

SHARE THE BIBLE LESSON
WEEK 24

Jesus rises from the dead

Mark 16:1-8



DAY 1

The women expected an occupied tomb • Mark 16:1-3

READ

Mark 16:1-8

EXPLAIN

The truth of Mark 16:1-3

The women did not expect Jesus to rise from the dead. They expected to anoint a dead body, and they worried about the stone. This shows they expected everything to be the way it was left. They did not know about the guards or the seal (Matt 27:62-66), and they definitely did not expect a resurrection. The disciples didn't expect it either, since even after hearing news of resurrection, they did not believe it (Luke 24:11). The only ones who remembered that Jesus said He would rise on the third day were His enemies, and even they only expected some kind of trick (Matt 27:63-64). Expecting to find a dead body, the women came to honor Jesus one more time. On Saturday night, after the Sabbath ended, they went and prepared spices (Luke 23:56). Since they intended to anoint Jesus, these spices were made into liquid perfume to pour over the body. This was to keep down the stench of rotting flesh. Nicodemus had already wrapped a large amount of dry spices with Jesus (John 19:39), but these devoted women wanted one last chance to honor Him.

ASK

1. Why did the women go to Jesus' tomb?
They went to anoint His corpse with perfume.
2. When did the women go to the tomb?
On Sunday, the first day of the week, the day after the Sabbath.
3. What were the women worried about as they were on their way?
They wondered how they would move the stone.
4. So did the women expect Jesus to be alive?
No.

DISCUSS

1. The women did not expect Jesus to be alive. Do you expect Jesus' risen life to actually change your life?
2. Why do Christians gather to worship on Sunday, the first day of the week (Mark 16:2, 6)?

DAY 2

The women found an empty tomb • Mark 16:4-6

READ

Mark 16:1-8

EXPLAIN

The truth of Mark 16:4-6

Imagine their surprise when the women found the tomb open! They ducked down through the small door, but once inside they could stand up straight. Tombs like this one were family tombs, usually about 6 or 7 feet tall. There would be a bench carved in the stone where the dead body would lay for a year. After it decomposed, family members would put the bones in a bone box so that the bench could be used again. But instead of a stinking corpse, the women saw a brilliant angel, with white clothes dazzling like lightning (Matt 28:3). Angels are powerful heavenly warriors, so as usual, he had to tell them not to be afraid (Dan 10:12; Luke 1:13). He confirmed that this was the right place, then he delivered unimaginable news: Jesus had risen from the dead. He showed them the empty stone bench. The tomb was clearly empty. Even the religious leaders couldn't dispute that. They had to make up a story about the body being stolen, because it was obvious to everyone that there was no body (Matt 28:11-15).

ASK

1. Was Jesus' body in the tomb?
No.
2. Who did the women see in the tomb?
An angel, looking like a young man dressed in shining white.
3. Why did the angel tell the women not to be afraid?
Angels are powerful heavenly warriors.
4. What did the angel say about Jesus?
He is alive, He is not here.

DISCUSS

1. How was the tomb Jesus was buried in different from the tombs we use today?
2. How important are real events of history, like the empty tomb, to the Christian faith?

DAY 3

The women were given a mission • Mark 16:7

READ

Mark 16:1-8

EXPLAIN

The truth of Mark 16:7

If the tomb was clearly empty, why did God send an angel to speak to the women at all? The angel came to announce Jesus' resurrection. Just as an angel announced the miraculous meaning of Jesus' birth, so an angel announced the miracle of His resurrection. The angel also gave these women a mission. He especially mentioned Peter because Peter needed some encouragement. He needed to know that just as Jesus

rightly predicted his denial, so He also rightly predicted new life and restoration (14:27-28). The women obeyed, although they were so stunned they spoke to no one along the way (Matt 28:8). So the first witnesses to the resurrection were women. But in Jewish culture, women's testimony did not count. If the early church made up the resurrection story, they would never have said women were the first witnesses! The only explanation is that the gospels tell the story this way because it really happened this way. It also shows how women are honored in Scripture. The task of preaching the gospel and leading the church was for the apostles, but these faithful women received the good news first.

DAY 3 CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

ASK 

1. What did the angel tell them to do?
He told them to go and tell the other disciples, especially Peter.
2. Why did the angel mention Peter specifically?
To encourage Peter. Because Jesus was alive, his sin of denying Jesus could be forgiven, and Peter could be restored to Jesus.
3. Who were the first witnesses to the resurrection?
The women.

4. How does this show that the resurrection really happened?
In Jewish culture, women's testimony did not count. So if the early church made up the resurrection story, they would never have said women were the first witnesses.

DISCUSS 

1. Did the disciples believe the women (Luke 24:11)?
2. After reading about the women witnesses, the empty tomb, an angelic messenger, and the Jewish explanation, how would you answer those who do not believe Jesus rose from the dead?

DAY 4*The women were afraid • Mark 16:8***READ** 

Mark 16:1–8

EXPLAIN **The truth of Mark 16:8**

If the resurrection was good news, why were the women terrified? And why would the whole book end with their fear? While some versions include eleven more verses in the book of Mark, the earliest and best manuscripts show that these verses were added later to make the ending feel less abrupt. But Mark purposefully ended the story with the same amazement and fear that people always felt toward Jesus. It is like the time when Jesus calmed the storm: instead of being relieved, the disciples were more afraid than before (4:41)! This is how people feel when they have encountered God. When the women saw the empty tomb and heard the angels' message, they realized they were in the middle of the most remarkable act of God in history. They were so overwhelmed their bodies literally shook. Yet along with fear there can be great joy. Jesus' resurrection proves that God accepted His sacrifice as the perfect payment for sin (Acts 17:31). Because Jesus conquered death, He is the resurrection and the life, and He is able to give new, eternal life to all who put their hope in Him (John 11:25).

ASK 

1. How did the women feel after the angel spoke to them?
They were very afraid, trembling with fear.
2. How does Mark's gospel end?
With the words "for they were afraid."
3. Why were the women so afraid?
They realized that what had happened was more powerful than anything they had ever imagined.

DISCUSS 

1. If you have been with the woman that morning, do you think you would have been afraid? Why or why not?
2. Is it good to have a healthy fear of God? What does it feel like and look like to fear God?

DAY 5

The resurrection matters • 1 Corinthians 15:12–20

READ

1 Corinthians 15:1–20

EXPLAIN

The truth of 1 Corinthians 15:12–20

The resurrection is a big deal. Without the resurrection, Jesus' death would be useless, and our faith would be worthless. Preaching about Jesus is useless too if Jesus has not been raised. If Jesus is not alive, then all the witnesses and preachers of the resurrection are liars. And if Jesus never rose from the grave, then we are still in our sins (Acts 5:30–31; Rom 4:25). Without the resurrection, there is no hope for Christians who have died, and those Christians that are still alive are the most wretched people on earth. But Jesus has been raised from the dead, being the “firstfruits” of those who have already died. His resurrection guarantees that every Christian will one day be raised too. The resurrection of Jesus and the resurrection of all Christians stand and fall together. If one is raised, so is the other. Because Jesus came back to life, we also will one day rise again with new, real, living bodies just like His (1 Cor 15:35–58). At that time we will live fully in the powerful presence of God forever.

ASK

1. Why does the resurrection matter?
It proves Jesus is the Lord in charge of life who can give us new life.
2. How can we be certain that Christians will be resurrected?
Because Jesus rose from the dead, we know that all Christians will be resurrected too.
3. What will Christians' resurrection bodies be like?
They will be like Jesus' body.

DISCUSS

1. Why are Christians “of all people most to be pitied” if there is no resurrection (1 Cor 15:32)?
2. Do you believe that Jesus rose from the dead? What difference has that made in your life this past week, in the way you feel, talk, and act?

NEXT WEEK

Jesus returns to heaven

Acts 1:1–11

