



Study Guide for FaithWestwood UMC

Lent 2024

This Lenten season, we are going to remember the stories where Jesus conquers, forgives, frees, feeds, heals, summons, enters, and sends. When Jesus says, “Go,” people respond, and their lives are transformed!

NOTE: *Let It Flow* will conclude on the first Sunday of Lent, February 18, and provide a pivot point for the Lenten series **Go**.

This guide may be utilized by FaithGroups and/or Individuals.

If you would like to connect with a FaithGroup on-site and/or online, please check out our website faithwestwood.com

***New* to Lent 2024:** family ministry activities and “Go” mission activities are included for each week – look for “**GREEN**” heading.

This guide provides study resources for **February 18 to March 31** plus information for Lenten activities & Holy Week services.

Week of February 18 / Full of the Holy Spirit (Word of God) / Jesus Conquers

Message Focus: After his baptism, Jesus was full of the Holy Spirit and led by the Spirit into the wilderness where he was tempted by the devil. These temptations are symbolic and invite us to intentionally reflect on them. As Jesus thirsts, how might we be thirsting for the Living Water?

Luke 4:1-13 (NIV) / **4** Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, left the Jordan and was led by the Spirit into the wilderness, ² where for forty days he was tempted by the devil. He ate nothing during those days, and at the end of them he was hungry. ³ The devil said to him, “If you are the Son of God, tell this stone to become bread.”

⁴ Jesus answered, **“It is written: ‘Man shall not live on bread alone.’”**

⁵ The devil led him up to a high place and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world. ⁶ And he said to him, “I will give you all their authority and splendor; it has been given to me, and I can give it to anyone I want to. ⁷ If you worship me, it will all be yours.”

⁸ Jesus answered, **“It is written: ‘Worship the Lord your God and serve him only.’”**

⁹ The devil led him to Jerusalem and had him stand on the highest point of the temple. “If you are the Son of God,” he said, “throw yourself down from here. ¹⁰ For it is written: “He will command his angels concerning you to guard you carefully; ¹¹ they will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.”

¹² Jesus answered, **“It is said: ‘Do not put the Lord your God to the test.’”**

¹³ When the devil had finished all this tempting, he left him until an opportune time.

OPEN

- Intro: What **tempts** you the most? How do you overcome those **temptations**?
- Pray: **God, there are times when we are thirsting for water and so much more. Open our minds, hearts, and spirits to hear Your Word and to be filled with the Living Water. AMEN.**

OBSERVE

- Read **Luke 4:1-13**. Note that the **temptations of Jesus** (in Matthew, Mark, Luke) immediately follow the **baptism of Jesus**. Why is this **important** to note?
- The Devil is crafty and clever – how are these temptations **symbolic** for Jesus and us?
- Jesus was “full of the Spirit” and “led by the Spirit” – was he also strengthened too?

REFLECT

- Why do *some* Christians believe that **saying “yes” to Jesus** means having an easy life **free from trial and/or temptation**? How does this passage inspire us to counteract the temptations that we face?
- What in the **Word of God** helps you to claim the Spirit’s presence & help?

PRAY

- Together, lift up joys & concerns, then pray: **Jesus, you overcame those temptations with the Word of God. When we face temptations, inspire us, and strengthen us. Lead us into this season of Lent knowing that we must “Go” in your name. AMEN.**

Week of February 18 – Go Family Activities & Mission Activities

Go! Is an action word. When we follow Jesus we need to move, we cannot stay where we are. During Lent we will discover how the life cycle of the caterpillar/butterfly is similar to how we need to move when Jesus says “Go!”

“MAP” – The egg contains all the DNA that maps out a caterpillar/butterfly’s journey. Jesus prayed, listened to God, and followed the map(or plan) for his life.

FAMILY ACTIVITY – Draw a map for your family’s spiritual journey through Lent. Pray about this Lenten journey and discuss what spiritual practices(prayer, devotions, serving, etc.) you feel God calling you to do as a family. We will add to this map each week.

GO MISSION ACTIVITY – Be intentional about welcoming one of our new **Partners** to FaithWestwood!

Week of February 25 / Jesus Forgives

Message Focus: Jesus forgives and heals a paralyzed man telling him to “go home.” In response, the people were amazed. In what ways is Jesus inviting you to receive forgiveness and healing?

Mark 2:1-12 (NIV) / 2 A few days later, when Jesus again entered Capernaum, the people heard that he had come home. ²They gathered in such large numbers that there was no room left, not even outside the door, and he preached the word to them. ³Some men came, bringing to him a paralyzed man, carried by four of them. ⁴Since they could not get him to Jesus because of the crowd, they made an opening in the roof above Jesus by digging through it and then lowered the mat the man was lying on. ⁵When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralyzed man, **“Son, your sins are forgiven.”**

⁶Now some teachers of the law were sitting there, thinking to themselves, ⁷“Why does this fellow talk like that? He’s blaspheming! Who can forgive sins but God alone?”

⁸Immediately Jesus knew in his spirit that this was what they were thinking in their hearts, and he said to them, **“Why are you thinking these things? ⁹Which is easier: to say to this paralyzed man, ‘Your sins are forgiven,’ or to say, ‘Get up, take your mat and walk’? ¹⁰But I want you to know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins.”** So he said to the man, ¹¹**“I tell you, get up, take your mat and go home.”** ¹²He got up, took his mat and walked out in full view of them all. This amazed everyone and they praised God, saying, “We have never seen anything like this!”

OPEN

- Intro: When have you experienced the gift of **forgiveness**? Were you the one receiving **forgiveness** or the one to extend it?
- Pray: **Loving God, we are humbled when we think about the gift of forgiveness in our lives. Thank you for forgiving us and inspiring us to forgive others. AMEN.**

OBSERVE

- Read **Mark 2:1-12**. Think about the details of this *particular scene* and note what sticks out to you in terms of how Jesus relates to the following:
- **Four friends**. What motivated them to do whatever it took to find healing for their paralyzed friend?
- **Paralyzed man**. Imagine what he may have been thinking and feeling throughout the scene. Why do you think that Jesus **forgave** him before **healing** him?

(Jesus Forgives, Week of 2/25 Continues)

- **Religious authorities.** How did Jesus challenge their understanding of the scene and what was happening?
- **Witnesses.** What specifically do you think amazed them most?

REFLECT

- In terms of **healing** and **forgiveness**, which of the **characters** do you most relate to?
- Think of who you might need to **forgive** in this Lenten season.

PRAY

- Together, lift up joys & concerns, then pray: **Jesus, you remind us that all power and authority was given to you to forgive sins. Forgive us, we pray, for the things that keep us from following you. May we “Go” home knowing that we are loved, forgiven and free. AMEN.**

Week of February 25 – Go Family Activities & Mission Activities

“MISSION” – The Larva or caterpillar stage is where it eats and eats in order to grow. Its mission is to eat in order to grow. Jesus’ mission was to forgive, heal, and teach us about forgiveness, like he did with the paralyzed man.

FAMILY ACTIVITY – We can learn about our mission by praying and devouring God’s Word in the Bible. As a family, talk about your favorite Bible stories and start looking for a family Bible verse. Pray about what God wants your family’s mission to be. Write your mission and family verse on your map.

GO MISSION ACTIVITY – The LORD forgives us for the ways that we failed to care for the earth. Think about **recycling habits** & consider becoming a sponsor for **“compostables”** for a church meal.

Week of March 3 / Jesus Frees

Message Focus: Jesus frees a woman from a disorder and invites her to “go in peace,” and then Jesus frees a child from the arms of death. How has Jesus freed you from that which is binding you?

Luke 8:40-56 (NIV) / ⁴⁰ Now when Jesus returned, a crowd welcomed him, for they were all expecting him. ⁴¹ Then a man named Jairus, a synagogue leader, came and fell at Jesus’ feet, pleading with him to come to his house ⁴² because his only daughter, a girl of about twelve, was dying.

As Jesus was on his way, the crowds almost crushed him. ⁴³ And a woman was there who had been subject to bleeding for twelve years, but no one could heal her. ⁴⁴ She came up behind him and touched the edge of his cloak, and immediately her bleeding stopped. ⁴⁵ **“Who touched me?”** Jesus asked. When they all denied it, Peter said, “Master, the people are crowding and pressing against you.”

⁴⁶ But Jesus said, **“Someone touched me; I know that power has gone out from me.”** ⁴⁷ Then the woman, seeing that she could not go unnoticed, came trembling and fell at his feet. In the presence of all the people, she told why she had touched him and how she had been instantly healed. ⁴⁸ Then he said to her, **“Daughter, your faith has healed you. Go in peace.”**

⁴⁹ While Jesus was still speaking, someone came from the house of Jairus, the synagogue leader. “Your daughter is dead,” he said. “Don’t bother the teacher anymore.” ⁵⁰ Hearing this, Jesus said to Jairus, **“Don’t be afraid; just believe, and she will be healed.”**

(Jesus Frees, Week of 3/3 Continues)

⁵¹ When he arrived at the house of Jairus, he did not let anyone go in with him except Peter, John and James, and the child's father and mother. ⁵² Meanwhile, all the people were wailing and mourning for her. **"Stop wailing,"** Jesus said. **"She is not dead but asleep."**

⁵³ They laughed at him, knowing that she was dead. ⁵⁴ But he took her by the hand and said, **"My child, get up!"** ⁵⁵ Her spirit returned, and at once she stood up. Then Jesus told them to give her something to eat. ⁵⁶ Her parents were astonished, but he ordered them not to tell anyone what had happened.

OPEN

- Intro: Think about a time when you heard the words **"don't be afraid"** or **"just believe"** – how did those words encourage your **faith** in challenging situations?
- Pray: **God, there are moments when we are held captive by our fears and doubts. Move us to reach out and to take that next step in faith. AMEN.**

OBSERVE

- Read **Luke 8:40-56**. There is a story within a story – as you weave the stories together, which details speak to you?
- In Jewish culture, details about **dying & death** as well as **blood** needed special attention as one would be "unclean" (search for these topics in online Bible search)
- Two **females**, one 12 years old, and another woman who had been bleeding that child's entire life, were **desperate for healing** – how does Jesus heal each of them?

REFLECT

- When in your life have you felt like you were in a **hopeless** situation?
- How did your **faith in Jesus** help you to experience healing and/or resolution?
- Today, how might you bring **healing** and guide someone who is in despair?

PRAY

- Together, lift up joys & concerns, then pray: **Jesus, only you can free us from that which binds us: fears, doubts, sufferings. Fill us with the kind of faith that can move mountains. In your holy name we pray, AMEN.**

Week of March 3 – Go Family Activities & Mission Activities

"MODIFICATION" – In this stage the caterpillar shed its outer skin over and over in order to grow. Jesus wants us to step out of our comfort zone in order to be freed and grow as a follower of Him, like the woman who touched the hem of his garment.

FAMILY ACTIVITY – Where does your family need to be brave and try something new? Pray, asking God to help you be brave. On your map write down one new thing you can try as a family.

GO MISSION ACTIVITY – Unexpected hardships can happen to anyone. Have you heard of **The Furniture Project**? They believe in neighbors helping neighbors, and they collect gently used furniture and items for those who need them. Learn more, donate an item, or volunteer to help.

Week of March 10 / Jesus Feeds

Message Focus: When Jesus was teaching a large crowd, it was time to feed them, and Jesus instructed the disciples to “go and see” how many loaves they had to give them. Are you prepared to be fed by Jesus? And will you choose to help feed others?

Mark 6:30-44 (NIV) / ³⁰The apostles gathered around Jesus and reported to him all they had done and taught. ³¹Then, because so many people were coming and going that they did not even have a chance to eat, he said to them, **“Come with me by yourselves to a quiet place and get some rest.”** ³²So they went away by themselves in a boat to a solitary place. ³³But many who saw them leaving recognized them and ran on foot from all the towns and got there ahead of them. ³⁴When Jesus landed and saw a large crowd, he had compassion on them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd.

So he began teaching them many things. ³⁵By this time it was late in the day, so his disciples came to him. “This is a remote place,” they said, “and it’s already very late. ³⁶Send the people away so that they can go to the surrounding countryside and villages and buy themselves something to eat.”

³⁷But he answered, **“You give them something to eat.”**

They said to him, “That would take more than half a year’s wages! Are we to go and spend that much on bread and give it to them to eat?”

³⁸**“How many loaves do you have?”** he asked. **“Go and see.”** When they found out, they said, “Five—and two fish.”

³⁹Then Jesus directed them to have all the people sit down in groups on the green grass. ⁴⁰So they sat down in groups of hundreds and fifties. ⁴¹Taking the five loaves and the two fish and looking up to heaven, he gave thanks and broke the loaves. Then he gave them to his disciples to distribute to the people. He also divided the two fish among them all. ⁴²They all ate and were satisfied, ⁴³and the disciples picked up twelve basketfuls of broken pieces of bread and fish. ⁴⁴The number of the men who had eaten was five thousand.

OPEN

- Intro: Share any **“miracle”** food stories from your experiences or times when you ran out of food – how do these experiences influence how you prepare for gatherings?
- Pray: **God, there are moments when we are tempted to have a scarcity mentality versus an abundance mentality. Inspire our understanding of your abundance and ability to feed thousands physically and spiritually. AMEN.**

OBSERVE

- Read **Mark 6:30-44**. Jesus and disciples went to a **“solitary place”** for what purpose (to rest and to eat), and yet the people followed. What were they hungry for (focus on spiritual needs)?
- As Jesus cared for their **spiritual needs** by teaching the sheep – he then had an opportunity to feed the sheep; what was the problem with feeding them?
- Think about the significance of the **numbers** in the story: **“five loaves and two fish”** and people sitting in groups of **“hundreds and fifties.”**
- How do you experience the **miracle** of the feeding of 5,000 men (plus women and children)? Do you believe that Jesus performed the **miracle**, or did Jesus inspire the people **participate**?

(Jesus Feeds, Week of 3/10 Continues)

REFLECT

- When has Jesus **physically** fed you – and when has he **spiritually** fed you?
- Jesus says to “**Go and see...**” How might you **feed** others’ physical and spiritual needs? In what ways does Jesus still provide “**leftovers**” for you to celebrate?

PRAY

- Together, lift up joys & concerns, then pray: **Jesus, there are times when you send us to “go and see” what is available to care for others. Open our eyes to the needs and the ways that we can respond in your name, AMEN.**

Week of March 10 – Go Family Activities & Mission Activities

“MARVEL” – In this stage the caterpillar stops eating and attaches to a leaf or branch. It is preparing for the big changes that are coming. Through these changes it has to be attached to something. We need to stay connected to Jesus and Jesus also wants us to be connected to and care for others around us, like the disciples did when Jesus fed 5,000 people with five loaves of bread and two fish.

FAMILY ACTIVITY – Our connections to Jesus & others help us when we go through changes in our lives and difficult situations. Write on your map how your family stays connected to Jesus and others. Write down an example of how those connections helped your family thru a change or difficult time.

GO MISSION ACTIVITY – Food, it’s what’s for dinner! When you are grocery shopping, add four (or more) items to support our **FaithWorks Pantry** (the church has a list of most needed items). Volunteer at the **FaithWorks Pantry** on the second Thursday and/or the fourth Saturday!

Week of March 17 / Jesus Summons

Message Focus: When Jesus summons a blind man, he experiences healing and is invited to “go” as his faith has healed him. What the blind man does next has inspired followers of Jesus for generations. Will you follow Jesus too?

Mark 10:46-52 (NIV) / ⁴⁶Then they came to Jericho. As Jesus and his disciples, together with a large crowd, were leaving the city, a blind man, Bartimaeus (which means “son of Timaeus”), was sitting by the roadside begging.

⁴⁷When he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to shout, “Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!” ⁴⁸Many rebuked him and told him to be quiet, but he shouted all the more, “Son of David, have mercy on me!”

⁴⁹Jesus stopped and said, “**Call him.**”

So they called to the blind man, “Cheer up! On your feet! He’s calling you.” ⁵⁰Throwing his cloak aside, he jumped to his feet and came to Jesus.

⁵¹“**What do you want me to do for you?**” Jesus asked him. The blind man said, “Rabbi, I want to see.”

⁵²“**Go,**” said Jesus, “**your faith has healed you.**” Immediately he received his sight and followed Jesus along the road.

OPEN

- Intro: Share a time when you were at a **crossroads** in your life (changes in relationships, jobs, homes) – what was the **catalyst** that moved you from one place to another?
- Pray: **Gracious LORD, you call us out of our ordinary routines to crossroads that invite change in our lives. Jesus is calling to us and asking, “What do you want me to do for you?” Give us the strength and courage to respond. AMEN.**

OBSERVE

- Read **Mark 10:46-52**. Reflect on the characters in the story & their responses to what is happening (fill-in the spaces):
Bartimaeus (**blind** man begging) –
Crowd (shushing) –
Jesus (summoning & healing) –
Bartimaeus (**healed** man following) –
- Why do you think the **crowd** tried to keep the **blind man** quiet?
- What does it mean for Bartimaeus to be **throwing his cloak aside**?
- Why did Jesus ask Bartimaeus, **“What do you want me to do for you?”**

REFLECT

- If Jesus asked you, **“What do you want me to do for you?”** how might you respond with what is happening in your life right now?
- Jesus said to **“Go”** indicating that Bartimaeus could go **anywhere** yet Bartimaeus followed Jesus along the road – what motivated him to do so?

PRAY

- Together, lift up joys & concerns, then pray: **Jesus, we are grateful that you meet us exactly where we are along the journey. Summon us, heal us, transform us, and move us to follow you every day. AMEN.**

Week of March 17 – Go Family Activities & Mission Activities

“MATURITY” – The chrysalis is the caterpillar’s active pupal stage and where it is beginning an important transformation into something new, it is maturing. When the blind man was healed by Jesus he was changed and immediately decided to follow Jesus and enter a new stage of his faith.

FAMILY ACTIVITY – We continue to grow and change when we make the decision to follow Jesus. Name people your family know that are mature Christians. What similar qualities do they have? Write their names on your map. Talk to one of those people about their faith story.

GO MISSION ACTIVITY – Got socks? The church will be collecting SOCKS in April – start picking some up and watch for more information!

Palm Sunday, March 24 / Jesus Enters Jerusalem

Message Focus: Jesus instructs his disciples to “go” to prepare his way to enter Jerusalem.

When he enters as a humble King, the people respond with “Hosanna!”

How might you enter this Holy Week recognizing Jesus the King?

Mark 11:1-11 (NIV) / 11 As they approached Jerusalem and came to Bethphage and Bethany at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two of his disciples, ²saying to them, **“Go to the village ahead of you, and just as you enter it, you will find a colt tied there, which no one has ever ridden. Untie it and bring it here. ³If anyone asks you, ‘Why are you doing this?’ say, ‘The Lord needs it and will send it back here shortly.”**

⁴They went and found a colt outside in the street, tied at a doorway. As they untied it, ⁵some people standing there asked, “What are you doing, untying that colt?” ⁶They answered as Jesus had told them to, and the people let them go. ⁷When they brought the colt to Jesus and threw their cloaks over it, he sat on it. ⁸Many people spread their cloaks on the road, while others spread branches they had cut in the fields. ⁹Those who went ahead and those who followed shouted, **“Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! ¹⁰Blessed is the coming kingdom of our father David! Hosanna in the highest heaven!”**

¹¹Jesus entered Jerusalem and went into the temple courts. He looked around at everything, but since it was already late, he went out to Bethany with the Twelve.

OPEN

- Intro: Share about a **memorable Palm Sunday** experience in your faith journey. What made that experience so **memorable** and **meaningful**?
- Pray: **LORD, Jesus entered Jerusalem as a king, yet not the kind of king that the people expected. This Holy Week temper our expectations knowing the rest of the story. Inspire us to enter Jerusalem with Jesus and with his purpose. AMEN.**

OBSERVE

- Read **Mark 11:1-11**. While this is a familiar story, search for little details that speak to your mind, heart, and spirit this year and this week.
- Jesus sent the disciples with **“Go...”** and instructions to prepare for his entry into Jerusalem. How do you think they felt about fetching an **unridden colt** (young male donkey)? How do you think they felt about his **servant posture**?
- The **response of the people** is powerful – reflect on their **actions** (with cloaks and palm branches) and with the **words** that they were saying including, **“Hosanna...”** (expression of adoration, praise, joy; “Pray, save us!” or “Save, now!”)
- How do these **actions** and **words** reflect the expectations of the people seeing their Messiah in those moments?

REFLECT

- Imagine being present with the crowd when **Jesus entered Jerusalem**. Where would you **find yourself** in that parade – silently watching? right in the action? shouting from a distance? something else?
- If Jesus (in flesh) appeared today, how might people **welcome & honor him**?

(Jesus Enters Jerusalem, 3/24 Continues)

- How might you *receive Jesus the Messiah* at the beginning of this Holy Week?

PRAY

- Together, lift up joys & concerns, then pray: **Jesus, as a humble servant you entered Jerusalem revealing your true nature. Even knowing what was to come, you entered the city that would crucify you. Help us to make this a Holy Week. AMEN.**

Week of March 24 – Go Family Activities & Mission Activities

“**MYSTERY**” – This stage is the quiet pupal stage. It is the final metamorphosis from caterpillar to butterfly. No one knows exactly how the transformation from caterpillar to butterfly takes place; it is a mystery. Holy Week is full of change that is a mystery; from people cheering for Jesus to people yelling to crucify him. The biggest metamorphosis was still to come and even more mysterious.

FAMILY ACTIVITY – Look at family pictures from over the years. Talk about how your family members have changed. How have they changed in ways you cannot see? Write some of these changes on your map. What ways has your family changed during Lent? Write those on your map.

GO MISSION ACTIVITY – Let’s clean up! Family ministry will be doing some clean-up of Oaks Park on 3/27, yet we can help to get ready for Easter by entering our property and picking up trash (bonus if you clean up on the north side of the Central Middle School fence line).

Maundy Thursday, March 28 / Jesus Washes Feet

Message Focus: Jesus washes the feet of the disciples and demonstrates his true servant nature. How might you “go” and be a servant in the name of Jesus?

John 13:1-17, 31b-35 (NIV)

Good Friday, March 29 / Jesus Dies on a Cross

Message Focus: Jesus faces arrest, betrayal, questioning, denial, interrogation, sentencing, mocking, and being crucified on a cross. Those closest to Jesus fall away.

Will you “go” all the way to the cross with Jesus or “go” away?

John 18:1 – 19:42 (NIV)

Easter Sunday, March 31 / Jesus Sends

Message Focus: Early on Easter morning, the tomb of Jesus is found empty. As the disciples of Jesus process their grief in their own way, Mary Magdalene discovers that Jesus is alive, and he tells her to “go” to tell the disciples what she has experienced. Will you “go” and share the Good News of Jesus’ resurrection with others?

John 20:1-18 (NIV) / 20 Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene went to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the entrance. ² So she came running to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one Jesus loved, and said, “They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we don’t know where they have put him!”

³ So Peter and the other disciple started for the tomb. ⁴ Both were running, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first.

(Jesus Sends, 3/31 Continues)

⁵ He bent over and looked in at the strips of linen lying there but did not go in. ⁶ Then Simon Peter came along behind him and went straight into the tomb. He saw the strips of linen lying there, ⁷ as well as the cloth that had been wrapped around Jesus' head. The cloth was still lying in its place, separate from the linen. ⁸ Finally the other disciple, who had reached the tomb first, also went inside. He saw and believed. ⁹ (They still did not understand from Scripture that Jesus had to rise from the dead.) ¹⁰ Then the disciples went back to where they were staying.

¹¹ Now Mary stood outside the tomb crying. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb ¹² and saw two angels in white, seated where Jesus' body had been, one at the head and the other at the foot.

¹³ They asked her, "Woman, why are you crying?"

"They have taken my Lord away," she said, "and I don't know where they have put him."

¹⁴ At this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not realize that it was Jesus.

¹⁵ He asked her, "**Woman, why are you crying? Who is it you are looking for?**" Thinking he was the gardener, she said, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have put him, and I will get him." ¹⁶ Jesus said to her, "**Mary.**"

She turned toward him and cried out in Aramaic, "Rabboni!" (which means "Teacher").

¹⁷ Jesus said, "**Do not hold on to me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father. Go instead to my brothers and tell them, 'I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'**"

¹⁸ Mary Magdalene went to the disciples with the news: "I have seen the Lord!" And she told them that he had said these things to her.

OPEN

- Intro: What are some of your favorite **Easter** traditions (secular *and* sacred)? Which will you (or did you) celebrate this year?
- Pray: **God, we have arrived at this special day to celebrate the Resurrection of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior! Fill us with peace and joy! This is the day! AMEN.**

OBSERVE

- Read **John 20:1-18**. Look at this story's details from the characters' perspectives (and remember their stories and how they got to this day: **Peter / John / Mary Magdalene**)
- Peter & John had different reactions to the **empty tomb** – what about their experiences in the **past three days** shaped their understanding of what happened?
- Why couldn't Mary Magdalene "**see**" Jesus? What was it that finally allowed her to see and to experience the **resurrected Christ**?
- Jesus gives Mary Magdalene clear **instructions** about touching him and also about going to the disciples – how do you "**hear**" these instructions?

REFLECT

- This too is a familiar story filled with so many details that speak to us – do you "**hear**" anything new from a **different perspective**?
- This Easter, what do you need to **leave behind** in the tomb to fully experience the **empty** tomb and the **Resurrection story**?

PRAY

- Together, lift up joys & concerns, then pray: **Jesus, this is the day! You have risen, risen indeed! May we celebrate this day with an “Alleluia,” and glorifying your Holy name! AMEN.**

Week of March 31 – Go Family Activities & Mission Activities

“**MIRACLE**” – In this stage a beautiful butterfly emerges. Jesus emerged from the tomb – the most amazing metamorphosis ever and reminds us that because of him we will be transformed too.

We want to share this miracle story with others just like the women who saw that the tomb was empty and then saw the resurrected Jesus.

FAMILY ACTIVITY – We can tell others this story in ten words:

God loves. We sin. Jesus died. God forgives. We accept.

How will your family share this story with others? Write it on your map.

On your map write down or draw a picture of how you can thank and praise God for the miracle of Easter and how he has changed/transformed your family during this Lenten journey.

GO MISSION ACTIVITY – Our sister church **Iglesia Comunitaria** has a growing children & youth ministry program. We can help by providing “grab & go” snacks & beverages including: juice boxes, individual bags of Goldfish crackers & fruit snacks.

