



**SERIES: WAYPOINTS, WEEK 8 EASTER SUNDAY**  
**MESSAGE TITLE: THE TALE OF TWO GARDENS**

**SPEAKER: BRAD WILLIAMS**  
**DATE: SUNDAY, APRIL 12, 2020**

## MESSAGE SUMMARY

**BIBLICAL TEXT(S): *Genesis 2:8-9, John 1:1, John 20:1-2; 20:11-16; 20:9-22 and 20:30-31***

The book of John comes to a climax in chapter 20. The book began with a reference to Genesis (“In the beginning”) and has detailed 7 of Jesus’ miracles. The number 7 was associated with wholeness and completeness since God had created in 7 days. In John chapter 20, an eighth miracle of Jesus is detailed: his resurrection from the dead.

There are numerous references to Genesis in the resurrection story. These are signs and symbols to us that with the resurrection of Jesus, a new creation has come. Jesus’ resurrection puts death, a consequence of sin, to death. It ushers in a new way of life and a reason for us, as followers of Jesus, to be filled with hope.

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

*These questions are designed to help lead your group through a progression of engagement with the Bible passage(s) and the speaker’s message. These can help your group understand and apply the teaching more profitably*

## LEAN IN

***These are icebreakers and warm ups, mostly just to get the group talking and start the flow of conversation. Choose one and talk it over for 5-10 minutes.***

1. What is one thing that you’re thankful for in the midst of this quarantine?
2. What is one Easter tradition that you’ve been able to carry on this year, even in the midst of chaos?
3. What example or story stood out to you in Sunday’s sermon? Why was it significant to you?
4. What was your favorite Easter tradition as a kid?

## LOOK DOWN

***These are questions about the Bible passage(s) and observations about what’s been read. Spend about 15-20 minutes on three questions max.***

1. On what day do the events of John 20 take place? What do Mary and the disciples find when they go to the tomb?
2. What does Mary encounter inside the tomb as she is crying? What do you think of her reaction?
3. Who does Mary mistake Jesus for? What does Jesus say to her? When does she recognize Jesus? What is her reaction?

*cont.*

## CONTINUED:

4. What does Jesus do when he appears to his disciples?
5. Read through Genesis 2. What parallels do you see between the creation narrative in Genesis 2 and John 20? What do you think the significance of these parallels is?

## LOOK OUT

***These questions help connect the world of the Bible to today. Spend about 15-20 minutes on three questions max.***

1. How have you seen people in our world try to fix the brokenness and disintegration that we all experience? What causes do people take up or aspirations do people claim?
2. How do people think about death in our culture? Do they avoid the topic? Are they scared? Do they glorify it? What are examples of society's thinking about death?
3. What is the significance to our world and our lives that Jesus' resurrection means that there is a death to death? Does that impact our everyday lives? Why or why not?
4. What kinds of things do people look to for substance and meaning in our world?
5. Right now, many of the things we have found significance in and build our lives upon are crumbling are dramatically altered. How have you seen people react to this?

## LOOK IN

***These are questions that help you consider personal application. Spend about 15-20 minutes on three questions max.***

1. What things have you looked to in the past and present to fix the brokenness and disintegration in your life? Have these things helped? Why or why not?
2. What are your thoughts on death? How does Jesus' death and resurrection impact your thinking/feelings on the subject?
3. How does Jesus' victory over death impact your daily life? Do you think it should have a great or lesser impact? Why or why not?
4. How does the message of the resurrection bring substance and meaning to your life?
5. Has your life and significance been built upon the hope found in Jesus? How have you seen your own life and faith shaken by current events? How does the truth of Jesus' resurrection give you hope?

cont.

## CONTINUED:

## LIVE IT OUT

***These action steps help apply this week's message to day to day life. Choose one question and talk it over for 5-10 minutes.***

1. Have you believed in Jesus, but not really lived like it? What's one thing you can do to put your belief and faith into practice?
2. If the foundation of your life feels shaky right now, how can your group pray for you as you seek to find significance, hope, and meaning in Christ?
3. Do you have trouble trying to figure out what it looks like to move your belief into practice? How can your group pray for and encourage you as you seek to trust Jesus and live in a way that honors him?

*Thanks to Ashleigh Rich and the ADT team this week for notes and questions, as well as Charissa Burns (@charissaburnsstudio on Instagram) for her illustrated notes, which normally appear on the following page.*

# WAYPOINTS

## EASTER - THE TALE OF TWO GARDENS

JOHN 20

An unusual look at the resurrection:

- Genesis
- gardens
- disruptions
- Signs
- Numbers
- New creation
- Bombi
- importance of death

It's going to be a JOURNEY!

The resurrection starts in a garden. Genesis 2:8-9 ~ a hub of life, a place of wholeness, where humanity can with its creator, no worry of death.

BUT THEN DISRUPTION - a wave comes through - disruption, defiance, deception, disintegration. SIN enters the picture, HUMAN BROKENNESS

JOHN writes about these signs that lead to Jesus. These signs build on each other. Numbers are important here. John chose 7 because seven represents perfection, completion & is associated with Creation!

Humans get KICKED OUT OF THE GARDEN. But we still have hardwired into us that we are missing the wholeness of that garden.

A START OF THE NEW CREATION

7 miracles  
7 Days  
BUT THEN THERE IS AN 8<sup>th</sup> miracle!  
That happens on the FIRST DAY OF A NEW WEEK!

John 20:1-2 - on the first day of the week - Mary Magdalene goes to the tomb of Jesus. She finds it empty.

John 20:11-16 She mistakes Jesus for a GARDENER!

Also remember that John 1:1 "In the beginning" like in Genesis 1:1

John 20:30 "It is finished!" mirrors Genesis 2 "it is finished"

Jesus breathes the HOLY SPIRIT into them - A New thing a new creation

JESUS BRINGS AN AWAKENING

John 20:19-22 - Jesus BREATHES ON THE DISCIPLES - like God breathed life into Adam

Death means it's over. It means we lose it all.

But the resurrection points to the fact that there is more to life than the physical!

JESUS conquered death and we become a new humanity, a new creation!

Jesus calls us to go and do as he does & be made new.

Real life is found in Jesus, and his resurrection. It's time to move toward JESUS!