

Believe

JOHN

[MESSAGE](#)[STUDY GUIDE](#)[GROUP MATERIAL](#)[SONGS](#)

Community Group Material:

Bible Reading: John 20:11-18

Sermon Summary:

Jesus' resurrection brought about a whole new set of relationships. It began with Jesus attempting to help Mary see him in a different way. She tried to cling to Jesus but he was telling her that he would be ascending to the Father and implying that from now on she would know him differently. She did not need to hang on to him physically. He had told his followers that he would be leaving and that the Spirit would be there with them. The encounter in the garden between Jesus and Mary was the beginning of this new relationship.

Mary was instructed to give a message to Jesus' disciples whom he called his brothers. The message was that God was their Father and Jesus' Father as well. This indicated a more intimate relationship with God as their Father.

The striking fact is that both Jesus' first appearing after his resurrection as well as the sending of Mary to his disciples was entrusted to a woman. A woman (Mary) became both the first witness as well as "an apostle" (a sent one) to Jesus' disciples. The prominence of a woman in this section is striking and should cause us to reflect on the role of women in the gospel.

Discussion:

1. Mary did not recognize any of the signs of Jesus resurrection (empty tomb, angels...). Why do you think she didn't understand? What makes her reaction "normal?"
2. What might have been some reasons that Mary did not recognize Jesus when he first spoke with her?
3. What is significant about Mary's recognition when Jesus said her name?
4. Is there any significance to the fact that a woman was the first witness of the resurrected Jesus? If so, what is it?
5. Discuss the fact that Jesus gave Mary the task of giving a message to his disciples instead of giving it to them himself.

6. Why did Jesus say “My Father and your Father” instead of “our Father”?
7. What do you think might have been the role of Mary and other women in the church community after Jesus’ ascension?

End with Prayer