



## 4-1-18 Sermon Discussion Guide

“The Purpose of the Road to Jerusalem ”



### Context

Throughout the season of Lent, we have walked with Jesus on his journey to the cross, on the road to Jerusalem. In Luke 9:51, it says that Jesus resolutely set his face toward Jerusalem. Each week, we'll get one step closer to Jerusalem, to the cross, and learn from Jesus along the way. While taking this journey, we took an extra look at the geography and history of this journey – using maps and pictures of the Holy Land. On Easter Sunday, we learn the reason for Jesus' journey.

### Checking In

Since the last time your group has met, how have each of you experienced God at work? What have you celebrated? What have you mourned?

### Introduction

What is the most difficult challenge you've had to endure for some kind of payoff? Was it worth it? What helped you stick with the challenge or suffering to earn the reward at the end?

**Discussing the Text – John 20:1-18**, (see also Matthew 28:1-15, Mark 16:1-8, and Luke 24:1-12)

1. Who is the first person to see the empty tomb? Do you think there's any significance to this?
2. In verse 2, Mary says “They have taken the Lord...” Who is she referring to?
3. Read verses 6 and 7. How were the grave clothes arranged? What could be the significance?
4. In verse 8, it says that Jon (the disciple Jesus loved) went inside the tomb and then “He saw and believed.” What do you think he believed? Look also at verses 7 and 9 for some context.
5. In verses 11-18, who is the first person to see the risen Lord? What does Jesus tell this person to do?
6. What do you think Jesus means in verse 17 when he says, “Do not hold on to me?”

### So what?

1. At the end of this chapter, John says in verse 31 “But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.” What do you think John was writing in this account of Jesus' resurrection (verses 1-18) that could help us believe that Jesus is the Messiah?
2. What do you believe John, the author of this book, is trying to say in this passage about the role of women in the church? How does Mary Magdalene's experience influence the story?
3. How would you have responded if you were either Mary, John, or Peter when they arrived at the empty tomb?
4. Why do you think Mary didn't recognize Jesus at first?
5. In verse 18, Mary doesn't give a detailed apology, trying to prove Jesus' resurrection. She simply explains what she saw. How does Mary's example help us consider what our responsibility for evangelism is?
6. How does this passage give you hope?
7. How does this passage challenge you?
8. How can you apply this passage to your life this week?

### Prayer

Have the group share any prayer requests or prayers of thanksgiving they may have. Then invite the group to thank God for the new life they've been given throughout this Easter week.