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# Leader Study Guide

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Week of Easter 1: April 16-22; Luke 24:1-12

## Intro Question

### Collect

Almighty God, who through your only-begotten Son Jesus Christ overcame death and opened to us the gate of everlasting life: Grant that we, who celebrate with joy the day of the Lord's resurrection, may be raised from the death of sin by your life-giving Spirit; through Jesus Christ our Lord; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. *Amen.*

### Text (NRSV)

But on the first day of the week, at early dawn, they came to the tomb, taking the spices that they had prepared. <sup>2</sup>They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, <sup>3</sup>but when they went in, they did not find the body. <sup>4</sup>While they were perplexed about this, suddenly two men in dazzling clothes stood beside them. <sup>5</sup>The women were terrified and bowed their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, "Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here, but has risen. <sup>6</sup>Remember how he told you, while he was still in Galilee, <sup>7</sup>that the Son of Man must be handed over to sinners, and be crucified, and on the third day rise again." <sup>8</sup>Then they remembered his words, <sup>9</sup>and returning from the tomb, they told all this to the eleven and to all the rest. <sup>10</sup>Now it was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the

mother of James, and the other women with them who told this to the apostles. <sup>11</sup> But these words seemed to them an idle tale, and they did not believe them. <sup>12</sup> But Peter got up and ran to the tomb; stooping and looking in, he saw the linen cloths by themselves; then he went home, amazed at what had happened.

## Questions

- **Observation Questions**

- Who is the “they” in v. 1?
- Why were they bringing spices?
- In vv. 2-3, what did the women discover? How do you think they were feeling?
- Who shows up? How did the women react?
- What were the women asked to remember? If you would like, you can look back at passages such as 9:22; 15:24, 32; 16:31 where Jesus predicts his death and resurrection. The Jewish people would have expected the resurrection of all the righteous at the end of the age, but this idea of an individual resurrected is extremely odd sounding to the audience.
- In what ways is the resurrection surprising to the women? How is this story surprising to the reader?

- **Application Questions**

- Easter morning is always a surprise, an overturning of tragedy. N.T. Wright says, “From the beginning, the gospel is good news not least because it dares to tell us things we didn’t expect, weren’t inclined to believe, and couldn’t understand. Did we expect the gospel would be something obvious, something we could have dreamed up for ourselves?”
- In reflecting on the quote from Wright and the passage, what are some ways that Christ has shown up for you in unsurprising ways in the past?
- How has He overturned tragedy?
- For some of you, you are in tragedy right now! How do you need the miraculous and surprising good news of Easter to show up for you?

## Prayer