

FRESH START IS POSSIBLE

Series: Fresh Start – Week 1

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Sunday, April 5, 2026

“Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us **new birth into a living hope through the resurrection** of Jesus Christ from the dead.” 1 Peter 1:3 (NIV)

“Early on Sunday morning, **while it was still dark**, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and found that the stone had been rolled away from the entrance. ² She ran and found Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved. She said, “They have taken the Lord’s body out of the tomb, and we don’t know where they have put him! ...¹¹ Mary was standing outside the tomb crying, and as she wept, she stooped and looked in. ¹² She saw two white-robed angels, one sitting at the head and the other at the foot of the place where the body of Jesus had been lying. ¹³ “Dear woman, why are you crying?” the angels asked her. “Because they have taken away my Lord,” she replied, “and I don’t know where they have put him.” ¹⁴ She turned to leave and saw someone standing there. **It was Jesus, but she didn’t recognize him.** ¹⁵ “Dear woman, why are you crying?” Jesus asked her. “Who are you looking for?” She thought he was the gardener. “Sir,” she said, “if you have taken him away, tell me where you have put him, and I will go and get him.” ¹⁶ **“Mary!” Jesus said.** She turned to him and cried out, “Rabboni!” (which is Hebrew for “Teacher”). ¹⁷ “Don’t cling to me,” Jesus said, “for I haven’t yet ascended to the Father. But go find my brothers and tell them, ‘I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.’” ¹⁸ Mary Magdalene found the disciples and told them, “I have seen the Lord!” John 20:1–18 (NLT)

EASTER MATTERS BECAUSE...

1. The Empty Tomb Means Your Story Isn’t Over
2. Jesus Meets You In Your Pain And Calls You By Name
3. The Cross + Resurrection = Your Past Can Be Forgiven and Your Future Can Be Rebuilt

- Backward: Your Past Gets Dealt With.

“There is now **no condemnation** for those who are in Christ Jesus.” Romans 8:1 (NIV)

- Forward: Your Future Gets Rebuilt.

“If anyone is in Christ, he is **a new creation**; the old has gone, **the new has come.**” 2 Corinthians 5:17 (ESV)