



Introduction

After Jesus' resurrection he commissioned his awestruck followers to carry on the redemptive mission that he began. Like their good Master, they would communicate the good news (gospel) through their words and deeds. Today, Jesus' followers are to walk along the same path which began the same way - being in awe of the resurrected King!

Observation/Interpretation

Read Mark 16:9-20. Mark's original ending is suggested by many scholars/theologians to be missing. Two of the best manuscripts, both from the 4th century, end with verse 8. The alternative ending (9-20) in several other manuscripts seem to be later additions/writings added by copyists who felt that Mark couldn't have meant to stop there and were determined to fill in the gap. Adapted from N.T. Wright's book, *Mark: 20 Studies for Individuals and Groups*.

- What does this ending tell us about how early Christians saw the events of the resurrection and their significance?

Application

- Do others see your life as an expression of living out the gospel by making disciples and communicating the story of the risen King through your words and actions?
- Jesus' followers follow Jesus. What are some of the hindrances that keep you from bearing testimony to Him (e.g., fear, risk of being shamed, complacency, unbelief)?
- How does Jesus' resurrection change us?

Prayer

Thank God for what you have learned through the Gospel of Mark. Ask God to help you to live a life empowered by the Holy Spirit. The same spirit that resurrected Jesus from the dead is able to make you like Jesus: loving, forgiving, hospitable and compassionate.

Community Group Discussion

- Read the passage together out loud.
- Involve your group by asking/answering the study questions, taking the time to share.
- Ask for prayer requests and be sure to pray together.

Family Discussion

- Have your child/children read the passage aloud, if old enough otherwise you read it aloud.
- Involve them by asking questions.
- Ask for prayer requests and invite them to pray together as a family.

A great way to use of these notes is to start/join a Community Group

These notes can be used for personal bible study, yet, another way would be to invite some people together. We call these intentional gatherings, 'Community Groups'.

What is a Community Group?

Community Groups are small gatherings of believers (non-believers welcomed too!) that meet regularly for accountability, friendship, study of the Bible and prayer. Community Groups are an essential part of the mission of Calvary SLO Church as they are a place where we wrestle with the truths of the Bible and encourage one another toward the life God intends. Each community group is unique and molded by the people who attend it. Most community groups gather weekly and involve food, dialog, prayer, discussion for applying the Bible to practical living, and loving service to one-another. They're meant to be an organic and authentic expression of the church, actively living like the body of Jesus.

Why should I join/start a Community Group?

God is a Trinitarian God who is revealed as one in three persons: Father, Son and Spirit. We've been made to image God, which means we're designed for community & friendship. We often suffer when we're not in community, due to the brokenness of life, complexity of this world and the temptation to isolate ourselves. We encourage you to gather with a small group of friends, family or roommates on a weekly basis and use these discussion notes to press deeper into God.

How do I join the Calvary SLO Community Group eco-system?

We're enthusiastic about all forms of biblical community, however there are definite benefits to joining with the Calvary SLO Community Group (CG) eco-system. In short, the benefits are:

- **Training:** We have trainings intent on equipping leaders.
- **Support:** Each CG leader is assigned a coach to provide assistance and ongoing support.
- **Visibility:** CG's are promoted via the bulletin, website & given access to The City (our online social network).

To join all you have to do is sign up for the next upcoming training! Info: pastor James: james@calvaryslo.com.