

FACE TO FACE

DIVINE ENCOUNTERS

Mary Magdalene's Story

Focus When Jesus died on the cross and rose again, He opened the way for God to become our Father, and He took back all authority and dominion from Satan.

Open Play a collaborative drawing game. Sit around a table or in a circle. Each person in the group needs a piece of paper and something to draw with. Set a timer for 10 seconds and have each person begin a drawing. When the timer buzzes, each person quickly passes their drawing to the group member on their right. Set the timer again for 10 seconds, and have each person continue the drawing that was handed to them. Keep repeating the process of drawing then passing until you get your original drawing back. Have fun explaining your drawing to the group. Give prizes for the best and the worst drawings.

Read The night before Jesus was crucified, He shared the Passover meal with His disciples. During this meal, He told them what was about to happen so they would believe when these things came to pass (John 14–16). After Jesus died on the cross, He descended to the grave.

While He was in the grave, He took back the keys of death, hell and the grave from Satan. He also released the Old Testament saints from the grave and took them with Him when He ascended to heaven (Ephesians 4:8–9; Matthew 27:52–53).

When Jesus rose from the grave, He came to earth before going to heaven. He appeared first to Mary Magdalene. Jesus came to tell Mary and the other disciples that He was on His way to heaven. He was going to the

Father so they could have relationship with the Father (John 20:17). This message is also for us today.

When Jesus went to the Father in heaven, He entered into the Holy of Holies and presented the sacrifice of His body and blood as a sin offering. At that time, a court happened in heaven, where Satan was cast out as ruler of this world (John 12:31). Death was destroyed, and Jesus was given dominion and a kingdom (Daniel 7:9–14).

Satan lies to us and tells us he still has dominion over this earth and over our lives. For us who follow Jesus, Satan's dominion was taken away when Jesus died and rose again. We have to ask ourselves whether we're yielding dominion to Satan or to Jesus.

Talk

1. Did you learn something new from this message about Christ's death and resurrection?
2. Have you thought much about knowing God as Father, Son (Jesus) and Holy Spirit? Which of the three do you relate to the most? Which would you like to understand better?
3. Some of us have good, faithful, strong earthly fathers. Some of us do not. Without dishonoring your earthly father, talk about what makes a good father. How has God shown Himself to be a good Father?
4. Read Daniel 7:14; 21–22. Jesus was given dominion and a kingdom and Satan was defeated at the cross. And yet we are in a battle where Satan lies to us and tries to defeat us. What are some of the lies the Enemy tells us about our relationships, our past, our finances, our health and our future? Write these lies down in a list.
5. Now, for each lie in Question 4, write a scripture to replace that lie with the truth. If you don't know where the scripture is found in the Bible, try having someone in the group search for it online.

Live

Write an encouraging letter, email, card or text to someone who is facing a difficult spiritual battle. Remind them of who God is in their situation and how He cares for them as their Father. Offer your support in practical ways.

Pray

Thank You, Father, for sending Jesus to pay the penalty for our sins so that we can know You. We praise You, Jesus, because You are the risen King! Please show us, Holy Spirit, any place in our lives where we believe the lies of Satan and are allowing him to have dominion. Lord, teach us how to live in Your kingdom.