

John 20:1-18 “WHOM ARE YOU SEEKING”

Week 33

Saint Augustine was right when he said:
You have formed us for Yourself and
Our hearts are restless until they find rest in You

Probably everyone, when they were growing up, played the game of hide and seek. You know how it worked. Someone was picked to be it, and everyone else would hide. You counted to 10 with your eyes closed (or not so much) and then said, “Ready or not, here I come.” Some versions have the person doing the seeking keeping their eyes closed the whole time, fumbling around as people said ‘warmer’ or ‘colder’ based on how close you were to them. Now when you were picked to be it, did you ever cheat? Did you peer through your partially closed fingers or squint so tightly that you pretended your eyes were closed when they weren’t? You know there are many people pretending today and pretending to have found something they haven’t. Pretending to be happy when they are not.

The truth is that most people in America today are not happy. The headlines say it a best. NBC: *Americans Are the Unhappiest They Have Been in Fifty Years*. CNN: *American Happiness Hits a Record Low*. The Atlantic: *Are We Trading Our Happiness for Modern Comforts That Don't Deliver?* We are all seeking something, and the evidence is undeniable, America is filled with restless hearts. But as Augustine reminds us, we have been made for God, and our hearts will be restless until they find rest in Him. Find your heart’s rest in the resurrected Lord and Savior who rescued your soul and has redeemed you to God!

(10 min) PRAY

As a Life Group, reflect and pray over this weekend’s message. Spend time prayerfully reflecting on Christ’s resurrection. Pray as God leads you.

(25 min) REFLECT

As you’ve had the opportunity to reflect on what God has spoken to you through this week’s teaching, consider these questions as a group and discuss them.

1. Consider the life of Mary Magdalene. Christ’s love turned her into a devoted follower. Describe how and why Christ’s love has such a powerful impact on people. What does it mean to be a follower of Jesus?

John 8:36 So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.

2. Mary’s life was tragic before she met Jesus. She was possessed and controlled by seven demons. Evidently, there were things that she was pursuing in her life that became

spiritual gateways to demonic activity. If we aren't careful, the things we seek can consume and control us. They can become strongholds in our lives. Generally, not to the place of demonic possession, but their hold can be unhealthy. Is there anything like that in your life? How can you look to Jesus for deliverance?

The blessings of God make excellent servants but horrible masters.

3. Jesus' resurrection power is unlimited. List how His resurrection power empowers your life. Use Scriptures and experiences.

Jesus didn't rise as a construct, a philosophy, or a theology. He rose bodily and in actuality to give you real-life today.

WEEKLY MEMORIZATION VERSES: **Luke 24:5** **And as they were frightened and bowed their faces to the ground, the men said to them, "Why do you seek the living among the dead? ⁶ He is not here, but has risen.**

This Week's Missional Living Tip: Lean into the power of Christ's resurrection for every need you have. As you do, expect God to open opportunities for you to tell people where your hope and strength come from. Be bold and loving as you receive these divine appointments.