

Experience: Jesus and the Women

Experiencing Jesus is one way we can cultivate our faith. In the gospels, we read about Jesus' encounters with his female followers, and later his disciples, on that very first Easter day. Their experience of him deepened and grew their faith, and it can do the same for us. As we study their experience of Jesus that day, together we come to see and know again that Jesus is Immanuel, God with us. We are reminded that Jesus meets us in the ordinary and that we can experience the presence of our resurrected Lord and Savior in our tears, in our doubts, and in the humbleness of our everyday lives.

AWARENESS Before listening reflect on what you already know or understand about topics we'll cover in the episode.

- What does it mean to cultivate faith?
- Is experience important for gaining knowledge? Is experience important for understanding? Why or why not?



LISTEN TO THE EPISODE: [Experience: Jesus and the Women](#)

READ [Matthew 28:1-10](#), [Luke 24:1-12](#), [John 20:11-18](#)

REFLECTION After listening, consider the following questions:

- In segment 1, hosts Scott Hoezee and Darrell Delaney talk about the instruction to “go to Galilee” and note that it is a scriptural encouragement to return to the beginning. When has your faith been nurtured by going back to the basics, returning to the beginning, or rereading something you already know?
- In segment 2, Darrell says, “Remembering is a wonderful and powerful tool that God has been using all throughout Scripture to help us reflect on what he has done and who his character is.” As you’ve remembered the stories of Jesus’ encounters with the women at the empty tomb, what is the Holy Spirit revealing to you? What did you learn or remember about God’s ways, his character, or his acts? In what way does this remembrance cultivate faith?
- In segment 3, Scott and Darrell note the humility with which Christ returns, observing how he presents himself in the ordinary and Mary mistakes him for the gardener. Can you think of an example of when you or someone you know missed recognizing Jesus' presence in an encounter or particular moment? Why do you think that happened?
- Through these stories, we’ve witnessed that God is with us in our highs and lows, when we’re crying, when we doubt, in the ordinary, and in the extraordinary. How does this encourage you in your life right now? How does this truth contribute to the development of your faith?

RELATED PASSAGES for further study

[2 Corinthians 1:20-22](#), [Matthew 1:20-23](#), [Matthew 28:19-20](#)

CONCLUSION

In segment 3, Darrell and Scott note 4 observations for what the post-resurrection appearances of Jesus (from [Matthew 28:1-10](#), [Luke 24:1-12](#), and [John 20:11-18](#)) teach us yet today:

1. The gospels don't give you what they don't have. They don't sensationalize the resurrection message.
2. The resurrection accounts are all pretty ordinary, humble, and lowkey, a lot of people might have missed it.
3. The resurrection is hopeful because it fits our ordinary days too.
4. Jesus understands the highs and lows of life, the repetitive parts of life, and the temptations of life because he has been there with us—he is Immanuel, God with us.

Which of these observations do you need to remember most in order to cultivate your faith right now?

Close your time of reflection in prayer; give thanks for gospel accounts that teach us about Jesus and the Holy Spirit who nurtures our faith. Ask God to continue to nourish and grow your faith as you reread and remember the truths we find about him in the Bible.

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