



APRIL'S THEME

PREPARE

SCRIPTURE John 20:1-18

BOTTOM LINE You were created for life



•Tonight we will be in the choir format and we will have communion.

MY GOAL FOR THE NIGHT:



Tonight the StuMin community will embark on a special Holy Week experience. Through readings, songs, and drama the kids will experience Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter all in one sitting. Our hope is that this would be an opportunity for kids who are unfamiliar with the story to gain a greater understanding and maybe even appreciation for all that Holy Week means for Christians. This study guide will focus on Easter and the way that

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Connect

Highs/Lows and Prayer Requests - Share your "highs" and "lows" with the group and then gather prayer requests to distribute to the group for prayer throughout the next week.

Questions

- Describe a time when you found a new sense of hope after being hurt or disappointed.
- Talk about a time when something seemed too good to be true.
- Describe a time in your life when you were affected by the death of someone important to you.

Nothing can truly compare to the experience of those who watched Jesus die on the cross. If you have ever found hope when all seemed lost, then you have seen a glimpse of what Jesus' followers experienced on that first Easter. In the scripture that you are about to read, a woman who had been a follower of Jesus, Mary Magdalene, came to the tomb to put spices on Jesus' body. Most likely, she was still numb from the shock and grief of Jesus' death. Little did she know as she set out for the tomb that a surprise awaited her.

- Read John 20:1-9
- How do you think Mary and the two disciples were feeling at this point?
- Read John 20:10-18



- What finally broke through Mary's grief and pain?
- How has Jesus come to you and brought you hope in a painful time?

We can learn a lot from Mary. Mary came to the tomb not because she had expected Jesus to have risen, but out of devotion to him. Mary did not come with expectations of what she would get, but for what she could give. We are also called to give without expecting something in return, merely for the sake of giving. We are called to do what we can in the midst of real life situations that may seem hopeless. Jesus tells us in Matthew 25:40: Whatever you do for these my brothers and sisters, you do for me. As we focus on giving and caring for others, we will experience new life. It is often in everyday situations, in seemingly ordinary ways, that our God surprises us with a "new day" experience.

- Have you seen people create "new day" experiences in the midst of catastrophes or disasters? Think back to some of the natural disasters that have occurred this year or some of the heartache that has befallen schools. What did they do?
- How have you been able to serve or give in the midst of a difficult situation? How was that created a "new day" experience for you?

Our Pain and disappointment can blind us to not only God's miracles but to the comforting presence of Christ as well. Mary did not recognize Jesus at first. She could not see past her own hurt. It was the voice of Jesus who called her by name that broke through Mary's clouded vision and broken heart. Christ calls us by name as well. Every day we are able to remember our baptism and the way that God calls us "child." Doing so reminds us that there is more than the hurt before us each day. A significant practice that you can take on is to have family or friends "seal" you. What they do is make the sign of the cross on your forehead while saying, "you are a child of God, sealed by the Holy Spirit, and marked by the cross of Christ forever." Doing so will help you to hear God's voice calling you by name each day.

- Swen likes to say that the "sweetest sound you ever hear is the sound of your own name." How does someone saying your name when you are struggling help you to regroup or recover?
- In verse 17 and 18 Jesus tells Mary to go and tell the disciples about what she has seen. In other words, he doesn't let her dwell on the mountaintop, but sends her down the mountain to share what she has experienced. We have a lot of "new day" moments here and at camp. What are some of the experiences that you think Jesus would want you to share with people outside of here?



**PRINCE
OF PEACE**
Called to Connect

**STUDENT
MINISTRY**

APR 4
SMALL GROUP GUIDE | MS/HS

EXTRAS

Relive the Story

What You Need: Worship Bulletin

What you Do: In your bulletin from worship tonight, you'll notice that we moved from scripture text to song to commentary. Read through the bulletin. What is new or different about what you heard tonight? What connections did you make between the story and the music? Did something from songs get clearer after tonight? How so?

JUST FOR FUN

Summer Fun

What You Need: Paper and pen

What You Do: This summer we are going to host six weeks of social gatherings for high school and middle school students in separate places. Write down 5 activity ideas, 5 snack ideas, and 5 game ideas. Examples could include: pick-up ultimate, bonfire, swimming, skiing, and a movie. Snacks could be watermelon, chicken wings, snickers, apples, and ice cream. Make sure to indicate whether you will be in middle school or high school next year.