

JOHN 20:1–9, THAT YOU ALSO MAY BELIEVE

¹Early 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.

²So 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!”

³So Peter and the other disciple started for the tomb. ⁴Both were running, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. ⁵He bent over and looked in at the strips of linen lying there but did not go in. ⁶Then Simon Peter, who was behind him, arrived and went into the tomb. He saw the strips of linen lying there, ⁷as well as the burial cloth that had been around Jesus’ head. The cloth was folded up by itself, separate from the linen. ⁸Finally 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.)

Discussion Questions

1. In his introduction, Pastor Josh Moody distinguished between the *make believe* of the Queen of Wonderland—who informed Alice that by practicing she had gained the ability to “believe six impossible things before breakfast”—and *believing faith*. How would you differentiate the two?
2. What are some “impossible things” that must be believed if one is to deny the resurrection?
3. “Seeing *alone* is not believing,” Pastor Josh asserted. What conclusion did Mary of Magdala initially draw from seeing the stone cover of the tomb removed?
To what conclusion (20:11–18) did she subsequently come?
4. What evidence (verse 6) did Peter see?
What (Luke 24:12) was his initial response?
What (1 Peter 1:3–5, 8–9) was his revised conclusion?
What (Mark 16:7; John 21:1–17) produced this confidence?
5. What clue did Pastor Josh point out (from verse 2) for why only John immediately connected the dots?
While faith doesn’t contradict facts, what does it add to factual information?
6. Pastor Josh noted that the Greeks believed in the immortality of the soul but not the resurrection of the body. But why were Jews, who believed in an ultimate general resurrection (John 11:24), blindsided by Jesus’ resurrection?
7. How does the historic existence of eyewitnesses (1 Corinthians 15:3–7) validate the record of the Gospels?
Why can being an “earwitness” be just as valid as being an eyewitness?
(See Luke 24:1–8.)
8. What (verse 9) is the foundational source—then and now—for the faith of disciples? (See also John 20:30–31.)