

LOST & FOUND

ENCOUNTERS WITH THE RISEN JESUS

The period between the resurrection of Jesus and His ascension to the Father was filled with a number of significant encounters. Jesus did not reveal himself to the powerful. He did not visit the Pharisees to expose their huge miscalculation in figuring out who he was, nor did he call with Pilate to settle the score. Rather he met with individuals who had believed in him and who had been deeply impacted by the events around Passover. And each person he met was changed by the encounter as they came to a deeper understanding of who he was and why he had come. The first person to meet him was a woman. Let's find out more about her.

Luke 8:1-3

¹ Soon afterward he went on through cities and villages, proclaiming and bringing the good news of the kingdom of God. And the twelve were with him, ² and also some women who had been healed of evil spirits and infirmities: Mary, called Magdalene, from whom seven demons had gone out, ³ and Joanna, the wife of Chuza, Herod's household manager, and Susanna, and many others, who provided for them out of their means.

John 10:10

¹⁰ The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.

John 8:44

⁴⁴ You are of your father the devil, and your will is to do your father's desires. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks out of his own character, for he is a liar and the father of lies.

Colossians 1:13-14

¹³ He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, ¹⁴ in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

READ Luke 8:1-3. Mark "Jesus / he / him" with a and mark Mary Magdalene with a

V1 What was Jesus doing and who was with him?

V2-3 How are the women described?

What do we learn about Mary Magdalene?

Reflect on Mary's life as she travelled with Jesus. What would she have seen and heard?

Demons are the agents of Satan, and his purpose for us is clear.

READ the following verses and discover the strategy of Satan and how Jesus responds to it.

John 10:10

What three things does "the thief" do? What might these look like in our life?

What does Jesus offer?

John 8:44 (Jesus speaks to the Pharisees)

What is Satan's main strategy? Think of ways you encounter this.

Colossians 1:13-14

What has God done for us and how has He done it?

Think of Mary's life before meeting Jesus - what would it have looked like?

What difference would Jesus have made to her life? In what ways can you relate to this?

Matthew 27:55-61

⁵⁵ There were also many women there, looking on from a distance, who had followed Jesus from Galilee, ministering to him, ⁵⁶ among whom were Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of James and Joseph and the mother of the sons of Zebedee.

⁵⁷ When it was evening, there came a rich man from Arimathea, named Joseph, who also was a disciple of Jesus. ⁵⁸ He went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. Then Pilate ordered it to be given to him. ⁵⁹ And Joseph took the body and wrapped it in a clean linen shroud ⁶⁰ and laid it in his own new tomb, which he had cut in the rock. And he rolled a great stone to the entrance of the tomb and went away. ⁶¹ Mary Magdalene and the other Mary were there, sitting opposite the tomb.



John 20:1-2

¹ Now on the first day of the week Mary Magdalene came to the tomb early, while it was still dark, and saw that the stone had been taken away from the tomb. ² So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him."

John 20:11-14

¹¹ But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb, and as she wept she stooped to look into the tomb. ¹² And she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had lain, one at the head and one at the feet. ¹³ They said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping?" She said to them, "They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him." ¹⁴ Having said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing, but she did not know that it was Jesus.

The next time we meet Mary Magdalene, she is standing near the cross of Jesus.

READ Matthew 27:55-61. Mark references to Mary Magdalene with a  and references to Jesus with a 

V55 Where do we find Mary Magdalene?

Why had she come from Galilee?

v61 What do we learn about her as the day closes?

What does this tell us about her heart for Jesus?

How do you imagine Mary felt as she sat in the quiet of the garden at the tomb of Jesus and as the sun begins to set? Jesus was dead. This had been a traumatic day.

READ John 20:1-2. Mark as above.

What time is it when Mary heads to the tomb?

What does she find when she gets there?

Where does she go?

How does she refer to Jesus in this moment, despite the shame of his death?

Peter and John go to the tomb and find it empty as Mary says. They are starting to come to an understanding of what has happened and leave for the place they are staying. (John 20:3-10)

READ John 20:11-14. Mark as above.

The others left - what does Mary do?

V12 Who and what does she see in the tomb?

What do they ask her? Why are they asking this?

How does she respond? What is her deep desire?

What are we learning about her heart for Jesus?

V14 What happens when she turns round?

Mary's deep distress at not knowing where Jesus is leaves her unphased at the sight of angels and blinds her to his presence.

John 20:15-18

¹⁵ Jesus said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you seeking?" Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away." ¹⁶ Jesus said to her, "Mary." She turned and said to him in Aramaic, "Rabboni!" (which means Teacher). ¹⁷ Jesus said to her, "Do not cling to me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father; but go to my brothers and say to them, 'I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'" ¹⁸ Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, "I have seen the Lord" - and that he had said these things to her.

Jeremiah 29:11-14

The children of Israel had been in exile and away from the place where God's name dwelt. Jeremiah sends them a letter that would be read by Daniel many years later.

¹¹ For I know the plans I have for you, declares the LORD, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope. ¹² Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will hear you. ¹³ You will seek me and find me, when you seek me with all your heart. ¹⁴ I will be found by you, declares the LORD, and I will restore your fortunes and gather you from all the nations and all the places where I have driven you, declares the LORD, and I will bring you back to the place from which I sent you into exile.

John 14:21

²¹ Whoever has my commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves me. And he who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and manifest myself to him."

"God hides himself so that we can choose to seek him."

Dallas Willard

READ John 20:15-18. Mark as before.

V15 What two questions does Jesus ask Mary?

How does she respond? What is her one desire?

V16 How does Jesus reveal himself to her?

What does this tell you about the risen Jesus?

How does Mary react?

What does Jesus commission her to do? What is the message she is carrying?

How does this message reveal a new relationship between Jesus and his disciples?

V18 What does Mary declare to the disciples?

What qualities in Mary led to her encounter?

Think about Mary and what characterised her most in her relationship with Jesus. She was a woman who stayed.

What was the outcome of her perseverance?

READ Jeremiah 29:11-14.

What does it feel like to be in exile from God's presence?

What are God's intentions even in those times?

How should we respond when God seems absent?

What is his promise to us?

READ John 14:21.

What other response will lead us to Jesus manifesting himself to us?

What would it look like to be a woman who stayed?

About this study...

This resource has been designed to allow you to jump into God's Word and study it closely. It requires no preparation, and provides you with a structure to study a passage, with questions to help you think and reflect on it.

This study gives you a small insight into the world of inductive Bible study through three key parts:

Observe - What does the text say?

Understand - What does the text mean?

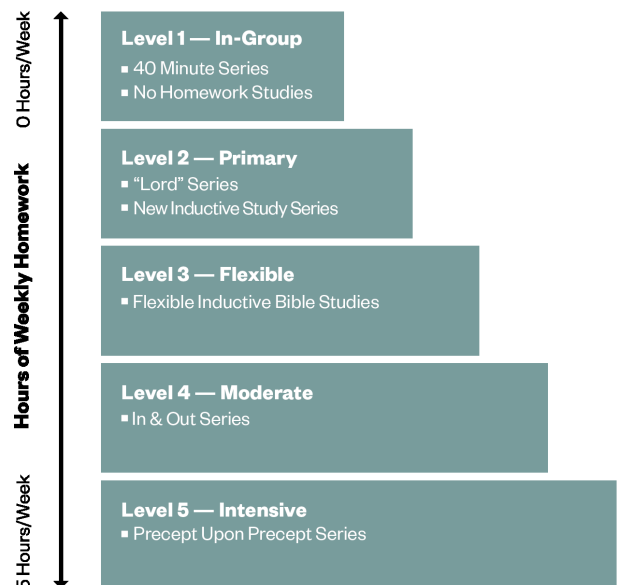
Apply - What does this mean for me?

By using this approach, we can study the Bible in a way that allows us to know God deeply, and to live differently.

About Precept Ireland...

Precept was founded in 1970 in Chattanooga, Tennessee, and now works in 160 countries, and has Bible study material translated in over 70 languages. In 2001 Precept was established in Ireland, and has grown through its mission to engage people in relationship with God through knowing His Word. Precept Ireland seeks to resource and train Bible study leaders to help students like you discover God's truth for yourself and be transformed by it. With more than 250 unique titles ranging from zero to five hours of weekly homework, Precept has a Bible study that meets you where you are.

Visit our online shop to see all our available resources.



Events, Training & more...

Would you love to find out how to study the Bible for yourself, or run an event in your church? Precept Ireland hosts events and inductive Bible study workshops to help individuals and groups. These can be delivered online or we can come to you!

Do you wish others were learning to study God's Word with you? We also provide Leader Training sessions to equip people with the skills needed to lead a Precept Bible study.

Get in touch with us to see how we can help you or your church.

FREE RESOURCE

This study has been provided free of charge. Precept Ireland seeks to equip Christians with the skills to study the Bible for themselves. If you would like to donate to Precept to help us reach more people across Ireland, please get in touch.

PRECEPT IRELAND

www.preceptireland.org
+44 (028) 9074 6082
info@preceptireland.org
Unit 9A, NCM House, 218 York Street,
Belfast, NI, BT15 1GY