

BIBLE DISCUSSION GROUP STUDY QUESTIONS

In preparation for Sunday, March 31, 2024

Passage: Mark 15:40-16:8

Memory Passage: Mark 16:6-7

DAY 1 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Mark 15:40-16:8.** Notice our final “sandwich” in Mark: The women at the cross (15:40-41); Joseph before Pilate (15:42-46); The women at the tomb (15:47-16:8). Consider how Mark has used this technique so far (3:19b-35; 4:1-20; 5:21-43; 6:7-30; 11:12-25; 14:1-11; 14:7-31; 14:53-72) and describe what he wants us to understand from these verses.
- (b) How has Mark described women and their ministry so far in his gospel (see 5:25-34; 7:24-30; 14:3-9)? Have they ever been described as disciples?
- (c) Who are the women named in v. 40, and why are they important?
- (d) What did these three women, and “many other women,” do?

DAY 2 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Mark 15:40-16:8.** Explain why the phrase “since it was the day of Preparation” is important for understanding Joseph’s actions.
- (b) Why would it take “courage” for Joseph to ask for Jesus’ body?
- (c) Joseph was “himself looking for the kingdom of God.” Explain specifically that for which Joseph looked.
- (d) Why would Pilate be surprised that Jesus was already dead, so surprised that he needed to send the centurion to verify it?

DAY 3 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Mark 15:40-16:8.** To what day of the week and time of day does “When the Sabbath was past” (16:1) refer?
- (b) What does the question asked in 16:3 reveal about the women’s expectations concerning Jesus’ body?
- (c) In what specific ways do the angel’s words fulfill prophecies/predictions Jesus had made earlier in Mark?
- (d) Why do you think Peter was singled out as a recipient of the angel’s message? What emotions might Peter have felt when he was told that the angel specifically asked the women to tell *him* that Jesus awaited them in Galilee?

DAY 4 – ASK FOR INSIGHT**READ THE PASSAGE**

- (a) **Read Mark 15:40-16:8.** Mark ends his gospel awkwardly and abruptly (I will explain during the sermon why I don't believe 16:8-20 are part of Mark's original gospel). The reason given for the women's flight is that they were seized by "trembling and astonishment." Is this comment meant to be positive or negative (cf. 1:21-22; 2:12; 5:33, 42; 6:51)?
- (b) The reason given for the women's silence is "they were afraid." What caused this fear? Of what were they afraid?
- (c) Does "said nothing to anyone" include the disciples? How does Matthew 28:8 help you answer?
- (d) Contrast Joseph's actions and speech with the women's actions and speech (remember, they are sandwiched!).

DAY 5 – ASK FOR INSIGHT**READ THE PASSAGE**

- (a) **Scan Mark 1-16.** What transformation did Mark expect to occur in his original audience by telling the story of Joseph of Arimathea? Write down three ways you will apply what you learned from the account of Joseph of Arimathea.
- (b) What transformation did Mark expect to occur in his original audience by telling the story of the women? Write down three ways you will apply what you learned from the women's account.
- (c) What transformation did Mark expect to occur in his original audience by presenting the story of Jesus' resurrection and the empty tomb? Write down three ways you will apply what you learned from the account of Jesus' resurrection and empty tomb.

DATE: March 31, 2024**PASSAGE: Mark 15:40-16:8*****He Has Risen!***