# Gospel of Matthew Weekly Talk Ideas | Sean McGever

## Matthew Chapter 28

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| Scripture suggestion, basic overview, and background:  The Bible, all of church history, and all theology is unanimous regarding the importance and essential nature of the resurrection for the gospel. In all honesty, and this includes me too, in Young Life we are not great resurrection proclaimers. We’ve spent a lot of time dialling-in sin talks and cross talks but not resurrection talks. Personally I am always working to get better, clearer, and more scriptural when it comes to my proclamation of the resurrection. If you haven’t read 1 Cor. 15 recently I’d suggest you do that to strengthen your resurrection theology.  Here is a suggested outline to discuss the resurrection from Matthew 28:   1. The Marys go to the tomb (v.1) 2. Earthquake, angel, stone, guards (vv.2-4) 3. Angel speaks (vv.5-7) 4. Marys encounter Jesus (vv. 8-10)   ..   1. Disciples encounter Jesus (vv. 16-17) |
| Possible main point(s):   * What is your response to Jesus, Jesus the one who conquered death: Worship or Doubt?   + Note: True worship can include doubt (someone who can say “I will worship you, even with my doubts”), but outright doubt does not worship (I won’t worship you). See verse 17.   + Note: “Worship” is a good word to use as an invitation to follow Jesus, “worship” goes much further than what is typically understood in English when we use the word “believe”.   + Note: I also like “doubt” as the other option, it does not seem final but part of an open process. * Is your hope temporary or eternal? * Jesus is alive (vv.7,9ff.) |
| What this shows us about Jesus:   * Jesus conquered death. Jesus shows us there is life after death. Conquering death also shows us Jesus is divine. * Jesus is not a mere man, teacher, friend, or advice-giver, he accepts worship, it is right to worship Jesus (vv.9, 17) |
| What this has to do with our life:   * Fear is a normal response to the risen Jesus: to thinking about what happens after death, to realizing Jesus truly is alive (vv. 8, 10) * Worship is a normal response to the risen Jesus (vv. 9, 17) * Doubt is a normal response to the risen Jesus (v.17) * We all think about what happens after we die; this story gives us a glimpse of what happens next. |
| Relevant technical details:   * Sabbath (v.1) = Friday at sundown until Saturday at sundown. * First day of the week (v. 1) = Jewish days began at sundown, technically the first day of the week would have been anytime after sundown on Saturday, but v.1 says the women went at dawn, so Sunday at dawn. * Mary, the other Mary (v.1) = It is important to note that at that time and culture women were not accepted as legal witnesses. Ironically this fact makes the story more believable because no one would make this detail up as part of a fabricated story that was attempting to be true. * Tomb (v.2) = The tomb would have been sealed, likely with a physical substance like wax (see 27:66). * Galilee (vv.7, 10, 16) = Galilee is mentioned three times because Jesus had said he would go there (see 26:32) * Worship (vv.9, 17) = Jesus had reminded the devil in 4:10 (Deut 6:13) worship is for God *only*. * Doubt (v.17) = Not a settled state of unbelief, but a state of uncertainty and hesitation. Being divided. |
| Possible illustrations:   * Leaders stand up as proof and an illustration that Jesus is alive (but He is still alive too) * Sit on top of a ladder to simulate the announcement of the angel (vv.5-7) * A pile of clothes to simulate what was found in the empty tomb (see Lk. 24:12) * Kneel and grab someone’s feet to illustrate “we don’t do this for normal humans.” The response to Jesus is unique because He is unique, He is God. * Consider using the resurrection clip from the Passion of the Christ. Link: tiny.cc/mt28 |

*For more details see ylhelp.com*

Matthew 28 (NIV84)

*The Resurrection*

**28** After the Sabbath, at dawn on the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to look at the tomb.

2 There was a violent earthquake, for an angel of the Lord came down from heaven and, going to the tomb, rolled back the stone and sat on it. 3 His appearance was like lightning, and his clothes were white as snow. 4 The guards were so afraid of him that they shook and became like dead men.

5 The angel said to the women, “Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. 6 He is not here; he has risen, just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay. 7 Then go quickly and tell his disciples: ‘He has risen from the dead and is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see him.’ Now I have told you.”

8 So the women hurried away from the tomb, afraid yet filled with joy, and ran to tell his disciples. 9 Suddenly Jesus met them. “Greetings,” he said. They came to him, clasped his feet and worshiped him. 10 Then Jesus said to them, “Do not be afraid. Go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me.”

*The Guards’ Report*

11 While the women were on their way, some of the guards went into the city and reported to the chief priests everything that had happened. 12 When the chief priests had met with the elders and devised a plan, they gave the soldiers a large sum of money, 13 telling them, “You are to say, ‘His disciples came during the night and stole him away while we were asleep.’ 14 If this report gets to the governor, we will satisfy him and keep you out of trouble.” 15 So the soldiers took the money and did as they were instructed. And this story has been widely circulated among the Jews to this very day.

*The Great Commission*

16 Then the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go. 17 When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted. 18 Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 19 Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”