

## Formative Practice Guide: Bear Witness

*Read John 20:15-18*

In this passage, Mary has an encounter with the risen Savior and is then sent with that good news of the resurrection to tell others. As Christians, we have encountered the gospel through the work of Jesus Christ and we, too, are called to bear witness to that good news before others. When we are intentional to bear witness, we leave an image of Christ with others wherever we go.

### Spiritual Exercises:

*Plan time in your upcoming schedule to include the following exercises in your routine.*

Write down some ways God has worked in your life over the past six months. Consider one thing God has done for you that you can share with others. Whether you share every detail of the gospel or one example of Christ's work, you are bearing witness. Pray that opportunities to bear witness will be made clear to you in the coming weeks.

Who do you regularly interact with that is not a Christian? Make a list of names and pray regularly that they will respond to God. As you pray over these names, begin writing one way you can intentionally leave an image of Christ with each person.

Consider preparing a more all-encompassing story to be able to share with someone when there is more time. This could be a story that tells of your journey to finding and following God or it could be God's story as revealed in Scripture. Write this story out as a way to prepare yourself for the opportunity to witness.

### Guided Reflection:

*Reflect on these concepts throughout your day. Feel free to also set aside some distraction-free time for more intentional reflection.*

What do your interactions look like with people who have different beliefs than you? What are things you get excited to talk about? How high on that list would you like God's story to be?

### Connecting the Practices

So many of these practices help reveal to how our story intersects with God's story. From your experiences in worship, lament, giving thanks, rejoicing, etc., think about how each practice gives you pieces to include in the story to which you are bearing witness.