

# SMALL GROUP STUDY GUIDE



**PRINCE  
OF PEACE**  
Called to Connect



## Resurrection Hope

*April 20 & 21, 2019*

This Easter, let's experience the Easter story through Mary's eyes. There's lots of room for expansion and explanation: Why is Mary coming to the garden? Why in the morning? Why does she assume that Jesus' body has been moved? There are lots of points of connection between Mary's experience and our hopes at Easter.

### SCRIPTURE TEXT : JOHN 20:1-18

Read the scripture text together as a group.

### BACKGROUND INFO

The story of sin and death entering the world and the story of Jesus' resurrection that conquers sin and death both happen in a garden. Mary comes to the tomb, "dead" in her grief, to anoint Jesus' body for burial. Isn't it interesting that Jesus seems to Mary to be a gardener – one who plants seemingly dead seeds into the ground and tends them as they grow into flower and fruit. When that gardener calls Mary by name (the Good Shepherd knows his sheep, and they know his voice!) the seed of hope is planted into Mary's heart as she recognizes that Jesus the Christ is risen. This story, seen through Mary's eyes, is a seed planted by proclamation into the hearts and minds of those who gather at Easter.

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Have you ever had a moment where you couldn't see what was right in front of you? What was that like for you? How did it feel to have your eyes opened?
- What questions does John's version of the resurrection account raise for you?
- How has reading the story through Mary's eyes changed your view of the Easter story?
- How are we like Mary in this story?
- What difference does the resurrection make in your life?

**APPLICATION:** This week, consider how the resurrection makes a difference in your daily life. How can you see its profound impact at work in your daily life?