



Week 7
17 - 23 April 2022

**SMALL GROUP WEEKLY
DEVOTIONAL MATERIAL**

LENT & HOLY WEEK



Daily Bible readings, a memory verse and a prayer for individual contemplation
Weekly worship song, reflection and small group questions

Week 7 – 17 April



The Empty Tomb

First reading	Psalm	Second reading	Gospel
Acts 10:34-43	Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24	1 Corinthians 15:19-26	John 20:1-18



Praise and Worship: Christ the Lord is Risen Today (Hymn Charts with Lyrics, Contemporary) - YouTube <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1lchVdAqCWk>

John 20:1-18 New International Version - UK

The empty tomb

20 Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene went to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the entrance. **2** So she came running to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one Jesus loved, and said, 'They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we don't know where they have put him!' **3** So Peter and the other disciple started for the tomb. **4** Both were running, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. **5** He bent over and looked in at the strips of linen lying there but did not go in. **6** Then Simon Peter came along behind him and went straight into the tomb. He saw the strips of linen lying there, **7** as well as the cloth that had been wrapped round Jesus' head. The cloth was still lying in its place, separate from the linen. **8** Finally the other disciple, who had reached the tomb first, also went inside. He saw and believed. **9** (They still did not understand from Scripture that Jesus had to rise from the dead.) **10** Then the disciples went back to where they were staying.

Jesus appears to Mary Magdalene

¹¹ Now Mary stood outside the tomb crying. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb ¹² and saw two angels in white, seated where Jesus' body had been, one at the head and the other at the foot. ¹³ They asked her, 'Woman, why are you crying?' 'They have taken my Lord away,' she said, 'and I don't know where they have put him.' ¹⁴ At this, she turned round and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not realise that it was Jesus. ¹⁵ He asked her, 'Woman, why are you crying? Who is it you are looking for?' Thinking he was the gardener, she said, 'Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have put him, and I will get him.' ¹⁶ Jesus said to her, 'Mary.' She turned towards him and cried out in Aramaic, 'Rabboni!' (which means 'Teacher'). ¹⁷ Jesus said, 'Do not hold on to me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father. Go instead to my brothers and tell them, "I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God."' ¹⁸ Mary Magdalene went to the disciples with the news: 'I have seen the Lord!' And she told them that he had said these things to her.

Reflection the Scripture by: REV BOITUMELO MAKGAMATHE

Our gospel reading begins with Mary walking in darkness to the tomb of Jesus and it ends with Mary seeing the light of Salvation that is Christ. In the other gospel reading of the story of the resurrection, it is mentioned that Mary was accompanied by other women to the grave. But John chooses to focus on Mary alone. The women visited the tomb of Jesus to go and anoint him according to the custom of their time. Mary sees what has happened but fails to see him. She sees that Jesus is not there, but she does not see that an empty tomb means a resurrected body.

When Mary saw the empty tomb her first reaction was to think that the body of Jesus was stolen. She runs to report that they have taken away the body. Peter and John on hearing the report from Mary, run to the grave and find what Mary said to be true. There is no body in the grave, but the clothes that wrapped the body are there. The two disciples go back into the city believing that Christ has risen, although they did not see him, they believed. Peter and John looked at the empty tomb and believed that Jesus had resurrected. But Mary did not believe so she stayed there to weep.

Christ appears to her and tells her to weep no more because he is alive and will go to his father and God. When Mary went to the grave of Jesus, she expected to find death but instead she found new life. Mary is given a mandate to become a messenger of the resurrection. Mary is not to hold on to Christ but to go and tell the good news. Resurrection is a call to Christians to not only pray but to go out and serve and witness. The resurrection is a moment to revive our hope in Christ. Resurrection is also an assurance of our own resurrection. Christ is risen, he is risen indeed. Let us go out and tell the story of the hope we have in the resurrection of Christ. We are pilgrims of hope and if Christ has risen from the dead, He has conquered death, and our future is safe in His hands.

Small Group Questions:

1. What are some of the hopes you have in the resurrection of Christ?
2. How can the church become a community that invites others to encounter the risen Christ?
3. In which way is the resurrected Christ sending you to proclaim the message of resurrection?



Daily Bible Reading, Memory Verse and Prayer:

MONDAY, April 18, 2022: Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24; Joshua 10:16-27; 1 Corinthians 5:6b-8

Memory Verse: "The LORD has done it this very day; let us rejoice today and be glad." Psalm 118:24

Prayer: God our parent we come to you in gratitude thankful for the gift of another day, we shall rejoice on your goodness throughout this day. **Amen**

TUESDAY, April 19, 2022: Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24; Judges 4:17-23; 5:24-31a; Revelation 12:1-12

Memory Verse: "They triumphed over him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony; they did not love their lives so much as to shrink from death." Rev 12:11

Prayer: Almighty God, we thank you for the victory we have in the blood of Jesus. God on whom we trust, you are our refuge when storms rage, we rest in you. **Amen**

WEDNESDAY, April 20, 2022: Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24; 2 Samuel 6:1-15; Luke 24:1-12

Memory Verse: "Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; his love endures forever." Psalm 118:1

Prayer: Father, we give you thanks for the many mercies upon our life. Thank you, Lord, for the incredible moments when we connect to you in ways we cannot put in words. **Amen**

THURSDAY, April 21, 2022: Psalm 150; I Samuel 17:1-23; Acts 5:12-16

Memory Verse: "Praise him for his acts of power; praise him for his surpassing greatness." Psalm 150:2

Prayer: Heavenly father you are a mighty and amazing God. We praise you for all the wonderful and mighty acts of grace, your enduring love and faithfulness in our lives. **Amen**

FRIDAY, April 22, 2022: Psalm 150; I Samuel 17:19-32; Acts 5:17-26

Memory Verse: "But during the night an angel of the Lord opened the doors of the jail and brought them out." Acts 5:19

Prayer: Dear Heavenly Parent, thank you that you will send an angel to open the prison doors for us and usher us into freedom in Jesus Name we pray. **Amen**

SATURDAY, April 23, 2022: Psalm 150; I Samuel 17:32-51; Luke 24:36-40

Memory Verse: "David said to the Philistine, "You come against me with sword and spear and javelin, but I come against you in the name of the LORD Almighty, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied." I Samuel 17:45

Prayer: Father, we thank you for the name of the Lord that gives us victory in battle. We thank you that at the mention of the name of Jesus every knee bows. Amen.



It is important for parents to take time to lead the conversations of family time and to be honest with their children in these conversations.

BY JENNY BLAKE – CHILDREN'S PASTOR
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Sunday 17th April 2022

Pray daily: Set up family time for prayer and devotions and stick to this arrangement. All devotions should always begin by with a prayer. Ask a family member to pray or one of the children.

Scripture Reading: [John 20:1-18](#)

Discussion

- Who came to the tomb first?
- What did Mary see?
- What did Mary do?
- How do you think Mary felt?
- What did Peter and the disciples see? And what did they do?
- Who saw and believed?
- What did the disciple believe? Do you believe the same?

Physical activities:

- Perhaps hide Easter eggs for the children to find. A hollow Easter egg is preferable as you can tell them that this egg reminds us of the empty tomb – Jesus has risen from the dead –He is alive.
- Egg and spoon race – you may want to boil the eggs to avoid a mess!
- Easter hopping race – the children hop with an Easter egg (or a ball or a balloon) between their legs.
- Pass the egg – This game is like "pass the parcel". The children pass an egg around a circle. The person holding the egg when the music stops is "out", or perhaps for the little ones, the person holding the egg when the music stops gets a sweet.