**Zoom Easter Sunday Interviews**

The meeting needs to include **Luke**, **Theophilus**, **Peter** and **Mary Magdalene**. It could also include **Cleopas** and **his friend**. If you have also used the Zoom Good Friday Interviews then Luke, Theophilus, Peter and Mary Magdalene should be played by the same people, but both Peter and Mary could be replaced, with John and Joanna respectively. Assume that if someone is speaking they are unmuted and everyone else is muted as per normal Zoom procedure unless otherwise stated. Cleopas and his friend could share a screen or be separated. As it is not clear in the Bible who is with Cleopas, the character known as **Friend** could be his wife Mary (See John 19:25) or another male follower of Jesus, who I would call Ezra so he doesn’t get mistaken for any of the eleven disciples.

Costumes and zoom backgrounds  
(Costumes and backgrounds could be appropriate for 1st Century Palestine or the modern day as long as everyone is in the same time period.)

**Luke** is dressed in regular clothing; his background is either a hospital or a home office set-up. Luke is the host and moderator of the meeting.

**Theophilus** is wealthier and dressed better, his or her background is of somewhere more exotic, far away from the others, hence why he or she doesn’t know what has happened.

**Peter (or John)**, not wealthy, dressed in a recognisably marine manner, or with a marine background.

**Mary Magdalene (or Joanna)**, dressed in ‘Sunday best’, possibly in a garden.

**Cleopas**,an older Man in his fifties or sixties, at home.

**Friend**, similar age to Cleopas, also at home.

Part 1: Intro and Mary Magdalene

*A Zoom meeting. On gallery view – We see all black screens in the meeting with their names under their pictures. Everyone is on mute. First* ***Luke*** *turns his camera on, then* ***everyone else*** *does too.*

**Luke:** Hello everybody, thank you for joining us today. This is a follow-up to our last meeting where people shared their stories about what happened when Jesus died. Thank you for those who answered our questions last time. (***Mary M*** *nods,* ***Peter*** *gives a thumbs-up*) As you know, I’m Luke and I’m carefully investigating the life of Jesus of Nazareth for my good friend here; the Most Excellent Theophilus. I’ll just do quick introductions.

***Luke*** *names all the people in the Zoom call except for himself and Theophilus, as their names are said they wave.*

**Theo:** Thank you, Luke – I thought last time would be the last time we would meet as I heard all about Jesus’ trial and his death on the cross. Normally someone’s death is very much the end of the story. I suppose that you’re all here today as Jesus’ friends to tell me about your grief and how much you miss him.

**Mary M:** Well, that how it starts… but not how it ends…

**Luke:** Well, I believe you were one of the first to visit the tomb after the rest day on the Sabbath, why don’t you tell us about that?

*Switch to speaker view.*

**Mary M:** We were the first as we left while it was still dark, we went back to the tomb to put spices on his body as there hadn’t been time after the crucifixion to have a proper burial, and we loved Jesus so much that we wanted to do even that for him.

**Luke:** But wasn’t the tomb sealed up with a massive stone? How were you expecting to move it?

**Mary M:** We didn’t have a plan for that, we certainly weren’t strong enough to move it ourselves. So, imagine our surprise and relief when we saw that the stone had already been moved away from the tomb!

**Theo:** The stone had been moved already, who would have done that when they were supposed to be resting?! Are you sure it was the right tomb?

**Mary M:** Yes, yes it was. Remember we’d followed Joseph of Arimathea as he took Jesus’ dead body from the cross to the grave, so we we’re quite sure that it was the correct tomb and that the stone had been sealed in place. We didn’t know what had happened.

**Theo:** So, what did you do?

**Mary M:** Well, we thought our job had been made easier so we went inside to see Jesus’ body and they to put the spices on it. It didn’t smell like you might expect it too after three days with a dead body inside… because when we looked in his body wasn’t there!

**Theo:** You had got the wrong tomb then? Or had someone taken the body?

**Mary M:** That’s what we thought must have happened, at first, but then all of a sudden these two men appeared in the tomb. They were wearing white clothes that were so bright they were shining – they definitely weren’t from earth, no-one can clean white clothes that well! They asked us a question, “Why are you looking for a living man in a place for the dead?” We didn’t have an answer for that! We didn’t really understand what they were saying so they made it clearer saying, “He is not here, he is risen!” And they reminded us that Jesus himself had said that he would have to suffer and die but that he would come back to life on the third day – which this was! We hadn’t understood what Jesus was saying until then. It seemed too good to be true, but if it was true – how wonderful! Jesus would be back with us, he would have beaten death and all the things we’d believed about him, everything he’d taught us about himself – that he was God’s chosen rescuer, God’s Son, God himself – all these things would be true!

*Change to gallery view.*

**Theo:** But, but people don’t just come back to life, surely that couldn’t be true?!

**May M:** That’s what Jesus’ other friend said when we ran to tell them of this news.

Part 2: Peter

**Luke:** Is that true Peter?

**Peter:**Absolutely! (*Laughs*) What the woman told us was nonsense, Theophilus is right, that sort of thing just doesn’t happen. But we’d seen Jesus do lots of things that don’t normally happen, including bringing other people back to life, so while I wasn’t sure Mary had got it right, I went to the tomb to check.

**Theo:** What did you see?

**Peter:** Well, the women were right that his tomb was open again, and when I looked inside Jesus’ body was gone. But the strangest thing was that the linen cloths he’d been wrapped in were still there… I mean who would steal a body, but take the time to unwrap it and leave the grave clothes behind? – that makes even less sense than someone, especially Jesus, being able to come back from the dead.

Part 3: Cleopas and Friend

**Theo:** It is all very strange, but of course there’s no proof that Jesus is alive again.

**Luke:** Oh, I think that’s the cue for our next two guests to tell us what happened to them later that day.

**Cleopas:** Of course, we’d love to. As you said it was later that day, and we’d already heard what Peter and Mary have already told you. We were on our way from Jerusalem to Emmaus, oh, perhaps it would help if I showed you a map of it, is that possible Luke?

**Friend:** That’s alright, Cleopas, I’ve got it.

*Friend shares his screen, on it is a map of that shows both Jerusalem and Emmaus, with a line marked between the two.*

**Friend:** It’s about 2 hours walk, although we were walking rather slowly that day. We had rather a lot to talk about.

**Luke:** What were you talking about?

**Friend:** Same as we are now actually; all about Jesus, how he’d died and how maybe, just maybe, he’d come back to life. We were probably about halfway there, maybe a little less when a stranger came up to us and asked what we were talking about.

*Switch back to gallery view.*

**Cleopas:** You say stranger but…

**Friend:** Neither of us had any idea who he was!

**Cleopas:** True, true. We were surprised that he didn’t seem to know what had happened in the last few days, especially since he was coming out of Jerusalem.

**Friend:** So we told him about who Jesus was, who we’d hoped he was, how he’d died and the rumours from the morning that he was still alive.

**Cleopas:** It’s a little embarrassing now that I think about it! (*laughs*) After that he explained to us all about how Moses and the prophets all talked about how God’s rescuer would come and die and rise again. He was an amazing teacher!

**Friend:** It all seemed so clear, no-one had taught like that, except for Jesus of course!

**Theo:** But who was this stranger?

*Switch to speaker view.*

**Cleopas:** By that time we were nearly in Emmaus, do we need to show the map again? (*everybody shakes their heads*) Oh, okay then. We thought he was going to keep walking but it was nearly dinner time and we wanted to hear more of what he had to say, so we invited him in to eat with us.

**Friend:** And at dinner he took the bread, gave thanks and broke it. We’ll that was something we’d seen before – Jesus used to do it all the time!

**Cleopas:** And it was Jesus doing it again! We hadn’t recognised him, old eyes, or maybe we just weren’t expecting to see him. But it was really him!

**Friend:** He was alive! He was walking, talking, breathing, not a ghost but really there with us, touching things and with a body.

**Cleopas:** A real, physical body but somehow different because no sooner had we recognised him then he just disappeared. That was why he’d taught like Jesus and spoken like Jesus and broken bread like Jesus – because it was Jesus!

**Theo:** But that’s incredible – what did you do?

**Friend:** We were so excited we had to let everybody know that he was alive so we went back to Jerusalem. But a little faster than the last time we’d walked that road.

**Peter:** And when they arrived to tell us, I was able to tell you that I’d seen him too. But we didn’t get to say much because there he was again.

Part 4: Peter and Mary

**Mary M:** Jesus must have had a busy time appearing to all of us. Walking to Emmaus and taking the time to teach, talking to me and to Peter in Jerusalem. Then appearing to all of us where we were gathered together.

**Theo:** But how could you be so sure it was really him?

**Peter:** Well, it certainly helped that so many of us were seeing him altogether this time, we couldn’t all be making the same mistake. And as Cleopas was saying, he was definitely real and the same Jesus – he even showed us the scars where the nails had been driven through his hands and feet to hold him to the cross. He had really gone through that and died, but now he was alive again.

**Mary M:** Yes, we could touch him and hug him, oh, and he could eat – he ate some fish.

**Peter:** And he was still the same Jesus, reminding us that he’d told us before he died that this would happen, even though we hadn’t understood it, and teaching us about how that was written in the Bible too. Then he told us that we would be witnesses of these things, all that wed seen him do, especially dying and coming back to life, so that all the world would hear about how God had come to rescue them. Honestly, it was a bit scary – who would believe us? But he said he would give us the Holy Spirit to help us, we just had to wait.

**Theo:** But then if Jesus is alive again, why haven’t more people seen him, why isn’t he in this meeting.

**Peter:** Lots of people did see him of course, but days later we went out to near Bethany and he blessed us and was taken up into heaven. God had come to us as Jesus, and now he was going home. We couldn’t help but praise God, there on the hill but everyday after that at the temple as well.

**Theo:** So, this is really the end this time. Jesus lived, died and lived again! And that’s the end of his story.

**Luke:** Well it’s certainly the end of part of his story. Thank you once again for joining us everybody; it was wonderful to hear your stories. But Theophilus it still isn’t really over you see what Peter and Jesus’ other friends would go and do as they told people about Jesus is part of the same story – Jesus is still at work through his Spirit today. But that part of the story is probably better left for another time.

*Black Screen*