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## INTRODUCTION

This is most likely an Easter like you've never experienced. Perhaps there are fewer people sitting around your table. You're not dressed up for church in your finest. The neighborhood Easter egg hunt is no more and there's not even a church service you can attend in person.

But did you know that all of these things, as disappointing as they may be, actually put us closer to what the followers of Jesus experienced on the very first Easter?

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## VIDEO NOTES

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Today, on a holiday we normally enjoy with friends and family, we are reminded of the uncertainty of our situation. It puts us in a perfect place to understand how Jesus' followers must have felt as they celebrated the Last Supper, tried to keep watch for Him while He prayed in the garden, and then watched His body bleed on the cross. There was no part of this experience that was matching up with their expectations. They had expected a king who would rule over all and they would be His right-hand brothers and sisters! What began as eager anticipation ended with intense uncertainty and fear.

After Jesus' death and His burial in the tomb, grief overwhelmed those who loved Him. Not only had they lost Jesus, but they lost the entire Jesus movement! This despair kept His followers from both remembering the promises He made to them before He was killed and from recognizing Him after He was resurrected.

But as we hear through the story, when the reality of this resurrection hits, everything changes for everybody – for His followers that witnessed it and for the whole world who hears it today. Because of the resurrection, we can pray knowing God hears our

prayers. We can live knowing there is life beyond this life. We can sacrifice knowing our faithfulness matters. We can know that when life is uncertain, God is not.

**Because of the resurrection . . .  
If you have never put your **faith in Jesus** as  
your Savior, now is the time **consider it**.**

## **LET'S TALK ABOUT IT**

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1. What have been some of your favorite Easter traditions over the years? Is there anything you were able to do differently this year that still kept a little bit of the celebratory feel going?
2. Read John 20:11-18. What details in the story stand out to you? Why do these details matter to you? Is it difficult for you to believe that God hears your prayers? Why or why not?
3. Has there been a time when you expected one thing, but received or experienced something completely unexpected?
4. When you've been in a season of grief, what are some of the things that grief has kept you from seeing? What are you able to see now that perhaps you missed before?
5. In what areas of your life does Jesus' resurrection represent an opportunity for you to begin again? What is one thing you can do to begin that process? How can this group support you?

## **THIS WEEK**

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In your time with God this week, consider this question: Who is Jesus to you? Find gratitude for all that He has made possible in your life. Then ask Him, Is there any part of my life that I've yet to let you touch? Consider allowing Him into those places of your life and heart.

Mary Magdalene went to the disciples with the news: "**I have  
seen the Lord!**"

Luke 20:18