

# Session 10

## Mary Magdalene

### Intro

Last time we looked at the woman at the well. We saw that Jesus came to save, restore and redeem. This truth is available for everyone, no matter what they have done or where they have come from.

### Part 1

Many of you may have heard of Mary Magdalene. She is someone who people know about, but there are so many parts of her story that are not mentioned. In the book of Luke, in the New Testament, the second half of the Bible, we have a short backstory to her.

The Bible says that she was cured of evil spirits and diseases. It was probably a hard life before she was cured of those. The passage also talks about a group of women who followed Jesus and financially supported him too.

“...and also some women who had been cured of evil spirits and diseases: Mary (called Magdalene) from whom seven demons had come out; <sup>3</sup>Joanna the wife of Chuza, the manager of Herod’s household; Susanna; and many others. These women were helping to support them out of their own means.”

**Luke 8:2-3**

### Discussion Questions


- ▶ What do you think life was like for Mary before she met Jesus and the disciples?

### Craft Time

### Part 2

It was clear that these women followed Jesus, and did so for a long time through his teaching. Mary followed him throughout the rest of his time amongst them. At Easter, many of you may know, Christians focus on Jesus’ death on the cross and coming back to life 3 days later. What is interesting about that time is that none of the disciples (except a guy called John) were able to be there when Jesus died because they were scared of being hunted by the authorities.

So, a lot of the women were there, including Mary Magdalene. They were there with Jesus in his last moments.



“Some women were watching from a distance. Among them were Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James the younger and of Joseph, and Salome. <sup>41</sup>In Galilee these women had followed him and cared for his needs. Many other women who had come up with him to Jerusalem were also there.”

**Mark 15: 40-41**

## Discussion Questions

- ▶ Does anything about this surprise you?
- ▶ How do you think they felt watching someone they had followed for years die?
- ▶ Why do you think they stayed?

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## Craft Time

### Part 3

“Near the cross of Jesus stood his mother, his mother’s sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. When Jesus saw his mother there, and the disciple whom he loved standing nearby, he said to her, “Woman, here is your son,” and to the disciple, “Here is your mother.” From that time on, this disciple took her into his home.

Later, knowing that everything had now been finished, and so that Scripture would be fulfilled, Jesus said, “I am thirsty.” A jar of wine vinegar was there, so they soaked a sponge in it, put the sponge on a stalk of the hyssop plant, and lifted it to Jesus’ lips. When he had received the drink, Jesus said, “It is finished.” With that, he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.”

**John 19:25-30**

## Discussion Questions

- ▶ What do you think of Jesus’ words?
- ▶ Do you think Mary understood what was happening?
- ▶ What does ‘it is finished’ mean to you? *(Depending on context and the discussion, more detail may be needed to explain what this means and clarify that Jesus has finished the work of saving so it is not about our works. It is about faith and putting trust in Jesus.)*

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## Craft Time



## Part 4

Jesus died and was buried in a tomb. However, the Bible tells us that he rose three days later and defeated death. Mary Magdalene and another Mary are some of the first witnesses that see Jesus rise again. There was a custom in Bible times to bring spices and prepare the body. The women would have done that after his death and may have been returning to continue the process. They obviously loved and were committed to Jesus. This eye-witness account of them finding the tomb empty is in more than one of the first 4 books in the New Testament. I will just read one.

"After the Sabbath, at dawn on the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to look at the tomb.

<sup>2</sup>There was a violent earthquake, for an angel of the Lord came down from heaven and, going to the tomb, rolled back the stone and sat on it. <sup>3</sup>His appearance was like lightning, and his clothes were white as snow. <sup>4</sup>The guards were so afraid of him that they shook and became like dead men.

<sup>5</sup>The angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. <sup>6</sup>He is not here; he has risen, just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay. <sup>7</sup>Then go quickly and tell his disciples: 'He has risen from the dead and is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see him.' Now I have told you."

<sup>8</sup>So the women hurried away from the tomb, afraid yet filled with joy, and ran to tell his disciples. <sup>9</sup>Suddenly Jesus met them. "Greetings," he said. They came to him, clasped his feet and worshiped him. <sup>10</sup>Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid. Go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me."

**Matthew 28:1-10**

## Discussion Questions

- ▶ What would you do if this happened in front of you?
- ▶ What did Jesus mean to the women for them to be so dedicated to him?
- ▶ Has your view of Jesus changed over the past 10 weeks?

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## Craft Time

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## Summary

Over the past number of weeks, we have seen how God can meet us in our struggle and messy lives.

We have seen how Jesus cares for, and is moved by, our struggles. Jesus came for people like the ones in the Bible and for people like us.

As we see in Mary Magdalene's story, Jesus died and rose again 3 days later, and many people witnessed it. Jesus' death was significant. Jesus died to take our wrongdoing so we can have living water, a close relationship and life forever with him if we want it. This is made possible through God coming in the form of a human to die on our behalf. That restoration is available to us if we would like it to be.

Jesus died and rose so we can be restored.

## Discussion Questions

▶ **Do you think Jesus is someone who can make a difference in your life?**

If you want to know more about what that means, please ask.

