

**“Because He Lives!”
(John 20:11-29)**

The reality of Christ’s resurrection made a huge difference in the lives of His followers, providing them with joy and power for victorious living. Today, we can embrace this same “resurrection power” by faith in the biblical record of . . .

Sorrow Turned to Joy (11-18)

- Gentle **Rebuke** (11-15)
- Glorious **Recognition** (16-18)

Fear Turned to Courage (19-23)

- Convincing **Comfort** (19-20)
- Confident **Commission** (21-23)

Doubt Turned to Faith (24-29)

- Practical **Skepticism** (24-25)
- Personal **Salvation** (26-29)

**“Because He Lives!”
(John 20:11-29)**

Small Group/Family Discussion Guide

Icebreaker: Share about something you were so excited about that you could not wait to share the news with others.

Questions

1. Why do you think the risen Lord chose to appear first to Mary Magdalene? What can we learn from her example and Christ’s interaction with her at the graveside?
2. What does Jesus do to help the fearful disciples overcome their fear? What practical things can we do to help us face fears?
3. If a skeptic asked you why they should believe that Jesus rose from the dead, what would you tell them?
4. What difference should the resurrection of Jesus make in our lives as followers of Christ?

Digging Deeper

1. Note how the truth of Christ’s resurrection was a central component of the apostles’ preaching in the book of Acts in 2:23-32; 4:10; 10:39-40; 13:30-37; 23:6; 24:15, 21 and 26:8. What can we learn from this?
2. Review the impact of Christ’s resurrection in the NT epistles in Romans 6:4; 10:9; 1 Corinthians 15:4; 2 Corinthians 4:14; Galatians 1:1; Ephesians 1:19-20; Philippians 3:10 and 1 Peter 1:3. Which of these verses most encourages or challenges you?
4. Do some soul-searching and consider who you most identify with in John 20: Mary Magdalene (sorrow, disappointment); the disciples (fear, worry); or Thomas (skepticism, doubts). Claim Christ’s resurrection power for yourself and walk in victory over these challenges!