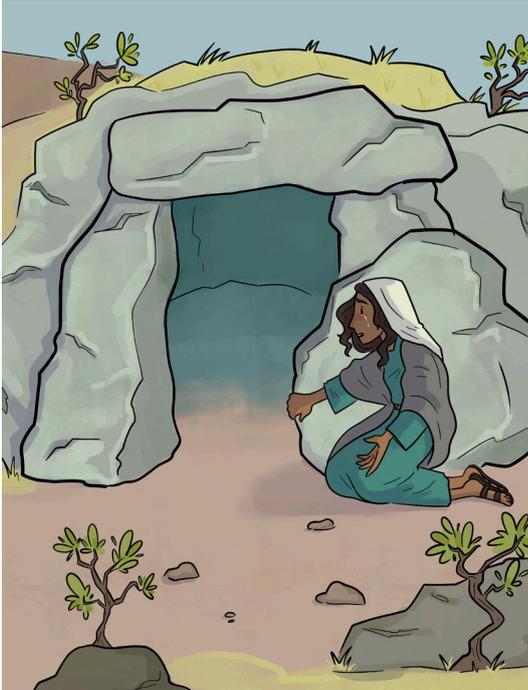


John 20:1-18

Do you see what I see?

Mary Magdalene is the first to see the stone rolled away from Jesus' tomb. She is the first to tell the other disciples that Jesus' body is no longer there.



Bible notes



Mary Magdalene is named in the first three Gospels as among the women who discover the empty tomb. In John's Gospel, she alone rises early to find that 'they have taken the Lord out of the tomb' (v.2). In the other Gospels the men are not involved until later. In Matthew (28:9-10), Mary Magdalene and 'the other Mary' meet the risen Jesus, who commissions them to tell his brothers to meet him in Galilee. In Mark (16:7-8), they and Salome are similarly commissioned, 'but they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid'. And in Luke 24:1-12 (the alternative Gospel reading for today), the larger group of women do tell the male apostles that Jesus is risen, but they are not believed. It is not surprising, given the traumatic loss of the Lord they loved and the shocking discovery that his body was not there for them to anoint, that there are different versions and visions of the extraordinary events of that first Easter. In John's version, there is a more complex interweaving of male and female characters. Mary Magdalene immediately runs to share her news that the body is missing with Peter and the beloved disciple. They run to the tomb and move things on by going inside to find the discarded linen wrappings. The beloved disciple begins to believe, perhaps at this stage beginning to see that God has acted in some way. It is not yet belief in the resurrection, since we are explicitly told, 'for as yet they did not understand the Scripture, that he must rise from the dead' (v.9). And indeed, they return to their homes without a word either to Mary or to each other. But Mary stays by the tomb, explaining her weeping to the strangers sitting there. In that moment of sharing her grief she turns to encounter the risen Jesus, who by recognising her for who she is, 'Mary', enables her to respond, 'Rabbouni' (v.16). The process of interaction between the women and men in the story, 'Do you see what I see?', continues as Mary announces to the disciples, 'I have seen the Lord' (v.18).

Discuss

Go through the alphabet and try to think of an emotion or feeling for each letter. Discuss if the disciples may have felt this and why.

Read

Read this article about events at a Skegness Yoga class:
<https://bit.ly/3C3nccs>



Think about how we can view the same events from different perspectives and that can lead to dramatically different outcomes. Think about situations you might have misread this week, pray and hand them over to God.



Like Mary, sometimes we see Jesus but do not recognise him. Take a strip of paper and write a prayer that Jesus will reveal himself to you this Easter. Make it into a Möbius strip, by putting a half twist in it before you join the ends together with tape.

LISTEN

Listen to 'No Body' by Elevation Worship
<https://bit.ly/3ZpOPHz>



First impressions

- What can you see in this image?
- Can you recall a time when your eyes deceived you, or you were completely mistaken? What did you learn?
- How might the events at Easter change the way we view the world around us?



Pray

We praise you, risen Christ, for bringing hope and joy to our world. May all hearts be opened and all eyes see that you are our friend and Saviour, today and every day. Amen.



LOOK

Check out some optical illusion pictures:
<https://bit.ly/3NKfjv5>



Each picture has two or more images in it – showing how we can look at the same image but see something very different. What might this mean in terms of the gospel accounts of Easter?