

“The Gardener” Group Guide

Series: Back to Life

Passage: John 20:1-18

Speaker(s): Pastor Ryan Paulson

Date: March 31, 2024

ICEBREAKER:

Share the story of how you got your name. Have you ever wished your name was something different?

The Gardener
John 20:1-18

Resurrection doesn't only mark the first day of a **new week**, it inaugurates the first day of a **new world**.

- The **culmination** of our **waiting**.
- The **fulfillment** of our **wanting**.
- The **reversal** of our **weeping**.

Jesus **is alive** and he's cultivating **new life**.



Learning His Way

(Every week in these studies, we will ask questions about the Scriptures that try to help us Discover the unique Way of Jesus that is found in the text.)

1. Read John 20:1-18.
2. Read John 2:19; John 12:7-8; John 14:25; and John 14:29.
3. Did Mary, John, and Peter expect the tomb to be empty?
4. Share with the group what you've learned from this message and the account of the resurrection of Jesus.



Forming His Heart

(This is the part of the study where we work on our hearts. "How does my character need to grow and change because of this passage?")

5. Do you have concerns and needs in a season of "waiting" or perhaps "wanting"? What is making you "weep"? Share this need with the group.

6. Jesus is the Gardener. What is He trying to cultivate in your life and what situation is He using to do it? (Read Galatians 5: 22.)

7. Mary heard Jesus call her name! Imagine it. Can you recall a time when you felt Jesus sought you out?



Joining His Mission

(This is the part of the study that we ask, "What would God want us to do because of this passage?")

8. What changes has knowing Jesus brought to your life? What was dead that is now alive? Pray for an opportunity to "go and tell" this to someone this week.

9. How might you seek out Jesus this week? Some common examples might be through prayer, reading Scripture, journaling, and worshiping. As a group, add to this list ways to encounter Jesus.