



### John 20:11-18

We discussed the context of these verses, and then moved on to talk about how John wants us to view the resurrection of Jesus.

#### The resurrection is real

Both in the sense that John wants us to see that it really happened (by presenting his testimony to what happened), and that it was a real, physical resurrection. Jesus came back in his body – this wasn't an illusion or only a spiritual experience.

#### The resurrection is revolutionary

Mary is changed from despair to joy. The disciples are given a new status as Jesus' brothers. Jesus himself will ascend to the Father, with implications for him, us, and all creation.

#### The resurrection is relational

Jesus calls Mary by name. He institutes a new relationship with God for his disciples (and us!) The resurrection is not just a fact of history (though it is that) – it means the living Lord Jesus is with us and reigning now.

*As always, think through these questions and adapt to fit your group. If there are better ways than this to highlight the wonder of the resurrection for your group, ignore these and go with that instead! The aim of your time together should be less to grapple with the detail of the passage (though that probably won't hurt, and there's a lot in there) and more to enjoy together some of the joy in the resurrection that Mary experiences.*

It can often be helpful to imagine our way into Biblical narratives. Think through the story so far – what has Mary been through? How do you think she is feeling at the beginning of our passage?

Do you think this episode had the ring of truth about it? Are there any particular details that stand out?

John has written his gospel so that we might believe (20:31). What does he want us to believe specifically from this section?

Jesus addresses Mary personally, by name. What do you think it means to hear Jesus speak to us today?

How does the resurrection of Jesus change the situation of...

... Mary?

... The other disciples?

... Jesus himself?

... Us?

Why is Mary not to hold on to Jesus? (Why does she want to? Why would Jesus forbid that?)

Look at John 16:7. How is Jesus' Ascension to our advantage? (Have you ever felt you'd rather have him around physically? What is wrong and what is right about thinking that way?)

Jesus calls the disciples his brothers, and talks about his Father and his God also being theirs. Think about how his death and resurrection make this true. How do you react to this changed relationship?