

Transition:

A wealthy, secret disciple named Joseph, along with Nicodemus, a member of the Jewish ruling council who had met secretly with Jesus, courageously asked Pilate for permission to bury the body of the Lord. They laid Him in a new tomb located in a nearby garden and a large stone was rolled across the entrance. It seemed like a sorrowful, hopeless ending. It was still dark on Sunday morning when Mary went to the tomb, but a glory greater than the rising sun had also risen.

Tell the story:

Tell the story (with passion!) the best as you can. Don't stop and teach. Try not to make points, just tell the story. Perhaps leave some parts out or make a mistake, just to see if your group catches it!

Rebuild the story:

Chronologically rebuild the story by asking questions. Have the group look for what was added or left out by looking in their Bibles and going back over the story. Then have someone else tell the story the best they can – just like you modeled the first time.

Discussion Questions:

1. Mary is asked twice, "Why are you crying?" (**v.13 & v.15**). Who asked her the first time? The second time? What is her response for each occasion?
2. What evidence does Jesus show the disciples to prove it is really Him? What is their reaction?
3. The same evidence is shown to Thomas. What is his response? Compare verses 18, 25 and 29. What is your response?

Fundamental:

Harry Houdini was famous for escaping impossible situations, but even his greatest feats are nothing compared to Jesus' resurrection. Despite severe torture, death, and being sealed in a guarded tomb, Jesus was raised from the dead—defeating death itself. The resurrection is not just a historical event; its power works in believers today, offering spiritual life now and hope for the future. Paul teaches that truly knowing Christ involves sharing in both His suffering and His resurrection power.

Homework/Challenge:

1. Memorize 1 Peter 1:3.
2. Discuss in group something that Jesus has "resurrected" in your life (hope, family relationship, health, etc.)
3. Is there an area in your spiritual life with Jesus in which doubt is still dominating? Discuss in group

Discipleship Tip:

The greatest evidence of the resurrection of Christ is a changed life. Think about how you've experienced the power of the resurrection in your own life.

Prayer: Give thanks to the Lord for all that He has done for you, in you, and through you.