

FURTHER STUDY GUIDE

HE IS RISEN! NOW WHAT? | Mark 16

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Mark 16 brings the Gospel narrative to its climax: Jesus has been crucified, buried, and raised from the dead. The resurrection is not merely the conclusion of Jesus' earthly ministry—it changes everything for His followers.

The chapter begins with several women coming to Jesus' tomb after the Sabbath to complete the burial preparations. Instead of finding Jesus' body, they encounter a young man who announces, "He has risen; He is not here."

The resurrection validates Jesus' identity, His teaching, and His promises. It also transforms the disciples' mission. The good news of Jesus' death and resurrection is not something to keep private. His followers are sent to proclaim the gospel and make disciples.

****A note about Mark 16:9–20:** The earliest and most reliable manuscripts of Mark that have survived do not contain verses 9–20, and the passage has a different textual history from Mark 16:1–8. Because of this, many modern Bibles mark these verses with a note or bracket them. The resurrection itself is not dependent upon these verses; it is firmly established throughout the New Testament and is already proclaimed in Mark 16:1–8.

ICEBREAKER QUESTION

If you could have been present for one event in Jesus' life, which event would you choose—and why?

GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

THE EMPTY TOMB (vv. 1-8)

1. What did the women expect to find when they arrived at the tomb? What does this tell us about their expectations concerning Jesus' resurrection?

2. What significance do you see in the angel's words, "He has risen; He is not here"? Why is the resurrection essential to the Christian faith?

3. The women leave trembling and astonished. How do you think the reality of the resurrection should affect the way we live today?

JESUS IS GOING BEFORE YOU (vv. 5-8)

4. Why do you think the messenger specifically mentions **Peter**?

5. What does the statement “**He is going before you into Galilee**” communicate about Jesus’ relationship with His disciples?

6. The women were told to “**go, tell.**” What has Jesus entrusted to His followers today?
What keeps Christians from sharing the good news?

THE RESURRECTION CHANGES EVERYTHING (vv. 9-20)

7. What evidence does this section provide for the reality of Jesus’ resurrection?

8. Jesus commands His followers to “go into all the world and proclaim the gospel.”

What does this command mean for ordinary Christians—not just pastors, missionaries, or church leaders?

9. What does it look like for you personally to “go” where God has already placed you?

PERSONAL DEVOTION

The resurrection is not simply something we believe; it is something that changes how we live. The women came to the tomb expecting death. They left with a message of life.

The disciples had experienced failure, fear, disappointment, and confusion. Yet Jesus did not abandon them. He went before them.

And that is still the good news of the resurrection:

Jesus is alive.

Jesus has gone before us.

Jesus has not abandoned us.

And Jesus sends us to tell others.

Read Mark 16:6–7 again slowly.

Then consider:

- Where have I allowed fear, disappointment, or failure to define my expectations of Jesus?
- Where might Jesus already be going before me?
- Who needs to hear from me the good news of Jesus?
- What is one step of obedience Jesus is calling me to take?

QUESTIONS | REFLECTIONS | OBSERVATIONS
