

CONVERSATION GUIDE

1. Take 5-10 minutes to discuss last week's **The End of the Beginning** sermon.
2. What were the people of Israel hoping for?

Following Jesus' resurrection, a member of the council named Joseph asked Pilate for Jesus' body so that it could be buried. Because the Sabbath was quickly approaching, Jesus was buried in a hurry, and there was not a chance for "the women who had come with Jesus from Galilee" (Mary Magdalene, Joanna and Mary the mother of James) to prepare the traditional spices with which someone would have typically been buried (Luke 23:50-56).

READ Luke 24:1-12**DISCUSS and REFLECT**

After having observed the Sabbath, the loyal women return to Jesus' tomb "very early in the morning," likely at sunrise, an act demonstrating their eagerness to care for their Lord. Matthew 28:1-10, Mark 16:1-8, and John 20:1-9, like Luke 24:1-12, all tell of the women who had come to prepare Jesus' body with spices and perfumes discovering the empty tomb. The women were frightened and shocked to find Jesus' body had disappeared. They shared this news with the disciples who struggled to believe and understand what has happened in spite of the prophecies and Jesus' predicting his own death. This passage highlights the disciples' failure to appreciate the miracle of Jesus' resurrection.¹

1. What does the women's eagerness to visit Jesus' tomb demonstrate?
2. What do the angels mean when they ask the women why they "look for the living among the dead?"
3. What do you notice about the women's realization that Jesus is not in the tomb? How is this different from the way in which the disciples respond?

4. How does Peter respond when he sees the strips of linen that had once wrapped Jesus' body? What does this demonstrate about him?
5. How did the fact that women were the first to find Jesus' body likely affect the original audience?

APPLY

1. In what ways do we "look for the living among the dead?"
2. The women and the disciples are all surprised by the news of Jesus' resurrection and have trouble accepting it, yet both prophecy and Jesus himself had proclaimed that it would happen. When in your life are you reluctant to remember Jesus' words?
3. What causes you to be reluctant to remember Jesus' words?
4. What can you (or those around you) do to help you appreciate the miracle of Jesus' resurrection?

MEMORIZE

"In their fright the women bowed down with their faces to the ground." –Luke 24:5

Recognize the miracle of Jesus' resurrection, celebrate it, and proclaim it to those around you. He is risen!

¹ *The NIV Study Bible*. Zondervan, 1985.