



JOHN CHAPTER 20 (FACILITATOR)

Discussion Starter

- On a scale of 1 to 10 with one being low and 10 being high, how important is the ending of a movie? Why?
- **Opening Prayer**
 - Ask if someone wants to volunteer before leading the prayer.

Tell the Story

- **PLEASE MAKE SURE THAT YOU HAVE ONE PERSON WHO STORIES (SUMMARIZES THE CHAPTER) BEFORE THE GROUP READS THE CHAPTER TOGETHER.**

Read the Story (John 20:1-31)

Read out loud as a group, 3-5 verses per person. Let everyone know they can opt out if they would like.

Breaking it Down

- All questions should be utilized as appropriate based upon group dynamics to facilitate both understanding and discussion. Don't feel tied to the questions and don't feel like you must get through every question. Follow the Spirit's lead! All questions are a matter of perspective in some way BUT there are specific questions that this is truer of, and these questions have been indicated to be perspective/opinion questions.

John 20:1-10

- Take some time to read through the following passages.
 - Mark 8:31-32/Mark 9:30-32/Mark 10:32-34
 - In light of how and what Jesus taught His disciples about His death and resurrection, what is interesting about Mary Magdalene being the first one at the tomb rather than one of the twelve disciples of Jesus?

- Jesus was extremely intentional, purposeful, and direct in what He taught His disciples about His death but also about the fact that He was going to rise on the third day. One would think that His disciples would have understood and believed and if they had understood and believed, one would think that they would have been eagerly anticipating Jesus' return at His tomb.
 - In what ways are you like the disciples?
 - This is a perspective and opinion question so please listen as the facilitator.
 - In what ways is God patient with you even when you are like the disciples?
 - This is a perspective and opinion question so please listen as the facilitator.
- In verse 5, there is an interesting phrase that loses some of its significance in the English language. When the text states that "the linen cloths were lying there," this has the meaning behind it that what Jesus' body was wrapped in was not moved, was not disheveled, or disturbed. In other words, it was as if Jesus' body simply evaporated from his burial clothes. What do you think that this indicates about the power of God over all realms?
 - This is a perspective and opinion question so please listen as the facilitator.
 - In what ways do you live with this power of God leading the charge in your daily life?
 - This is a perspective and opinion question so please listen as the facilitator.

John 20:11-18

- Notice Jesus' questions to Mary in verse 15. While Mary's sadness and grief were certainly understandable, Jesus calls Mary to take her eyes off of the tomb and focus her eyes onto Him.

- In what ways is Jesus calling you to shift your focus and direct your full attention to Him so that He can hold your grief, sorrow, circumstances, or whatever you may be trying to carry on your own?
 - This is a perspective and opinion question so please listen as the facilitator.

- How does your life need to more fully echo Mary's testimony in verse 18 of "I have seen the Lord?" What would this look like in your life on a daily basis?
 - These are perspective and opinion questions so please listen as the facilitator.

John 20:19-31

- Notice in verse 21 that Jesus' connects His sending of the disciples with His Father's sending of Him. Jesus was sent with authority, power, and a message but we read consistently in John that this authority, power, and message were dependent upon the Father. As disciples of Jesus, we have been empowered with the Holy Spirit to daily proclaim the most amazing message that humanity will ever know.
 - How do you allow the authority, power, and message of Jesus to lead the charge in the following areas of your life?
 - Your family
 - Your work
 - Your relationships with other brothers and sisters in Christ
 - Your time management
 - Your finances
 - Your own relationship with God
 - These are perspective and opinion questions so please listen as the facilitator.

- Although it's easy to judge or condemn Thomas for his doubts and "unbelief," the interesting thing is that Thomas didn't put on any masks or try to fake it. He was extremely honest and transparent about his doubts and his struggles.
 - In what ways are you raw and transparent with God about the things that you are struggling with?

- This is a perspective and opinion question so please listen as the facilitator.
- In what ways are you raw, vulnerable, and transparent with a small group of brothers or sisters in Christ about what you are struggling with?
- This is a perspective and opinion question so please listen as the facilitator.

Final Application

- What does this passage teach us about God?
- What does this passage teach us about mankind?
- What is a command to obey in this passage?
- What has God revealed in your life that needs changing?
- What truth can be applied to your life about the gospel?

Closing & Prayer Requests

- Have a designated person to capture and share (as appropriate) within the life group.
- What happens in life group, stays in life group.
- Don't forget get to confirm the next meeting date and time
- Also recruit someone to do the story for the following week (John Chapter 21)

JOHN CHAPTER 20 (STUDENT)

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