



Small group discussion questions **April 2015**

Jesus, Mary and the 'they'

Lance Stone (p28)

Read John 20:1-18, followed by Lance Stone's article.

- 1. In the Gospel passage, Mary says twice, in verses 2 and 13: "They have taken the Lord". Who do you think Mary imagines has taken the body of Jesus?
- 2. In paragraph five of the article, Lance quotes Martin Heidegger talking about "authentic living". How does he explain this phrase? Can you think of examples of what authentic and inauthentic living might look like?
- 3. In what way or ways are the "they" the enemy of authentic living?
- 4. In paragraph six, Lance gives two examples of the way we talk about the "they". Can you think of other examples?
- 5. Lance says, in paragraph seven: "The death of Christ has the fingerprints of the 'they' all over it." How would you explain what this means?
- 6. In paragraph eight, Lance mentions Mary's exclamation: "I have seen the Lord!" How do these words throw off the power of the "they"?
- 7. In paragraph nine, Lance says that the turning point of the story is the word "Mary". What is so important about that word?
- 8. What parallels does Lance find between this story and the story of Adam and Eve?
- 9. In the last paragraph, Lance lists things that "they" say things which we often let oppress us. Can you suggest others?





10. What would our lives and our church be like, if "we" triumphed the "they" as Lance describes? What practical steps can we take to make that happen?

For further reflection: "They are like a lion eager to tear, like a young lion lurking in ambush. Rise up, O Lord, confront them, overthrow them!" Psalm 17:12-13

Prayer: When we feel that "they" have created a world in which your kingdom cannot come, and where injustice and hopelessness are too powerful to be challenged, rise up, O Lord, let us see you, and call us by name. Let the "we" triumph over the "they". Amen.