

LIFE GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

PRAY TOGETHER

Holy Spirit, we invite You to lead our discussion and open our hearts to what You want to show us through Mary Magdalene's story. Remind us of how Jesus has delivered us, deepen our devotion to Him, and help us remain present and faithful even in difficult seasons. Convict us where we need to take a next step, whether that means surrendering something, serving more fully, or sharing our story with someone this week. Send us out with courage to tell others what Jesus has done in our lives. In Jesus' precious name we pray, Amen!

ICE BREAKER

Share a moment when your life completely changed direction, whether because of faith, a relationship, or a significant experience. Please keep shares brief so everyone has an opportunity to share one moment.

SERMON OVERVIEW



SCAN FOR
SERMON CLIP



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What does it look like when a life is completely turned inside out by an encounter with Jesus? The story of Mary Magdalene gives us one of Scripture's most vivid and honest answers. She was not a polished religious figure. She was someone who had known profound darkness, described in Luke 8 as having had seven demons cast out of her. And yet her story does not end in that darkness. Mary's story illustrates four essential movements of Christian discipleship: being delivered from spiritual darkness, responding with devoted service, remaining faithfully present through seasons of suffering and silence, and being sent to tell others about the risen Christ. The sermon emphasizes that a changed life is one of the most compelling evidences of the reality of Jesus Christ, and challenges believers to examine where they are in their own journey of faith. We explore what it means to be rescued from something we could not escape on our own, to respond to that rescue with genuine devotion rather than simply returning to life as usual, to remain faithful even in the silent and confusing seasons when God seems absent, and finally to carry the message of transformation to others. The resurrection moment, when Jesus speaks Mary's name and she recognizes him, sits at the heart of this message as a reminder that Christianity is not about knowing facts about God. It is about knowing God and being known by God.

READ SCRIPTURE

LUKE 8:1-3, JOHN 1:5, 19:25, ROMANS 5:8, 12:1 MARK 15:47, JOHN 20:1-18

CONNECT RELATIONALLY

1) Mary Magdalene never seemed to forget what Jesus had delivered her from. How does regularly remembering your own story of deliverance shape the way you live out your faith today?

2) Pastor Mark stated, "Presence is a ministry." When has someone practicing the 'ministry of presence' impacted your life and faith, simply by being there?

3) In John 20:16, Jesus simply says Mary's name, and she recognizes Him. Pastor Mark highlighted that Jesus knows our names and our stories. How does that truth affect the way you view your current struggles, grief, or questions?

GROW SPIRITUALLY

4) Pastor Mark said that “a changed life is compelling evidence of Jesus Christ.” How do Mary’s transformation in Luke 8:2 and Judy’s testimony at the beginning of the sermon illustrate the power of a changed life?

5) In Romans 12:1, Paul says our devotion flows “in view of God’s mercy.” How does that connect with the sermon’s point that Mary’s presence, generosity and service came as a response to mercy and grace rather than an attempt to earn it?

6) Pastor Mark described ‘Saturday seasons’ as the space between tragedy and resolution. How do Mary’s actions in Mark 15:47 and John 20:1 help us understand what faith can look like even when we do not yet see what God is doing?

LIVE GENEROUSLY

7) Jesus told Mary, “Go...tell” in John 20:17–18. What fear or hesitation keeps you from sharing your faith, and what step could you take to obey Jesus’ call anyway?

8) The sermon challenged us to “tell one person this week your story.” Who is one person you are feeling led to share with about how Jesus has changed your life?

9) Think of someone in your life who is in a “Saturday season,” a time of waiting, uncertainty, grief, or silence. Who is that person, and will you commit to reaching out this week—not with answers or advice, but simply to remind them that you are with them? Share with your group one practical way you will encourage them, whether by making a call, sending a message, or showing up in person.

TAKE ACTION

Based on our conversation today, how do you sense the Holy Spirit inviting you to take a next step in practical application? Please complete this statement, I am feeling convicted to take the following action (keep it simple):

Please invite each group member to share their action step, if they have one.

PRAY TOGETHER

Take a few minutes for each person to share a recent joy or praise, as well as something that’s weighing on their heart and in need of intercession. Invite someone to pray over these requests. Be sure to share them with everyone in the group so you can continue praying for one another throughout the week.

ENGAGE TOGETHER



Serve Finder - Looking for opportunities for yourself or your group to participate in the amazing Kingdom work happening in, around, and through Northview? Serving is a wonderful way to use your gifts and talents, align with God’s plans and purposes, and bring hope to the world. Whether you’re looking for a one-time event or a regular opportunity—within the walls of Northview, in our local communities, or around the world—start with Serve Finder!