1. Read John 20:1-9  
   a. On the morning of the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb before dawn. What did she discover, and what did she assume had happened? (John 20:1-2)

   b. Read Mark 8:31, Mark 9:30-32, Mark 10:32-34. What had Jesus previously taught His disciples about what would happen to Him in Jerusalem? Why were the disciples unprepared for the glorious event of the third day? (See Mark 9:32)

   c. Mary ran to Peter and John to report the alarming discovery of the missing body. When Peter and John raced to the tomb, what did they see in the open tomb? (John 20:6-8)

   When John saw the evidence at the tomb, he believed that Jesus had risen from the dead, but John did not yet understand how this miracle had been predicted by Scripture and was necessary for salvation.
d. Read Isaiah 53:10-12. What portions of this prophecy describe the death of Jesus?

e. How does Isaiah 53:10-11 prophesy the resurrection of Jesus?

f. For deeper thought: Write in your own words a nutshell summary of the purpose of Jesus’ death and resurrection.

2. Read John 20:10-18  
   **The risen Jesus appears to Mary Magdalene**

   [Note: the other Gospel accounts reveal that there were other women as well as Mary who came to the tomb that morning, but John focuses on the special role that Mary Magdalene plays in the glorious events of that day.]

   a. John and Peter went back to their homes, but Mary returned to the tomb, and she was weeping inconsolably. As much as she loved Jesus—as much as she had heard His teaching—she has not understood that He would rise from the dead. Her faith has not anticipated the miracle of resurrection. What does she see when she bends over to look into the tomb? (John 20:12)

   b. Mary’s deep sorrow prevents her from understanding the significance of these heavenly visitors. What is the continuing focus of Mary’s anxiety? (John 20:13)

   c. Although Mary is earnestly seeking Jesus, she’s looking for a dead Jesus; and she will never find Him, for He is not dead. How does Jesus break through her grief and inform her faith? (John 20:14-16)
d. It seems that none of the disciples had any understanding of God's purpose in Jesus' death. They did not expect His resurrection. What great honor and privilege did the risen Christ entrust to Mary Magdalene? (John 20:17-18)

e. For personal reflection: What is most meaningful to you as you read this account of Jesus' tenderness and kindness toward Mary?

f. For personal reflection and private prayer:
Throughout Jesus' ministry, He has consistently lavished love and generous grace upon all kinds of people, including those who were socially marginalized—the poor, the disabled, lepers, Gentiles, and women. As you reflect on this, take a moment to pray. Ask God to cultivate in you a heart of compassion toward those who are less esteemed in our culture. Are there such people in your sphere of influence whom you may honor and encourage? Jot down any names that come to mind, and pray that God will give you opportunities to show grace in your interactions with them.

   The risen Jesus appears to His disciples

a. What was the disciples' response to Mary's astonishing news that she had seen the risen Lord? (John 20:19a)
b. The disciples were confused, anxious, and fearful. How did Jesus resolve their confusion and calm their fear? What did He say? What did He show them? (John 20:19b-20; Luke 24:36-40)

c. What do you observe about Jesus’ post-resurrection body from this appearance to His disciples? (John 20:19-20; Luke 24:41-43)

d. What did Jesus teach the disciples that day about God’s purpose in the events that had occurred? How will all mankind benefit from Jesus’ death and resurrection? (Luke 24:44-47)

e. Jesus’ earthly life has been devoted to a mission of rescue. Jesus was sent by God to rescue fallen people by offering the hope of salvation through faith in Christ. What stunning announcement does Jesus make in John 20:21?

f. Jesus sent His disciples to continue His rescue mission, but this mission does not end with the lives of the disciples. Where do you and I fit into this glorious mission of Christ? (See John 17:20-23).

g. In view of this mission, what is our hope for the future? (See John 17:24,26)
4. Read John 20:24-29  

The risen Jesus appears to Thomas

a. Thomas was not present when the risen Jesus appeared to the other disciples. What was Thomas’ reaction to the report of Jesus’ appearance? (John 20:25)


5. Read John 20:30-31  

The miracles of Jesus challenge us to believe and live!

a. This concluding paragraph of chapter 20 states John’s purpose in writing this book. What has John written for us in this Gospel, and why did he include the things he wrote about?

b. If, in reading this book, we have come to believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, what will be the benefits for us? (John 1:12-13; John 3:16; John 20:31)

c. For personal reflection: Consider what Jesus willingly endured on the cross. He lived the life of obedience that we have not lived, and He died the death we deserve to die. At the cross, Jesus bore our sin. He died so that we may live. He carried our sin so that we may be clothed in His righteousness. If you have not yet connected with God through faith in Christ, take a moment now to come before God in prayer. Ask Jesus to come into your life and be your Savior. Reach out for Jesus and be embraced and enfolded in His arms.

“...I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.”  
John 10:10