

The Last Adam Stands in the Garden Again

John 20:1-18

Student Devotion

Day 1: When Hope Rises in a Garden

“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.” (John 20:1, ESV)

Think About It

John says it was the first day of the week. That is more than a time marker. It is a quiet echo of Genesis. In the beginning, God spoke light into darkness. Here, God is doing it again.

Mary arrives in the dark. And it is not just the darkness of early morning. It is the darkness of sorrow, confusion, and the weight of loss. She thinks it is over. She has no idea that resurrection has already happened. While she is weeping, God has already moved. The tomb is already open.

God often begins His work long before we can see it. His power does not wait for our understanding to catch up. He speaks into the dark and brings hope where all seems lost. Resurrection starts before we are even aware.

Pray It

Lord, thank You for working in the dark before I even know You are near. Help me trust that You are always ahead of me.

Do It

Write down one area of your life where it still feels dark or uncertain. Pray that God will bring light there in His timing, even if you cannot see it yet.

Day 2: The Gardener Who Knows Your Name

“Jesus said to her, ‘Mary.’ She turned and said to him in Aramaic, ‘Rabboni!’”
(John 20:16, ESV)

Think About It

Mary mistakes Jesus for the gardener, and she is not wrong. The first Adam was placed in a garden to tend it and guard it. He failed. He let sin enter. But now, the risen Christ stands in another garden. He is restoring what was lost.

Then He calls her by name. One word changes everything. She does not recognize Him by sight. She recognizes Him by voice. It is personal. It is intimate. It is love that calls her out of grief.

This is the voice that created the world. The same voice that called Lazarus from the grave now speaks to Mary and wakes her up to new life. It is not a lecture. It is not a sermon. It is a name.

This is how Jesus still meets His people. He knows your name. And when He calls you, it is not general. It is personal. You are not forgotten. You are not overlooked.

Pray It

Jesus, You know my name. Help me hear You clearly and respond when You speak. Let Your voice quiet every fear and speak peace into my heart.

Do It

Step outside for five minutes. Find one sign of life—a tree, a flower, something growing. As you look at it, thank Jesus that the Gardener still knows your name.

Day 3: A New Family and a New Future

“Go to my brothers and say to them, ‘I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.’” (John 20:17, ESV)

Think About It

Jesus speaks a sentence that shifts everything. Before the cross, He called God “My Father.” After the resurrection, He says, “My Father and your Father.” That is the power of what has just happened.

The door back into the family has been opened. The separation from Eden has been overcome. What was lost in the fall is now restored in Christ. Jesus is not just alive. He is bringing others into the life He now shares with the Father.

Mary is the first to hear it. She came looking for a body. She leaves as a messenger of adoption. God is not only Jesus’ Father. He is now her Father too.

The resurrection does not just rescue. It redefines. You are not who you used to be. You belong to the family of God now.

Pray It

Father, thank You for calling me Your child. Help me live today as someone who is fully known, fully loved, and completely welcomed into Your family.

Do It

Text or message someone in your church family. Encourage them with this truth: "God is not just my Father—He's ours."

Day 4: God Sends the Unexpected

“Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, ‘I have seen the Lord.’”
(John 20:18, ESV)

Think About It

Mary is the first witness to the resurrection. Not Peter. Not John. Not a priest or a prophet. Mary.

She had once lived a life marked by grief and spiritual oppression. But Jesus had changed her story. She stayed when others fled. She searched when others gave up. And God trusted her with the greatest announcement in history.

This is how grace works. God lifts up the overlooked. He sends the unlikely. The kingdom of God does not rise on platform or position. It rises on people who have encountered the risen Lord.

Mary's story is not polished. It is personal. That is the kind of testimony that changes lives. The world does not need perfect. It needs real. If Jesus has changed your life, you have something to say.

Pray It

Lord, thank You for using people like Mary. Use me. Give me the courage to speak what I know. Let me carry the news that You are alive.

Do It

Take one step today to share something about Jesus. It could be a story, a conversation, a post, or even a prayer with a friend.

Day 5: From a Garden to a City

“Behold, I am making all things new.” (Revelation 21:5, ESV)

Think About It

The story starts in a garden. In Genesis, that garden was lost because of sin. But the story does not end there. Jesus rises in a garden. And that garden points toward the garden-city to come.

Revelation shows us where all of this is heading. God will make a new heaven and new earth. The tree of life will stand again. Death will not speak again. Every tear will be wiped away.

Mary met Jesus near a tomb. One day you will meet Him face to face. The ground He stood on is a promise. What He started in resurrection will be finished in glory.

You are not just saved from something. You are saved into something. Your future is not vague. It is real. It is rooted in the promises of the One who walked out of the grave.

Pray It

Lord, thank You for the future You have promised. Help me live today with eyes on what is coming and a heart that trusts You fully.

Do It

Read Revelation 21:1–5 out loud. Then write down one sentence about why you are thankful for your future with God.

Conclusion: The Gardener Has Begun Again

The Bible begins with a garden and a breath.

It begins with a walk with God and the promise of life.

Sin cracked that world and sealed its gate.

But the story did not end there.

Jesus rises in a garden. He walks again in the cool of the morning. He speaks a name and reveals a kingdom. Mary sees Him and knows everything has changed.

The Gardener has begun again.

The soil is rich with resurrection.

The curse is losing ground.

And the tree of life is coming back.

This is your world now. Not the world of graves, but of gardens. Not a story of endings, but of new beginnings. The One who rose still calls names. He still makes all things new.