**RESURRECTION AND GREAT COMMISSION**

**MARCH 17, 2019**

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## CONNECT THE STORY
How did you seek to practice greater love for God and others this week?

## INTRODUCTORY QUESTION
When was the last time you had a “that changes everything” moment? Describe the experience.

## PRIME THE PUMP
As you listen, note Jesus’ followers’ response to His resurrection and His command to them.

## TELL THE STORY
Tell the story as accurately as possible, including the details. Do not stop and teach or provide commentary; simply tell the story. Tell it twice.

## REBUILD & READ THE STORY
Begin by asking group members to name the characters, settings, objects, and general events of the story. Then, as a group, chronologically rebuild the story from memory. Finally, have participants look at their Bibles and see if anything was added to or left out of the story as they go through it one more time.

## APPLICATION QUESTIONS

1. What emotions and thoughts do you think might have gone through the hearts and minds of Mary and Mary?

2. Why would the angel have invited the women to “see the place where He lay”? What evidence of Jesus’ life and resurrection have you been pointed to at times you needed assurance of His goodness?

3. Mary and Mary departed the tomb “with fear and great joy.” Why do you think they had such conflicted feelings? How would the reality of the resurrection changed everything they knew?

4. What do you think it means to have all authority “in heaven and on earth”?

5. Why is it important for every believer to get involved in the Great Commission?

6. How does Jesus’ promise of His presence (v. 20) influence our attitude in making disciples?


## CARRY AWAY QUESTIONS:
How can you be encouraged and emboldened even in life’s most trying circumstances because you trust the resurrected Jesus? How can you encourage others in this?
28:1. The Greek phrase translated as “after the Sabbath” refers to sundown on Saturday. In Mark, the Greek phrase refers to sunrise on Sunday. There is much confusion in the chronology of the last week of Jesus' life, especially events surrounding the resurrection. It is the mentioning of the term “dawning” that causes one to think that the reference may be to Roman time, not Jewish time. There are instances of both being used in the Gospels.

28:2. Two explanations for how the stone was removed are given side by side. There must have been two earthquakes: one at Jesus' death in 27:54, and another to remove the stone and allow Jesus' followers inside the empty tomb.

28:3-4. The angel at the tomb was wearing white linen cloth, a symbol of purity. Luke 24:4 and John 20:12 record two angels. This variation between one or two persons or angels is common among the Gospels. Other examples are: (1) the Gadarene demoniac (Mark 5:1; Luke 8:26) and the two demoniacs (Matt. 8:28); and (2) the blind man (Mark 10:46; Luke 18:35) and two blind men (Matt. 20:30).

28:5. The words of the angel echo what Jesus told them in verse 10. It was the common statement when the supernatural realm broke into the natural (cf. Jesus' words in Matt. 14:27; 17:7; 28:10; Mark 6:50; Luke 5:10; 12:32; John 6:20; Rev. 1:17; and angels in Matt. 28:5; Luke 1:13, 30; 2:10).

28:6-7. The Father's acceptance and approval of the Son's words and works are expressed in two great events: Jesus' resurrection from the dead and His ascension to the Father's right hand. Jesus had told them He would meet them on a mountain in Galilee (cf. 26:32, 28:7, 10; 1 Cor. 15:6). This was a way to assert His resurrection and give them hope.

28:8-11. Jesus greeted them in His usual way. It came from a word that meant “rejoice.” Characteristically, Mark and Luke named one woman while Matthew named two. John 20:17 records only Mary taking hold of Jesus' feet. This was the oriental way of showing submission, respect, and even worship. What a designation for these fearful disciples (cf. 12:15).

28:17 The lingering confusion among them about Jesus' resurrection undermines the skeptical theory that the disciples shared a hallucination of Jesus' resurrection because they all expected Him to arise.

28:18 Before the resurrection, Jesus had authority (7:29; 9:6,8; 11:27; 21:23). However, through the resurrection, the Father granted Him all authority over heaven and... earth, an authority far greater than that which Satan had vainly promised Him.

28:19 The command to extend their mission worldwide brings to a climax Matthew's repeated theme of Gentile participation in God's salvation. The inclusion of four Gentile women in Jesus' genealogy and the summons of the magi to worship the infant Christ foreshadowed the disciples' mission of making disciples of all nations. Baptism marked a person's entrance into the faith community. In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit is a reference to the Trinity. Matthew's language shows that a clear understanding of Jesus' nature and identity as God was required before baptism.

28:20 The Great Commission (vv. 19-20) is preceded by a reference to Jesus' authority and followed by the promise of Jesus' spiritual presence among us. Both are necessary if we are to fulfill our God-given mission.