

**Group discussion** *Each number below includes questions that relate to the scripture. I offer a few answers, but your perspective may be better. The point is to discuss, not to get 100% agreement. Rule of thumb: the fewer questions you ask, the better. Save time for “the big question.”*

*Read Matthew 28:1-10 aloud. Since it is a short passage try reading it out loud a few times.*

1. Begin your discussion by paying extra attention to the perspective of Mary Magdalene and the other Mary. What kinds of things have they been through in recent days?

What, then, might they be feeling on this particular day?

Why do you think they are coming to the tomb?

What does it tell us about discipleship (and the Christian faith) that they are called to be witnesses even in this state of being?

Why should this be a challenge and an encouragement to us?

### Come and See

2. Part of the sequence of events for Mary and Mary includes several experiences. What are some of the things they experience in this text?

Why do you think these experiences were important for them in the development of their faith as disciples?

Share one significant faith experience you have had in your process of becoming a disciple. Why is that an important experience for you?

What did you learn from it about Jesus and/or following Jesus?

Based on this conversation, what might a church (i.e., College Hills) do in order to help create and cultivate experiences of faith for its members?

### Go and Tell

3. What instruction do Mary and Mary receive twice in this text?  
*Hint: Check verse 7 & 10.*

Why is it important that disciples “go and tell” others about Jesus?  
*Try to think of other answers than “because we are told to do so.”*

What kinds of obstacles do you think might have stood in the way of Mary and Mary from going and telling others about Jesus?

Would you say those obstacles are similar or different to our obstacles from telling others about Jesus today? How so?

Do you have an example of a time where you overcame obstacles in order to tell others about Jesus? What happened?

5. Part of the instruction to Mary and Mary concerns not just that they say something, but what they are supposed to say (the content). What is their message to be according to this text?

Why is this good news for them then? Why is this good news now?

How would you say the church today does at communicating this message to the world? How could we do better?

What might an individual do who was trying to do a better job of sharing the message of Jesus with others? What advice might you give them?

✠ **The million-dollar question** *If you ask only one question, let this be it. Allow at least 20 minutes. Go around the circle and give each person an opportunity to answer. It's okay if they pass, but at least they get a chance to respond.*

This new series is entitled, “Faith Next Door.” Name one way you can take your faith next door this week. How can this group help you in that effort?

## Resources

### Bible notes

Matthew 28 gives us a unique glimpse into the moments following the resurrection. However, Matthew is not the only Gospel writer to address this event. See Mark 16:1-18; Luke 24:1-12; and John 20:1-18 for other accounts. Make sure you notice the differences in each story. Often these will reveal what is especially important to the Gospel writer in their retelling the story of Jesus.

**Kid-friendly activity.** *An activity designed to help kids and adults grow in faith together. Do this first, then dismiss the kids so the adults can talk.*

### The “Come and See! Go and Tell!” Activity

Prep: Pair up the kids into groups of 2-3. Instruct them to go out (inside or outside will work) and take a walk. While they are walking tell them to make a note of the kinds of things they see. Give them 5 minutes or so to go on their walk.

Gather them back together and have the kids share what they saw, heard, and experienced.

Read Matthew 28:1-10

Ask: What do you think it was like for Mary and Mary to experience what they did in the story we just read? When do you think they were afraid? What would have brought them comfort? What instruction did both the angel (and Jesus) give to them? How did they know what to say?

Lesson: They knew what to say because of what had just happened. In other words, they were to witness to the things they had experienced. Think about the activity you just did—you went out, experienced things, and then told others. It works the same with faith—you go out, experience things of faith, and share those with others. This is something everyone can do! Let’s think together about how we can practice this in the upcoming week.

Ask: When is a time you experienced things of faith? How would you share that with another person (practice with the group)? Who is a person in your life who you can share about Jesus with?

Pray: God, help us to be your witnesses in the world this week.



September 18, 2011

## LIFE Group Guide

### Matthew 28:1-10 – Faith Next Door (Part 1):

### Come and See! Go and Tell!

By Wilson McCoy (wmccoy@colleghills.org)

The theme: **Discipleship can be summarized in two distinct, but related moves—come and see; go and tell. The first half draws us in towards the person and work of Jesus. The second half sends us out into the world to share the person and work of Jesus. Jesus is the hinge of both movements. Without Jesus, there is no discipleship. With Jesus, we are empowered to be his witnesses in the world.**

This week Kevin began a new series entitled, “Faith Next Door.” In August he emphasized the need for us to have “Faith at Home.” However, to just hold one’s faith to a personal level is an incomplete picture of discipleship. Our faith, at some point, must also go public. It must move outward. It must drive us to go and tell the things we have experienced in Jesus.

Leadership Announcement: Mark your calendars for October 5<sup>th</sup> OR 12<sup>th</sup>. On these Wednesday nights Wilson and John want to meet with all the group leaders to talk about LIFE Groups in 2011 and share some ideas for 2012. You only need to be there for one of the two nights. The meeting will last no longer than an hour. Please make it a point to attend.

Also, Ministry Fair is next Sunday morning, September 25! Be there!

**Relate** *Use a few to introduce the theme, check everyone’s spiritual pulse, and “break the ice.” No right or wrong answers – maybe goofy but not wrong! Look for opportunities to affirm and encourage through these questions.*

- ❖ When is the last time you could not sleep? What did you end up doing?
- ❖ What station is your car tuned to right now? Or what CD is in your car right now?
- ❖ What is your favorite fall time activity? (It felt like fall a couple of days this past week).