying, she stooped to look into the tomb. She saw two angels in white sitting where Jesus's body had been lying, one at the head and the other at the feet. They said to her, "Woman, why are you crying?"

"Because they've taken away my Lord," she told them, "and I don't know where they've put him."

Having said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know it was Jesus. "Woman," Jesus said to her, "why are you crying? Who is it that you're seeking?"

Supposing he was the gardener, she replied, "Sir, if you've carried him away, tell me where you've put him, and I will take him away."

Jesus said to her, “Mary.”

Turning around, she said to him in Aramaic,
“*Rabboni!*”—which means “Teacher.”

“Don’t cling to me,” Jesus told her, “since I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to my brothers and tell them that I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.”

Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, “I have seen the Lord!” And she told them what he had said to her.

What stands out to you about Mary’s emotional state before and after she recognizes Jesus?

Why do you think Jesus first appeared to Mary Magdalene? What does that say about His character?

LOOK OUT
IDENTIFY THE
RELEVANCE OF
GOD’S WORD IN
THE WORLD

Where do you see people in our world today stuck in despair, failure, or fear of death?

Why do you think some people resist the idea of Jesus' Resurrection and authority?

LOOK IN
APPLY GOD'S WORD
TO YOUR LIFE

How have you personally experienced Jesus calling you by name or showing up in a surprising way, like He did for Mary?

If the Resurrection is true, what's one area in your life where you want to invite Jesus to bring a reversal?