**JOURNEYING TOGETHER:** FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

Session 1 of 4

# Easter Sunday

### MEETING AIM

To discover what the hope of Easter means for us today.

### BIBLE PASSAGE

John 20:1-18

### BACKGROUND

This session plan is intended for use either in-person or online, depending on how you’re meeting. Adapt the activities to fit your situation.

Easter Sunday is a key moment in the Christian story! The session helps the group grasp the meaning and significance of the first Easter, and to remember that first fresh hope, and what that might mean for us today. Bear in mind the members of your group that might be in particular need of hope, and consider their pastoral needs as the group discusses the ideas. There are some creative activities, so take some time to gather the materials that you might need ahead of time.

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### STARTING OUT – 5 mins

As people join you, share any refreshments you have. Ask the group to share what they have been doing during the past seven days. Ask the group: “What is the best news that you’ve ever been given?” or: “What’s the best news you could ever be given?”

### INTRO ACTIVITY – 10 mins

**You will need:** paper; pens and pencils

Share your screen and show a news website, such as the [BBC](https://www.bbc.co.uk/). Talk about some of the headlines you can see. What do they tell you? Explain that today you’ll be talking about good news, and ask the group to design their own good news homepages. On a sheet of paper, encourage them to let their imaginations loose! Give them five minutes (depending on how much time you have with the group) and then ask them to share their webpages with each other.

### BIBLE EXPLORATION – 10 mins

**You will need:** Bibles; large sheet of paper and marker pen, or whiteboard feature; pens and paper

Ask the group if they’ve heard people talk about the ‘good news’ as a Christian term. This is the original moment where the ‘good news’ was first discovered!

Go through John 20:1-18 and ask the group to shout out the different characters mentioned in the story. Write them down on the paper or whiteboard, then talk about their perspectives on the story – how do they think they’d tell the story from their point of view? Ask the group to think about how the different people written about must have felt at different points of the story. They can write down words they might use to describe how they felt. Discuss these words, and let that lead you into ‘Chatting together’.

### CHATTING TOGETHER – 5 mins

Chat about the story using these questions, encouraging everyone to join in if they want to:

* What do you think it was that made Mary recognise Jesus?
* Why do you think Jesus revealed himself in the way that he did?
* What did it mean for the disciples that Jesus was alive again?
* What does it mean for us that Jesus rose again?

### CREATIVE RESPONSE – 10 mins

**You will need:** glass jars; grey paper; scissors; PVA glue; tealights

This passage is a defining moment for Christians and what we believe. It takes the moment where everything feels lost and ruined, the very worst thing that could happen has happened – God came to earth as a person and died – and then everything turns around as Jesus’ friends realise that he’s alive again. Everything is different, and everything is possible! It’s that critical moment where Jesus shows that death is no longer the end of the story, that God performs the miraculous where it feels that all hope is lost.

Sometimes it’s important for us to remember the hope of the resurrection; we have times where we hear about hopeless-sounding things, or we go through our own difficulties, and that’s when it’s so helpful to remember that Jesus rose again!

To make your own reminders of the resurrection, make sure each member of the group has a glass jar and a strip of grey paper. Wrap the paper around the outside of the jar, but cut the paper to look like a cave, with the opening of a tomb, and paste it around the glass jar with PVA glue. Give each young person a tealight and explain that when the disciples went to the tomb they were expecting Jesus’ body, but instead they found unimaginable hope and light. They can take their jars with lights in away, and when they need hope, they can remember the resurrection and light the tealight so that light shines out of what seemed to be a particularly hopeless situation.

### PRAYER – 5 mins

**You will need:** pebbles; permanent markers

Make sure everyone has a pebble and a marker. These pebbles represent the stone that was rolled away from the tomb. Ask the group to consider what Jesus being risen means to us, and as they consider it, to write these ideas down on stones (maybe just one word that sums it up) and to place it in front of their camera. They can use many stones for different ideas. After a moment of quiet, say a prayer of thanks, and ask that God would continue to remind us of the hope of the resurrection when we need it most.

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