

**Resurrection of Jesus**

<sup>1</sup>Saturday evening, when the Sabbath ended, Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome went out and purchased burial spices so they could anoint Jesus' body. <sup>2</sup>Very early on Sunday morning, just at sunrise, they went to the tomb. <sup>3</sup>On the way they were asking each other, "Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance to the tomb?" <sup>4</sup>But as they arrived, they looked up and saw that the stone, which was very large, had already been rolled aside.

<sup>5</sup>When they entered the tomb, they saw a young man clothed in a white robe sitting on the right side. The women were shocked, <sup>6</sup>but the angel said, "Don't be alarmed. You are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He isn't here! He is risen from the dead! Look, this is where they laid his body. <sup>7</sup>Now go and tell his disciples, including Peter, that Jesus is going ahead of you to Galilee. You will see him there, just as he told you before he died."

<sup>8</sup>The women fled from the tomb, trembling and bewildered, and they said nothing to anyone because they were too frightened.

*Mark 16:1-18 (NLT)*

**\*\*\*\*\*NOTE: From Sunday's Sermon (on where Mark ch.16 ends):** *The bible was written 2000 years ago.... And when the gospel of Mark was first written, it would have been sent around to different churches, who would then make a hand-written copy and then pass the original along to someone else. That is how the bible spread 2000 years ago... Well, the oldest copies that we have of Mark's gospel end right here.... End with "the women fleeing the tomb bewildered and frightened".*

*Kind of an odd ending right? Well, in the early church some folks thought it was too odd, so they took some of the endings from the other gospel accounts and added it to Mark's gospel. They weren't trying to be malicious; they simply wanted folks to know the rest of the story as told in the other gospels....*

*In this period in time, 2000 years ago, you wouldn't have had the full Bible as we know it today,... you might have only had Mark's gospel, or Matthew's gospel, but you probably wouldn't have had both.*

**So, because of Mark's original abrupt ending, two extra endings were added over the following centuries. The shorter one is sometimes included as a second part to verse 8... And then you see that v.9-20 in your Bibles have a break before them, and it notes somewhere in your bible that the earliest manuscripts don't have this section, v.9-20, that it was added later. v.9-20 of Mark 16 are in our Bibles for historical purpose, but all of our Bibles basically note that these verses aren't part of the original text, and scholars universally agree that they shouldn't be considered scripture.**

*So Mark's gospel originally ends on a cliff hanger, Jesus raises from the dead, the angel tells the women to go tell the disciples, yet the women flee the tomb trembling and freaked out, frightened,... and that's it. That's the ending.*

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\* As discussed in Riverside's HGLT (Home Group Leader Training), these guides are to be starting points for home group leaders to develop their own guides and approaches to leading group discussions. This is a resource tool, not a rigid "go through this guide word-for-word." There are intentionally too many questions for a single home group time. These guides rely heavily on a few different study guides; including "LifeChange Series" (ISBN 0891099107), N.T. Wright's guide (ISBN 9780830821822), James Hoover's guide (ISBN 9780830830046), and the Serendipity NT for Groups by the Young Life ministry (ISBN is N/A)

**Observation** (what does the text say?) **Interpretation** (what does it mean?) **Application** (what does it mean to me/us?)

**Discussion/Topic Starters** (Ice Breakers)

- Growing up, did your family have any Easter traditions  
Or  
Does your family have any special Easter traditions?
  - Who told you about the resurrection of Jesus for the first time? Details?
- O: What things in the text strike you or jump out at you? Why?

**VI-8**

- O: Who went to the grave (v.1),... and who were absent from the visit to the grave (hint: see v.7)  
Follow-up: Discuss the background on the disciples (who weren't there), what can we conclude about their state of commitment to Jesus? (see also Mark 14:50)  
Follow-up: In the ancient world women were regarded as worthless witnesses. Why does Mark's mention of them here actually affirm the validity of this story rather than call the events into question?
- I: As the women approached the tomb with the stone rolled away and a man (in a white robe) sitting beside it, what do you think their initial thoughts were (v.4-5)?  
Follow-up: Do you think they initially believed the words from the man (angel) in v.6?  
Follow-up: How does their initial actions support your thought (v.8)?  
Follow-up: Honestly, how do you think you would have responded?
- I: Why do you think the angel specifically asked the women to tell Peter (v.7)?  
Follow-up: What does this tell us about Jesus' desire for Peter? (also see Mark 3:28)  
Follow-up: What does this tell us about Jesus' desire and love/grace towards us?
- I: How is v.8 (as originally written) an appropriate ending to the gospel story (see note on first page of this guide)?
- A: The women were sent off to tell others about the reality of the resurrection (v.7). Who have you felt God has been nudging you to tell about Jesus, the good news (gospel), and the resurrection?

**Mark as a whole**

- A: What will you remember most from the gospel of Mark that has re-sharpened your focus on who Jesus really is?