

# Grace Group Discussion Guide

**The First Easter**  
**Scott Ardavanis**  
**John 20:1–9**

## **Synopsis:**

The sight of the empty tomb is demonstrated in 2 specific eyewitness accounts:

1. Empty Tomb is Witnessed by Mary Magdalene
2. The Empty Tomb Witnessed by Peter & John

## **Questions:**

Discussion:

1. Read John 14:19, What is the believers hope that is found through the resurrection?
2. Why is it that so many people choose to reject the resurrection of Jesus Christ? What are some examples of this that you have seen in the lives of others?
3. Read John 20:8, John 20:18–22. The resurrection caused John to believe. Why?
4. Why are those who did not witness the resurrection more blessed according to the words of Christ in John 20:24–29? Read Hebrews 11:1
5. Read John 20:9. How have the scriptures been vindicated through the resurrection? (Hosea 13:14, Isaiah 26:19, 1 Corinthians 15, 50–58.)
6. What reality does the resurrection imply for the believer?
7. What was significant about the heart of Mary towards Jesus in this resurrection account? In other words, why do you think Mary loved the savior?
8. Read 2 Corinthians 4:13–18, 5:1–9. How does the resurrection give hope to those who are suffering and hurting?
9. How should the resurrection cause you to live your everyday life?
10. What is the purpose of John writing this Resurrection account? Read John 20:30–31, Romans 10:9.

## **Prayer Suggestion:**

### **Message from John Paul and Sarah Stepanian**

*Dear Church Family,*

*Exactly six years ago you were rallying around our family and preparing to launch us out from GCV onto the mission field. Since July of 2019 we have loved the privilege and joy of serving Jesus in Kubamitwe, Uganda! Thank you for sending us! GCV is our home sending church and we love you so much. We only have thee supporting churches and GCV is the main one. We praise the Lord for His faithfulness, love, and care through you for all these years. Currently, JP is teaching 3 classes in Term 1 at the Shepherds Training College, while also taking his own PhD class and loving it. He leads a men's discipleship group every week, and serves as an elder in our local church. We recently just finished teaching a class on biblical parenting together with 4 young families in our church. We praise the Lord for so many opportunities to teach and*

Apr 20, 2025

*teach and teach the Bible! Sarah is absolutely loving the expanding Shepherds Wives program and all the opportunities she gets to open the Word with women in and out of our home. Our family is doing very well! All 12 kids are busy studying, serving, singing, gardening, and growing! Our table is always full and you are always welcome! Come and visit! Love, JP & Sarah*

#### Prayer Request

- That God would send laborers because the harvest is plentiful but the laborers are few.
- That God would save our children from eternal destruction.
- For Sarah Stepanian to have strength, grace, and endurance in opening up her home for various ministry events, for bible studies and for discipleship.
- For GCV to see prayer as a priority of importance in supporting them as missionaries in Uganda
- Pray for Team Uganda as they prepare to be in the country in May for a youth Bible Conference!