

ROAD TO THE RESURRECTION

at Midtown Church

Ice Breaker: On a scale of 1-10 (1 being the worst, 10 the best), how present are you in the moment?

Read: John 20

Discussion Questions:

- Opening Thoughts
 - Have you ever rushed toward something because you felt urgency, fear, or hope? What was driving you?
 - God is running after you — are you running after Him? Have you been running away from God more than you've been running toward Him?
- John 20:1-10 | Running Towards Jesus
 - What can you learn from Mary Magdalene?
 - What obstacles would be in her way to be at the tomb of Jesus early in the morning while it was still dark?
 - What emotions do you imagine Mary is experiencing when she sees the stone removed?
 - Do you need to have a plan all figured out before running towards Jesus? Why or why not?
 - How does Mary's sense of urgency and faith affect John and Peter?
- What can you learn from John and Peter?
 - Why is it significant that they both run to the tomb?
 - Why do you think John includes the detail about him outrunning Peter and reaching the tomb first?
 - What differences do you notice between Peter's response and John's response at the tomb?
 - What do the linen wrappings lying there with the body missing suggest about what happened?
 - Why do you think John notes that the disciples still "did not understand from Scripture that Jesus had to rise from the dead" (v. 9)?
 - Pastor Susie mentions that "Faith is found on the way, not before you start on the journey." How does this passage show belief beginning before full understanding?
- What can you learn about God?
 - What does this passage reveal about how God works in moments of loss and confusion?
 - Why do you think the resurrection begins quietly...without crowds, angels singing, or public celebration?
 - What does the empty tomb communicate about God's power compared to human expectations?
- Closing Thoughts
 - Have you ever believed something God was doing before you fully understood it?
 - What does this passage say about faith that is still forming and growing?
 - Where in your life might God be working, even if you can't yet explain it or fully grasp it?
 - What might it look like to "Run Home to God" this week?

