

was a follower of Jesus, but in secret, because he was afraid of the Jewish authorities.) Pilate told him he could have the body, so Joseph went and took it away. **39** Nicodemus, who at first had gone to see Jesus at night, went with Joseph, taking with him about one hundred pounds of spices, a mixture of myrrh and aloes. **40** The two men took Jesus' body and wrapped it in linen cloths with the spices according to the Jewish custom of preparing a body for burial. **41** There was a garden in the place where Jesus had been put to death, and in it there was a new tomb where no one had ever been buried. **42** Since it was the day before the Sabbath and because the tomb was close by, they placed Jesus' body there.

### The Empty Tomb

**20** **1** Early on Sunday morning, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene went to the tomb and saw that the stone had been taken away from the entrance. **2** She went running to Simon Peter and the other disciple, whom Jesus loved, and told them, "They have taken the Lord from the tomb, and we don't know where they have put him!"

**3** Then Peter and the other disciple went to the tomb. **4** The two of them were running, but the other disciple ran faster than Peter and reached the tomb first. **5** He bent over and saw the linen cloths, but he did not go in. **6** Behind him came Simon Peter, and he went straight into the tomb. He saw the linen cloths lying there **7** and the cloth which had been around Jesus' head. It was not lying with the linen cloths but was rolled up by itself. **8** Then the

other disciple, who had reached the tomb first, also went in; he saw and believed. (**9** They still did not understand the scripture which said that he must rise from death.) **10** Then the disciples went back home.

### Jesus Appears to Mary Magdalene

**11** Mary stood crying outside the tomb. While she was still crying, she bent over and looked in the tomb **12** and saw two angels there dressed in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had been, one at the head and the other at the feet. **13** "Woman, why are you crying?" they asked her.

She answered, "They have taken my Lord away, and I do not know where they have put him!"

**14** Then she turned around and saw Jesus standing there; but she did not know that it was Jesus. **15** "Woman, why are you crying?" Jesus asked her. "Who is it that you are looking for?"

She thought he was the gardener, so she said to him, "If you took him away, sir, tell me where you have put him, and I will go and get him."

**16** Jesus said to her, "Mary!"

She turned toward him and said in Hebrew, "Rabboni!" (This means "Teacher.")

**17** "Do not hold on to me," Jesus told her, "because I have not yet gone back up to the Father. But go to my brothers and tell them that I am returning to him who is my Father and their Father, my God and their God."

**18** So Mary Magdalene went and told the disciples that she had seen the Lord and related to them what he had told her.





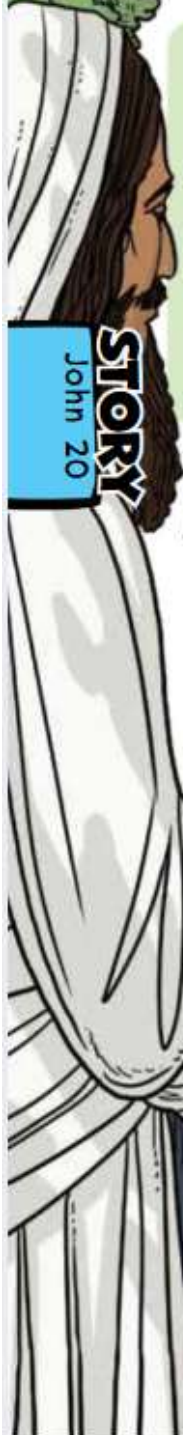
## The Risen Jesus Appears to Mary Magdalene



John 20:11–14, 16 (For the full story, read John 20:11–29.)

11 Mary stood crying outside the **tomb**. While she was still crying, she bent over and looked in the tomb 12 and saw two angels there dressed in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had been, one at the head and the other at the feet. 13 “Woman, why are you crying?” they asked her. She answered, “They have taken my **Lord** away, and I do not know where they have put him!” 14 Then she turned around and saw Jesus standing there; but she did not know that it was Jesus. 16 Jesus said to her, “Mary!”

**tomb** a place where dead bodies are buried  
**Lord** a title for Jesus



STORY  
John 20





## Understand It!

When people die, we are sad because we will never see them on earth again. In this Bible story from John, we learn that Mary Magdalene [MAG-duh-leen] loved Jesus very much. She was one of his closest followers. And so Mary was very sad when Jesus died. She felt even worse when she went to his tomb. The stone at the entrance had been moved! Mary thought that someone had stolen Jesus' body.

While she was crying, the Risen Jesus came and spoke to her. At first Mary didn't recognize him. Maybe she was crying too hard to see clearly. Or maybe Jesus looked different. But as soon as Jesus said her name, Mary knew it was him. Can you imagine how happy Mary was? Jesus was alive! Mary rejoiced and ran to share the news with the other disciples.

STORY

John 20

## Live It!

Pretend you are Mary Magdalene and you are about to write a diary entry for Easter Sunday. What would you say about what happened to you that day? What would you say about what you were thinking and feeling as you went to the tomb? Why? Think about all the things you would want to remember about that day. Then thank God for the miracle of the Resurrection.

## Tell It!



Using the pictures above, retell this story in your own words.

Great People of Faith

7

Reading Plan

