

CORE STUDY #11

JESUS IS RISEN!

PASSAGE: Mark 16:1-20

LEADER PREPARATION

Read the passage over at least three times, noting what you feel might be the main points of the passage. Using your **Summit Training Guide** (section 2 “Engaging the Word” and section 3 “Responding to the Word”), ask observation and interpretation questions of the passage.

You will also find it very helpful to read the parallel passages in the other 3 gospels. By reading all three gospels you will have a fuller picture of what happened and what was said.

- Matthew 28
- Luke 24
- John 20.

INTRODUCTORY QUESTION

1. What has God taught you so far this year?
2. How has your understanding of who Jesus is changed as we have studied Mark?

FOUNDATIONS STUDY

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS (selection to choose from)

1. Who are the main characters in this passage?

There are the women who visit the tomb: Mary Magdalene, out of whom Jesus drove seven demons, Mary the mother of James, and Salome. These women are the ones who watched Jesus die on the cross in Mark 15:40. Although Jesus' body has already been anointed with spices by Nicodemus and Joseph of Arimathea in John 19:38-40, these women show faithfulness and courage by going to the tomb to pay their respects. There is a young man in a white robe who is described as an angel in Matthew's account of the resurrection (Matthew 28). Jesus, who is no longer dead, appears to Mary Magdalene and then the disciples in different forms. Finally, there are The Eleven who include the twelve apostles appointed in Mark 3:14-19, minus Judas Iscariot who betrayed Jesus.

2. How does Jesus' resurrection from the dead expand our idea of what the 'good news' is?

Now that Jesus is risen, death has been conquered. What was hoped for and hinted at has finally been accomplished. Those who believe in Jesus have been rescued and granted freedom from their brokenness and sin - this really is good news! All that is left to do now is for the disciples to tell creation about this good news.

3. What does Jesus command of the Eleven? What does he promise?

4. How are the signs mentioned by Jesus here fulfilled later in Scripture?

In the book of Acts, the spreading of the good news is often accompanied by one or more of the signs mentioned by Jesus in Mark 16. For example, the disciples heal people and drive out demons in Acts

5:15-16 as a part of their ministry and speak in new tongues in Acts 2:3-4, Peter heals a crippled beggar in Acts 3:2-10, and Paul is bitten by a viper but suffers no ill effects in Acts 28:3-5.

RESPONSE QUESTION

1. Do you think that the instructions and promises that Jesus gave the disciples in vs 15-18 still apply to us today? Why or why not?
2. Do you find comfort in the fact that the Lord was working with the disciples as they preached (vs 19-20)? Does this cooperation inspire you to do great things for God on campus? What kind of things?

GOING DEEPER STUDY

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS (selection to choose from)

1. Compare and contrast the disciples' responses to the message of Mary Magdalene, to the two disciples who saw Jesus in a different form, and Jesus as he rebukes them.

2. What are the commands that Jesus gives the disciples?

Jesus commands his disciples to go and to preach. They are to tell everyone about the glorious news that Jesus has risen and beaten death. Those who believe are to be baptized.

3. What does Jesus mean by the word 'condemned'?

Those who fail to believe the good news will be judged as guilty of not recognizing the power, love, and authority of Christ.

4. What are the promises that Jesus makes?

He promises that those who believe and are baptized will be saved, and that those who do not believe will be condemned. He also says that signs will accompany those who do believe (these include driving out demons, healing, and speaking in new tongues).

These signs are not definitive symbols of salvation (if they don't accompany your belief, your salvation is not called into question!); rather, they show the Lord's continual love for and protection of those who believe the good news. For example, we are told that those who believe will be protected if they pick up snakes or drink deadly poisons (vs 18). Note that Jesus does not say that they are to go and pick up snakes or drink poison on purpose to prove that they are saved, rather Jesus says that when these things occur the believers will not be harmed. Check out Acts 28:3-5 for one example of how the protection from snakes plays out for the apostle Paul.

5. Is Christ's ascension into heaven (vs 19) significant for us today?

The illustration of Christ sitting at God's right hand is an affirmation of his divinity, his power, and his reign. It is important because it is a reminder that God is in control even as his disciples attempt to carry out his commands on earth. It is also an exciting event as the Father and Son are once again reunited.