

# RESURRECTION SUNDAY 2021

# RUNNING ON EMPTY

John 20:1-31

*Jesus gives people time and space to wrestle with—and then plenty of reasons to rest in—his resurrection from the dead.*

## Running through the Cemetery

- The empty tomb sends people running on that first Easter Sunday.
- They are running to find answers to their questions and help with their confusion.
- Every time Jesus meets people after the resurrection, he helps them to believe in him.
- The risen Christ deals with each person uniquely—according to his or her own needs and personality.

## John: Portrait of an EASY-COMING faith

John's personal struggle: "I need significance in my life."

The risen Christ gives his people a new identity and purpose.

## Peter: Portrait of a GUILT-RIDDEN faith

Peter's personal struggle: "I need forgiveness for my sin."

The risen Christ gives his people a new freedom and power.

## Mary: Portrait of a GRIEF-STRICKEN faith

Mary's personal struggle: "I need comfort for my despair."

The risen Christ gives his people a new intimacy and hope.

## Thomas: Portrait of a SHOW-ME faith

Thomas' personal struggle: "I need irrefutable evidence to believe."

The risen Christ gives his people a new assurance and confidence.

## Running through Life

- Because of his humility, Jesus does not *coerce* faith, but because of his authority, he *deserves* it.
- The risen Christ gives open-minded and tender-hearted people what they need to believe in him.
- For believers, "running on empty" means resting in the risen Christ and being energized by him.