

13 THE RISEN SAVIOR

KEY TEXT: MARK 16:1-16

CENTRAL truth

If Jesus hadn't risen from the dead, faith in Him wouldn't help anyone. Fortunately, He did! Like the women who followed Jesus discovered when they went to the tomb, Jesus is alive, whether or not people believe it, and He calls us to share the good news. Through Him, we, too, can have eternal life.

key question

What did Jesus tell His disciples to do in His absence? What part does He continue to play in this process?

Before He ascended back into heaven, Jesus told His disciples to preach the good news to all creation. According to Matthew, Jesus told them to make disciples (people who would teach other people about Jesus; see Matt. 28:18-20). Anyone who has put their faith in Jesus for salvation is His disciple, so it's just as much our job to preach the gospel as it was theirs. Jesus helps by sending the Holy Spirit to equip, empower, and guide us as we obey. He also gives us what we ask for when we pray things that line up with God's will (see 1 John 5:14-15).

keep in mind

- Your students might wonder why the women didn't bring others to the tomb with them. Perhaps they wanted to go alone, or the rest of Jesus's followers might not have known they were going. We don't know for sure, but being the first to the tomb afforded them the unique privilege of being the first to tell others: "Jesus is alive!"
- Being baptized by water isn't necessary for salvation, but the way Mark phrased verse 16 might make it sound like it is. Explain that Mark wasn't talking about baptism by water; he was talking about the baptism of the Holy Spirit (the change He brings on the inside), which comes after we are saved. Mark was saying that if a person puts their faith in Jesus, God will baptize them with the Holy Spirit to prove they have been saved.

application

What proof can we offer to the world that Jesus is alive?

the win

FOR THE STUDENT: Jesus is alive and willing to help those who put their faith in Him do everything God has called them to do. Make sure students know that since Jesus sits at the right hand of the Father, there's nothing they can't accomplish as long as it lines up with God's will!

FOR THE LEADER: Encourage students to put their faith in Jesus and show patience with people who struggle to believe the truth of the gospel. Tell about someone you know who struggled to believe before finally putting their faith in Jesus. Challenge them to preach the gospel like Jesus told us to.