

# EASTER SUNDAY

THE CELEBRATION

## Recognizing Jesus

### APPETIZER: The Context & The Characters

The context is fearful rejection and murderous violence, absorbed by Jesus, and met with forgiveness and the offer of reconciliation.

- Mary Magdalene (Luke 8:2)...
- Peter...
- John (the one Jesus loved)...
- Thomas...
- Disciples...
- Angels...
- Us?...



### WHAT'S THE BIG IDEA?

We recognize Jesus today through...

- a. His wounded body.
- b. How he knows and loves us (seen in his teaching & example).
- c. His Good News.

### DINE IN: Faithful Doubt

John 20

The first day of the week...

We are all "the one Jesus loved"...

EVERY disciple (not just Thomas) doubted, in all the gospel narratives...

*There is room for your doubt as you follow Jesus!*

*The resurrection is the completion of atonement, the place of mercy!*



**And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins. ... But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.**  
~ The Apostle Paul (1 Corinthians 15:17, 20)

Like Mary, when we meet Jesus, we are commissioned by Jesus.  
We've all got a job to do!

### TAKE OUT: Seeing Jesus Today

- Doubt VS Cynicism...
- Worship & Doubt...
- Touching Jesus' wounds...

**No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us.**  
~ The Apostle John (1 John 4:12)

If you're interested in learning more about Jesus and his message, visit:  
[themeetinghouse.com/start](http://themeetinghouse.com/start)

**NEXT WEEK: *Jesus and Buddha***

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## Home Church Questions

### HANGOUT [Warming Up to the Topic – in one Large Group]

1. Review Sunday's message, including our central text. Talk about something that stood out to you as an encouragement, challenge, disagreement, or question.

### HEAR [Listening to God through Scripture – in Discussion Groups]

2. Read all of **John 20**.
  - a. What verse, phrase, or idea stands out to you? Why?
  - b. Some Christians have argued that the Church should still meet only on Saturdays for weekly worship, to honour the Ten Commandments. Why would the early Christians think they had the right to change the day of the week they met? Why is meeting together important to Christian spirituality?
  - c. How much or how little do you relate to John feeling like "the one Jesus loved"?
  - d. "Magdalenic" spirituality is any spiritual practice rooted in a strong, stubborn desire to be close to Jesus. How much do you see this in the North American Church? The Meeting House? Your Home Church? Your personal spiritual life?
  - e. Mary first connected with Jesus, not as "saviour" but as "teacher". How do you primarily connect with Christ?
  - f. Review the "Big Idea". What are some examples of recognizing Jesus today through his wounded body, his knowledge and love of us, and his gospel?
  - g. Jesus always greets his doubting and deserting disciples with "Peace" and treats their doubts with gentle welcome. How much do you doubt? Do your doubts compliment your faith, or get in the way of it? How welcomed by Jesus do you feel, even with all your doubts?

### HUDDLE [Making It Personal and Praying Together – in Huddles]

3. Who are you inviting to our upcoming Jesus and Buddha series?
4. Follow through with your regular huddle questions.