

## Life Church Message 2011-05-01 - Prayer Service

- **Prayer Service**

Life Church - Sunday May 1, 2011

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- **Introduction**

- **Bible Reading:**

- OT Timeline:
- OT Contemporary Books:

- **Life Group Material (repeated from 4/24/2011)**

- **Life Group Word Material**

These are sample discussion questions / topics. Your life group leaders may choose to adjust these questions, substitute new ones, or spend the Word section of the meeting in a different way altogether.

Scripture taken from the [HOLY BIBLE, NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION \(NIV\)](#)

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- **Mark 16:9-14**

When Jesus rose early on the first day of the week, **he appeared first to Mary Magdalene**, out of whom he had driven seven demons. She went and told those who had been with him and who were mourning and weeping. When they heard that Jesus was alive and that she had seen him, they did not believe it.

**Afterward Jesus appeared in a different form to two of them while they were walking in the country.** These returned and reported it to the rest; but they did not believe them either.

**Later Jesus appeared to the Eleven as they were eating;** he rebuked them for their lack of faith and their stubborn refusal to believe those who had seen him after he had risen.

- **Discussion Questions / Topics:**

- Have you ever stubbornly refused to believe something that God wanted you to accept? Discuss.

- **John 20:1-18**

Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene went to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the entrance. So she came running to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one Jesus loved, and said, "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we don't know where they have put him!" So Peter and the other disciple started for the tomb. Both were running, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. He bent over and looked in at the strips of linen lying there but did not go in. Then Simon Peter, who was behind him, arrived and went into the tomb. He saw the strips of linen lying there, as well as the

burial cloth that had been around Jesus' head. The cloth was folded up by itself, separate from the linen. **Finally the other disciple, who had reached the tomb first, also went inside. He saw and believed.** (They still did not understand from Scripture that Jesus had to rise from the dead.)

Then the disciples went back to their homes, but Mary stood outside the tomb crying. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb and saw two angels in white, seated where Jesus' body had been, one at the head and the other at the foot.

**They asked her, "Woman, why are you crying?"**

**"They have taken my Lord away," she said, "and I don't know where they have put him."** At this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not realize that it was Jesus.

**"Woman," he said, "why are you crying? Who is it you are looking for?"**

Thinking he was the gardener, she said, **"Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have put him, and I will get him."**

**Jesus said to her, "Mary."**

**She turned toward him and cried out in Aramaic, "Rabboni!" (which means Teacher).**

Jesus said, "Do not hold on to me, for I have not yet returned to the Father. Go instead to my brothers and tell them, 'I am returning to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'"

Mary Magdalene went to the disciples with the news: "I have seen the Lord!" And she told them that he had said these things to her.

- **Discussion Questions / Topics:**

- Who are you looking for? Who did Jesus say he was, and what did he promise that he would do? Does it surprise you when Jesus does what he said he would do? Discuss.
- Can you identify with Peter and John (the "other disciple") in this passage? Can you identify with Mary Magdalene? Discuss.

- **Luke 24:13-35**

Now that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem. They were talking with each other about everything that had happened. As they talked and discussed these things with each other, Jesus himself came up and walked along with them; but they were kept from recognizing him.

He asked them, "What are you discussing together as you walk along?"

They stood still, their faces downcast. One of them, named Cleopas, asked him, "Are you only a visitor to Jerusalem and do not know the things that have happened there in these days?"

"What things?" he asked.

"About Jesus of Nazareth," they replied. "He was a prophet, powerful in word and deed before God and all the people. The chief priests and our rulers handed him over to be sentenced to death, and they crucified him; but we had hoped that he was the one who was going to redeem Israel. And what is more, it is the third day since all this took place. In addition, some of our women amazed us. They went to the tomb early this morning but didn't find his body. They came and told us that they had seen a vision of angels, who said he was alive. Then some of our companions

went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said, but him they did not see.” He said to them, “How foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken! Did not the Christ have to suffer these things and then enter his glory?” And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself.

As they approached the village to which they were going, Jesus acted as if he were going farther. But they urged him strongly, “Stay with us, for it is nearly evening; the day is almost over.” So he went in to stay with them.

**When he was at the table with them, he took bread, gave thanks, broke it and began to give it to them. Then their eyes were opened and they recognized him, and he disappeared from their sight. They asked each other, “Were not our hearts burning within us while he talked with us on the road and opened the Scriptures to us?”**

They got up and returned at once to Jerusalem. There they found the Eleven and those with them, assembled together and saying, “It is true! The Lord has risen and has appeared to Simon.” Then the two told what had happened on the way, and how Jesus was recognized by them when he broke the bread.

- **Discussion Questions / Topics:**

- What elements of this passage can you identify with? Discuss.

- **Luke 24:36-44**

While they were still talking about this, Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, “Peace be with you.”

They were startled and frightened, thinking they saw a ghost. **He said to them, “Why are you troubled, and why do doubts rise in your minds? Look at my hands and my feet. It is I myself! Touch me and see; a ghost does not have flesh and bones, as you see I have.”**

When he had said this, he showed them his hands and feet. And while they still did not believe it because of joy and amazement, he asked them, “Do you have anything here to eat?” **They gave him a piece of broiled fish, and he took it and ate it in their presence.**

He said to them, “This is what I told you while I was still with you: Everything must be fulfilled that is written about me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms.”

- **Discussion Questions / Topics:**

- What did Jesus want the disciples to understand? Why? Discuss.

- **1Corinthians 15:1-8**

Now, brothers, I want to remind you of the gospel I preached to you, which you received and on which you have taken your stand. By this gospel you are saved, if you hold firmly to the word I preached to you. Otherwise, you have believed in vain. **For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, and that he appeared to Peter, and then to the Twelve.** After that, he appeared to more than five hundred of the brothers at the same time, most of whom are still living, though some have fallen asleep. Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles, and last of all he appeared to me also, as to one abnormally born.

- **Discussion Questions / Topics:**

- How familiar are you with this passage? How important is Jesus' rising from the dead to your understanding of Christianity? Discuss.

- **Scriptures For 4/24/2011 Life Church Sermon**

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