

Mark 16 :1-16

'He is not here!'

BIBLE STUDY



INTRODUCTION

Starter:

How would you respond to a Muslim friend who explained to you that Jesus did not in fact die, but was taken away in a swoon after his crucifixion to recover in a different place? What difference would it make to our faith as believers if this was true?

Our journey through the Passion of Jesus reaches its climax this week.

Pray to start:

That you would be filled with the joy of the Spirit as you read familiar, life-changing words in our passage for today!

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Read: Mark 16 : 1-16

Let's unpack the passage.....

1. Looking back over chapter 15, list the people who were quite sure Jesus had died. Did any of them have reason to be fooled?
2. Look at verses 1-3. Imagine you are one of the group of women, who gets up early whilst it is still dark, and sets out with your precious spices to anoint the body of your dead Lord. What are you feeling? What are your assumptions about Jesus?
3. What three amazing surprises greeted the women in verses 4, 5, and 6?
3. Why do you think those who were mourning and weeping didn't believe Mary Magdalene (verse 9-11)? Why did Jesus rebuke them (verse 14)?
4. In verse 15 we see part of the Great Commission (given in Matthew 28 vv 19-20). What *message* and what *ministry* did Jesus give us as believers?

Note for leaders: verse 16 - Baptism itself doesn't trigger salvation, but rather is the outward sign to show that someone has believed – a sign to witness to an inner reality.

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GOING DEEPER

1. 'He has risen,' said the angel, 'he is not here' (verse 6). Three times throughout Mark, Jesus had said he would suffer and rise on the third day (8 v 31, 9 v 31, 10 v 34). What implications did Jesus' resurrection have for himself, for history, and for believers?
2. Jesus told his followers in verse 15 to share their faith. Is this something you find easy to do? Why don't you take the Archbishop of Canterbury's challenge and tell other people in the home group why you are a follower of Jesus – try to do so in two minutes, and not to use any 'Christianese'.



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PRAY

Join together in songs of praise to Jesus for what we have learned from our studies in Mark over recent weeks.

Thank him for all that he went through for us as he suffered and died, and ask that the truth of the resurrection would once again impact our lives and show our faith clearly to those with whom we are in contact.

