Community Group Discussion Questions

**Below you will find a variety of questions on each point. While there is a logical flow between the questions, you may not be able to get through them all during your group time. Feel free to pick which ones that you think will be best for your group.**

**For questions that may be more difficult to answer, I have provided some explanatory notes in italics. These are for the leader in case your group gets stuck and not to be read aloud.**

Text: John 20:11-18

Point 1: The Plan of God has not Failed

1. What is the significance of John mentioning that they were in a “garden” (19:41) and that Mary thought Jesus was the “gardener” (20:15)? Where else do we see God and man meeting in a garden? What is John pointing us back to?

2. How did Jesus succeed where Adam (the first gardener) failed? (See Rom 5:12-17)

3. Pastor Mike’s first point was that the resurrection of Jesus proves that God’s plan has not failed. What was God’s plan? (See Gen 3:15) How does the resurrection fulfill God’s plan?

4. What significance does the fact of the resurrection of Jesus have for you personally? What does it assure you of?

*Some examples:*

*That we will be raised to new life one day.*

*That Jesus’ work on the Cross was effective.*

*That Jesus’ was the Son of God and so we can trust what He said.*

5. When in your life have you see God work so as to assure you that God’s plan hasn’t failed?

Point 2: The Presence of God is Near

1. Where do we see the nearness of God in our passage? What does Jesus do to get Mary’s attention and reveal Himself to her?

2. How does the resurrection of Jesus assure of God’s presence with us?

*Jesus is called Emmanuel, God with us. Jesus demonstrates that God is with us by the fact that even though he was God he became a man. And then instead of escaping or avoiding suffering and death, He entered into it. He even endured the full wrath of God towards our sin. And so, he went through everything we do and really took our place. He is with us by identifying with us, going through what we go through and taking our place. In other words, Jesus is with us by sharing in our pain and suffering, and even death.*

*In addition, His resurrection shows that God’s plan worked, that Jesus saves us and that we can trust Him. So now when He says he will always be with us even to the end of the age (Matt 28:20) and that He sends His Spirit (John 14-16), we can trust Him that He is actually with us.*

3. When was it that you heard the LORD call your name so that you recognized Him for who He is? How did it happen? What was going on in your life at the time?

4. How is the LORD speaking to you right now and assuring your of His presence with you?

Point 3: The Invitation of God Calls us to Participate

1. According to Pastor Mike, why did Jesus tell Mary not to cling to him?

*Because there was work to do: she needs to tell the brothers what she saw and heard. It was not time to hang out with Jesus.*

2. Most of us struggle with wanting to just cling to Jesus, keeping our faith a private thing, instead of running to tell others and making it public. Why is that? How do we overcome it?

3. Who specifically has God called you to tell about Him?