



## Living the Seasons at Home

### April 12 – Easter - Bearing Witness to God

*These comments and ideas were written many months ago when none of us imagined how difference life might become in a global pandemic! You may like to wonder how lockdown seems like being in a tomb? What would most help you to celebrate Easter, even if you have to wait?*

The purple of Lent does not last forever. Easter arrives, dressed in white and gold, and with a flurry of Alleluias! We celebrate with the disciples that Jesus is alive in a new way, and we move toward Pentecost when we welcome the Holy Spirit. The experience of Easter and the days that follow are at the same time personal and communal. Jesus has individual encounters with some of his disciples (Mary Magdalene, Thomas) after the Resurrection, but he encourages them – and all of his disciples – to go and share his message of love, justice, and peace with the whole world. As the disciples go about laying the foundation of the early church, Jesus urges them to remember his commandments, gather in unity, and lean on the Holy Spirit as a guide.

#### **Stories for this Season of Easter April 12 –**

Acts 10: 34–43 or Jeremiah 31:1–6

Psalms 118:1–2, 14–24

Colossians 3:1–4 or Acts 10:34–43

John 20:1–18 (the focus for age-level materials)

Read John 20:1–18 in an age-appropriate Bible or story Bible, or this story “Called by Name”, © Seasons of the Spirit



#### **Called by Name John 20:1–18**

Mary Magdalene was the first one to notice something strange. She had gone to the tomb early in the morning, while it was still dark, and she noticed that the stone had been moved away. Then she ran to tell Simon Peter and another disciple and they ran at once to the tomb to see for themselves. The other disciple got there first and bent over to look into the tomb. He saw the cloths lying there but nothing else. Simon Peter went in to make sure that the body was really missing. He found the cloth that Jesus' body had been wrapped in and the cloth that had covered his head, but nothing else. So, they went back home.

But Mary Magdalene stayed at the tomb, weeping. When she bent down to look in, she saw not linen wrappings or head cloths, but two angels, sitting where Jesus' body had been lying. The angels asked her, "Woman, why are you weeping?"

Mary Magdalene answered, "They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him."

When she turned around, she saw another man standing there, who also asked her, "Woman, why are you weeping? Who are you looking for?"

Supposing that he was the gardener, she answered: "Sir, if you have carried Jesus away, tell me where he is, and I will take him with me."

At this point, the man spoke again in a voice that Mary Magdalene knew and loved more than anything. "Mary," he said.

She turned and said, "Teacher!"

Jesus said, "Don't hold on to me here. Instead, go to the others and tell them that I am going back to your God and my God."

Mary Magdalene did as Jesus said. She went and announced to the disciples, "I have seen the Lord!" And she told them everything he had told her, early in the morning, when she had heard a gardener call her by name.

### **Something to think about, talk about, or do**

Christ is risen! Christ is risen indeed! Much like Mary Magdalene at the tomb, we marvel at the Resurrection. The despair of only a few days ago has disappeared. Jesus has risen from the grave? Yes, he has. And the joy of this moment is contagious! Mary Magdalene shares the news of the resurrected Jesus with the disciples. We, too, must share the news of the Resurrection, the joy of a living and loving God, with everyone around us.

### **Together this week**

■ Look for the joy of resurrection that's around you.

### **Prayer**

**Love does not die, Alleluia!**

**Life is continually made new, Alleluia!**

**Signs of Love alive are all around us, Alleluia!**

