



# EASTER

VICTORY HAS A NAME

April Teaching Series

# Victory Has a Name

Week 1

# Reflect

Take some time to process together as a group on last week's practice:

- How did you start practicing what we talked about last week?
- How was your experience in your practice?
- Where did you feel God most present and distant this week?

## Overview

Beneath the polished surface of Easter lies a deep human ache—our hidden brokenness, shame, and longing for something real. While we often manage appearances and project strength, Jesus confronts the gap between our public image and our private reality, inviting us to bring our whole selves into the light. Through the story of Lazarus, we see that Jesus is not just offering answers or future hope—He declares Himself as the Resurrection and the Life, calling for faith that trusts who He is even before circumstances change. At the cross, Jesus fully pays for our sin, shame, and brokenness, revealing both the seriousness of our condition and the depth of God's love and mercy.

The resurrection then stands as the ultimate proof that Jesus is who He said He is—that death, despair, and darkness do not have the final word. Just as He called Mary by name in her grief, Jesus still meets people personally and calls them out of hiding, shame, and spiritual death into new life. This message is not just something to believe intellectually but an invitation to respond: to surrender, to trust, and to allow Jesus to bring life to what feels dead inside. Victory has a name—Jesus—and the question that remains is whether we will respond to His call.

# Reading

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## John 20:11-18 NIV

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.

## Discussion

Why do you think Mary didn't recognize Jesus at first?

What does it mean to you that Jesus calls people by name?

Have you ever felt like God was absent, but later realized He was present?

What is one "ache" you've been carrying that you haven't really named before God?

What would surrender to the resurrection power actually look like for you this week?

# Practice

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*Reflect in light of the Easter message from last weekend where you are with God:*

## 1. Get Quiet (1–2 min)

Sit in silence. No phone, no music—just stillness.

### Take a deep breath and pray:

*“Jesus, here I am. Help me to be honest with You.”*

## 2. Name the Ache (2–3 min)

### Ask yourself:

*What am I actually feeling today?*

*What feels heavy, numb, or buried?*

### Say it plainly to Jesus:

*“Jesus, this is where I’m at...”*

## 3. Listen for His Voice (2–3 min)

Reflect on this moment when Jesus called Mary by name

### Now ask:

*“Jesus, what are You saying to me?”*

Sit and listen. Write down whatever comes.

## 4. Respond (1–2 min)

### Pray a simple response:

*“I trust You.”*

*“I surrender this to You.”*

*“Help me come out of this.”*

Then take one small step of obedience that day.

**He is Risen**

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