

FURTHER REFLECTION | Everyday Easter: Wonder
John 20:11-18

CONNECTION

1. When was the last time you were struck speechless (in a good way!) in awe and wonder? Ask your small group, family, or a friend to share their answer to that question with you.
2. What ingredients do you think need to be present to incite wonder? It doesn't seem like we can "force" our spirits into a state of wonder and awe, but is that something we can *practice* or *aim our hearts toward* as part of our faith?
3. Read John 20:11-18 out loud. What jumps out as you hear the story again?
4. What stories immediately follow in John 20? Did you see anything wonder-full or awe-full in these resurrection stories as well?
5. Read Psalm 8. Sometimes the vastness of the universe makes me feel small. It makes me marvel all the more that God loves me. Do you ever get that same feeling?
6. For me (Chris), jaw-dropping new discoveries in science (particularly astronomy and biology) often stop me in my tracks, and drive me to marvel at God's creativity and vastness. Often, it's belly laughing with my family that will fill my heart with a sense of awe. Many of my friends are driven to worship God in reverence because of God's creation (Lake Michigan, National Parks, a simple rain storm). What about you? Where do you find yourself most frequently interrupted by the surprise of wonder?
7. Read Acts 12:1-19. Isn't this story hilarious and amazing?!
8. There is a shadow side to wonder – terror and fear that comes from the unknown. How do we combat fear and terror in our lives and relationships as Christ Followers?
9. Where do you see wonder-full things happening in the church – either CLC or the broader local or global body of Christ – because of God's presence and guiding?
10. When we find ourselves surprised by wonder, it should drive us to marvel at God's beauty and glory. But the center of our wonder is the resurrected Jesus. If you've encountered him, and found new life in him, you have Good News to tell others just like Mary Magdalene. Tell someone this week!
11. If you're in a small group, close your time with this benediction of praise: Ephesians 3:20-21.

FURTHER SCRIPTURE MEDITATION

Psalm 46. Psalm 66. Matthew 28:1-10. Mark 16:1-8. Revelation 4:1-11.