

Mary: When Grief Turns to Calling
I Witness: Encounters with the Risen Lord
Passage: John 20:11-18
Rev. Bruce Persons | April 12, 2026

I. Jesus Meets Us in Our Grief (v. 11)

II. Jesus Comes Closer Than We Realize (v. 14)

III. Jesus Calls Us by Name (v. 16)

IV. Jesus Turns Grief into Mission (vv. 17-18)

SMALL GROUP STUDY QUESTIONS

1. What stands out to you most about Mary's encounter with Jesus?
2. Why do you think grief made it hard for Mary to recognize Jesus?
3. Have you ever felt like God was absent—but later realized He was present?
4. What does it mean to you that Jesus calls us by name?
5. How can your story become a witness to others this week?

PERSONAL REFLECTION QUESTIONS

1. Where do you most relate to Mary right now—**grief, confusion, longing, or searching**?
2. What “tomb” are you standing at—something that feels lost, unresolved, or unclear?
3. Have you been honest with God about it, or have you been trying to move on too quickly?
4. When have you felt like God was absent—but later realized He was present?
5. If Jesus spoke your name today, what do you think He would say to you?
6. What part of your story could become a testimony for others?

FAMILY DISCIPLESHIP GUIDE

Big Idea: Jesus knows your name, sees your sadness, and brings hope.

Read John 20:11-18

Family Activity: Each family member takes turns saying: “Jesus knows _____ (name) and loves them.”

Simple Family Prayer: Jesus, thank you for knowing our names. Thank you for being with us when we are sad. Help us to see You and trust You. Amen.

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