



# Believe

JOHN

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## Community Group Material:

Ask one person to pray at the beginning of your meeting.

### Check-in

Check in with each other about how everyone is doing.

**Bible Reading:** John 20:1-2, 11-18

### Sermon Summary:

Mary was a devoted follower of Jesus. She'd followed him from his ministry days in Galilee; she stood with others at Jesus' crucifixion to witness his excruciating death; she watched him being placed in the tomb. There was not a shred of doubt in Mary that Jesus was indeed dead. When she went early to the tomb, the last thing she expected was to find it empty. She logically concluded that Jesus' body had been stolen. And that thought started with her for some time that Sunday. Then Jesus came to her & spoke her name as only he could. Immediately her eyes were opened & she threw herself into Jesus' arms. I wonder how often you & I have been trapped in our understanding of who Jesus is only to find out that understanding was so small & limited. Jesus loves to come to us where we are at, & break us out of our limited view of him. **He's not dead. He's alive!** As we enjoy Easter Sunday, may our hearts be reminded who our Jesus really is.

### Discussion:

1. Read Jn. 19:25, 32-33, 35, 38-41. If you put yourself in the shoes of those around the cross, the soldiers who came to see Jesus, & those who buried him, what do you think their conclusion would have been about Jesus' condition?
2. Mary came early to the tomb of Jesus (20:1). What do you think she went there for? And what do you think she expected to see? If you told her, "*Jesus will be alive,*" would it be believable based on what she'd seen at the cross & burial?
3. Three times Mary says the same thing to Peter & John, to the angels & to Jesus (20:2b, 13b, 15b). What was her logical explanation for the empty tomb?
4. D. A. Carson said, "*Grand as her devotion to Jesus was, her estimate of him was still far too small.*" Have you had experiences when your understanding of Jesus was too small & he showed more aspects or dimensions of himself? Talk about that together.
5. Mary was helped out of her 'smallness' by Jesus coming to her & saying 'Mary'. How has Jesus come to you to save you from the 'rut' of thinking you found yourself in?
6. How has your investigation of Jesus, the details of his working & evidence that he truly is the Son of God, helped to solidify you in your faith?
7. Watch Lee Strobel's testimony (21 mins) & discuss its impact afterwards as a group.  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZC7ifE3NLkc&ab\\_channel=Genexis](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZC7ifE3NLkc&ab_channel=Genexis)

### End with Prayer.

- Pray for a 'spirit that loves & pursues Jesus' for all who attend CIT.
- Pray for one another's concerns.