Mary, Thomas, and Peter
Small Group Guide

Warm-up Question: (Choose one, make up your own, or skip this part all together, depending upon the nature of your group.)

1. Did you celebrate Easter growing up? If so, what did it involve?

2. What's your favorite candy?

Read the following passage: Read John 20:11-18, 24-29; 21:15-19.

Questions for Discussion (Choose several that are relevant for your group)**:**

1. How would you respond to someone who claims that the resurrection of Jesus Christ is just a legend that developed long after the purported events? Or that the disciples themselves fabricated the story about the resurrection? Or that the disciples were just deceived?

2. Between Mary Magdalene, Thomas, and Peter, whom do you most relate to? Explain.

3. Jesus addressed Peter's betrayal before it took place (John 13:36-38) and appeared to Peter (and the other disciples) on several occasions before the account recorded in John 21:15-19. Why do you think Jesus deliberately created this moment (the moment recorded in John 21:15-19) with Peter? What can this moment teach us about being reconciled to God? What can this moment teach us about how we handle reconciliation with others?

4. Luke writes that Mary Magdalene was delivered from seven demons (see Luke 8:1-3). Do you believe in the existence of demons? If so, what is your understanding of how demons afflict people? How can we know when we are being influenced by demons?

5. How do you think God wants us to respond to genuine moral failure in our lives? Which, if any, of the following characterizes how you respond to your own personal wrongdoing?

   • Self-justification
   • Denial
   • Self-loathing
   • Over-apologizing
   • Blame-shifting
   • Avoidance of the topic

6. Christians often talk about the significance of Jesus' death on the cross (and rightly so!). Why is the resurrection of Jesus such good news for us? (See, for example, Acts 17:31; Romans 1:1-4; Romans 6:1-10; Ephesians 2:1-7; 1 Corinthians 15:20-22; 1

Peter 1:3-5.)

Pray