

Lesson 6, April 5, 2026, Resurrection Faith, Mark 16:1–8

Bible Truth: Jesus' closest followers were devastated by His crucifixion and validated by His resurrection.

Memory Verse: And he saith unto them, Be not affrighted: Ye seek Jesus of Nazareth, which was crucified: he is risen; he is not here: behold the place where they laid him.”
(Mark 16:6)

Lesson Aims – Key Take aways

1. God Acts Before We Arrive
 2. The Resurrection Is the Turning Point of History
 3. God Entrusts the Message to the Humble
 4. Grace Restores the Fallen
 5. Awe Is a Proper Response to God's Power
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Names that Matter:

- **People**
 - Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of James the Lesser, and Salome James and John Location
 - Angel – who lets them know Jesus wasn't there
 - **Timing**
 - After the crucifixion and burial of Jesus
 - Early in the morning on the first day of the week, “the Sabbath”
 - **Location**
 - In the city of Jerusalem, in a garden near Golgotha, just outside the city walls
 - **Commands**
 - Go tell the disciples of Jesus's resurrection
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Background Context

Right before Mark 16, Mark records the final events of Jesus's suffering, death, and burial-setting for the resurrection announcement in Chapter 16.

1. **The last Supper** - where Jesus celebrates Passover with His disciples, He predicts His betrayal, and he institutes the Lord's Supper. (Mark 14:12-26)
2. **Gethsemane** - where Jesus prays in deep anguish, the disciples fall asleep, Jesus submits to the Father's will (Mark 32-42)
3. **Jesus's Arrest and Trials**- Judas betrays Him with a kiss, He is taken before the Jewish council (Sanhedren), Peter denies Him three times, and Jesus is handed over to Pilate and sentenced to crucifixion.
4. **The Crucifixion** – Jesus is mocked, beaten, and led to Golgotha, He is crucified between two criminals, Darkness covers the land, Jesus dies and the temple veil is torn in two.
5. **The Burial** – Joseph of Arimathea requests Jesus' body, Jesus is placed in a rock-cut tomb. Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of James the Lesser, and Salome James and John watch where He is laid where they will return later to look for Jesus.

Passage Summary

Early on the first day of the week, three women—Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome—go to Jesus' tomb to anoint His body. They worry about the stone, but when they arrive, it is already rolled away. Inside, they meet a young man in a white robe who announces the greatest news in history: **Jesus has risen**. He instructs them to tell the disciples and Peter. Overwhelmed with fear and awe, the women flee from the tomb.

The Lesson Text: Mark 16:1-3

I The Women's Task

1And when the sabbath was past, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the *mother* of James, and Salome, had bought sweet spices, that they might come and anoint him.

2And very early in the morning the first *day* of the week, they came unto the sepulchre at the rising of the sun.

3And they said among themselves, Who shall roll us away the stone from the door of the sepulchre?

What's Happening Here?

1. The Women's Devotion (vv. 1–2)

“Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome... bought spices, that they might come and anoint Him.”

“Very early in the morning... at the rising of the sun.”

This detail is symbolic:

- A new day
- A new creation
- Light breaking into darkness

They move toward the tomb while the world is still dim—a picture of faithfulness in the shadows.

These women:

- stayed at the cross
- watched where Jesus was buried
- return now to honor Him

Their devotion is steady, courageous, and tender.

They come to **care for a dead body**, not expecting a resurrection.

This is love acting even when hope feels gone.

Teaching Point:

Faithfulness often shows up in quiet, unseen acts of love.

2. The Stone Problem (v. 3)

“Who shall roll us away the stone...?”

This is such a human moment:

- They're doing the right thing
- But they don't know how it will work

- They're walking toward a problem they can't solve

The stone was:

- massive
- sealed
- guarded
- impossible for them to move

Yet they go anyway.

Their love is stronger than their uncertainty.

This passage shows us three powerful truths:

1. God often acts before we arrive

The women worry about a stone that God has already moved. Their question is real—but unnecessary.

2. Obedience often begins before understanding

They don't know how they'll get in. They just know they must go.

3. Resurrection hope begins in ordinary faithfulness

Before angels appear, before the empty tomb is seen, before the message is announced—there are three women walking in the dark with spices in their hands.

Teaching Point:

We often worry about obstacles God has already removed.

II The Angels News (vv. 4-6)

4And when they looked, they saw that the stone was rolled away: for it was very great.

5And entering into the sepulchre, they saw a young man sitting on the right side, clothed in a long white garment; and they were affrighted.

6And he saith unto them, Be not affrighted: Ye seek Jesus of Nazareth, which was crucified: he is risen; he is not here: behold the place where they laid him.

 What's Happening Here?

3. The Stone Removed (v. 4)

1. They look up—and the impossible has already happened

“They saw that the stone was rolled away: for it was very great.”

This is the moment their worry meets God’s power.

- The stone was massive
- It was sealed
- It was guarded
- It was humanly impossible to move

But God had already acted.

The obstacle they feared most was gone before they arrived.

This is resurrection logic:

God moves stones we cannot move.

Teaching Point:

Resurrection power moves stones we cannot move.

4. The Angelic Messenger (v. 5)

“They saw a young man... clothed in a long white garment; and they were affrighted.”

This “young man” is clearly an angel.

Clues:

- **White robe** → purity, glory, heavenly presence
- **Sitting** → calm authority, not chaos
- **Inside the tomb** → divine witness stationed at the scene

Their reaction—*fear*—is exactly what happens when humans encounter the supernatural. It’s not panic; it’s **holy awe**.

They came expecting death.
They find heaven waiting for them.

Teaching Point:

Encounters with God often begin with awe, not comfort.

5. The Resurrection Announcement (v. 6)

“Be not affrighted... Ye seek Jesus of Nazareth, which was crucified: he is risen; he is not here.”

This is the Gospel in its purest form.

The angel affirms three truths:

1. Jesus was crucified

This is historical, physical, undeniable.
He truly died.

2. He is risen

Not revived.
Not stolen.
Not missing.

Risen.

Alive by the power of God.

3. The tomb is empty

“Behold the place where they laid him.”

The angel invites them to see the evidence.

The empty tomb is not a metaphor—it’s a fact.

Teaching Point:

Seeing is believing.

III The Disciples Message(Mark 16: 7)

²But go your way, tell his disciples and Peter that he goeth before you into Galilee: there shall ye see him, as he said unto you.

What's Happening Here?

6. The Commission (v. 7)

“And Peter” — a phrase loaded with grace

This is the emotional center of the verse.

Peter had:

- denied Jesus three times
- wept bitterly
- failed publicly
- felt disqualified

Yet the angel singles him out by name.

Jesus wants Peter to know he is not forgotten, not rejected, not cast aside.

This is resurrection mercy:

- restoring the fallen
- calling the broken
- healing the ashamed

“And Peter” is the Gospel in two words.

7. Jesus is going ahead of them into Galilee

“He goeth before you into Galilee...”

This fulfills Jesus’ promise from Mark 14:28.

Even before the cross, He said He would meet them again.

Galilee is significant:

- It’s where their discipleship began
- It’s where Jesus first called them

- It symbolizes a fresh start
- It's away from the chaos of Jerusalem

Jesus is leading them back to the place of calling, not the place of failure.

8. “There shall ye see Him” — a promise of personal encounter

The resurrection is not just a fact to believe.

It is a **person to meet**.

The angel assures them:

- Jesus is alive
- Jesus is ahead of them
- Jesus will meet them
- Jesus keeps His word

This is the heartbeat of the verse:

The risen Christ goes before His people and meets them where He promised.

Teaching Point:

The resurrection comes with a mission: go and tell.

IV The Women's Response (v. 8)

⁸And they went out quickly, and fled from the sepulchre; for they trembled and were amazed: neither said they any thing to any *man*; for they were afraid.

9. The women flee the tomb in shock and urgency

“They went out quickly, and fled from the sepulchre...”

This isn't casual leaving.

It's running—fast, breathless, overwhelmed.

Why?

Because they have just witnessed:

- a rolled-away stone
- an empty tomb
- an angelic messenger
- the announcement that Jesus is alive

Their world has just been turned upside down.

10. They tremble with holy fear and amazement

“For they trembled and were amazed...”

These two words are powerful:

Trembled

Their bodies react to the presence of divine power.

This is the same word used for people who encounter God’s glory.

Amazed

Not “surprised,” but *overwhelmed, astonished, undone*.

The resurrection is not something the human mind absorbs easily.

They are experiencing the collision of heaven and earth.

11. They say nothing to anyone—because they are afraid

“Neither said they any thing to any man; for they were afraid.”

This doesn’t mean they disobeyed the angel.

It means **on the way**, before reaching the disciples, they are too overwhelmed to speak.

Their silence is temporary, not permanent.

This fear is not terror—it is **reverent awe**:

- God has acted
- Death has been defeated
- Jesus is alive

- Nothing will ever be the same

Mark wants us to feel the weight of that moment.

Teaching Point:

The right response to the resurrection is reverent awe and obedient proclamation.

 **Symbolism Box**

Symbol	Meaning
Early morning	New creation, new beginning
Stone rolled away	God’s power over death and obstacles
White robe	Purity, divine presence, heavenly authority
Empty tomb	Victory, hope, the foundation of faith
Fear and trembling	Human response to divine glory

 **Discussion Questions**

1. Why do you think God chose the women to be the first witnesses?
2. What “stones” in your life has God already moved?
3. How does the resurrection shape your daily faith?
4. Why is fear mixed with joy an appropriate response to God’s power?
5. What does “and Peter” teach us about Jesus’ heart for the fallen?

 **Life Application**

- Reflect on an area where you need resurrection hope.
- Practice “looking up” instead of worrying about stones God has already moved.

- Share the resurrection message with someone this week—fulfilling the same commission given to the women.
- Let the awe of the empty tomb renew your worship.