

# Easter

## *Scripture and Background Information for April 9-15.*

To prepare for your group discussion each week, group members should use the **Community Group Discussion Guide** to complete the **GOD'S WORDS** and **MY WORDS** columns using the scripture below.

Easter is the day in which the church celebrates the resurrection of Jesus Christ. However, people can approach this day in multiple different ways. For some, it truly is a time of celebration and reflection on what the Lord has done for us. For others, it is hard to understand how we could actually believe that someone came back to life after being dead for 3 whole days. Whether you feel like you are approaching Easter with great faith or if you are experiencing some doubt, we hope that this passage encourages you to think deeply about the resurrection and how it impacts your life.

### **Background for Mark 16:1-8:**

The resurrection is the climax of Jesus' life. It is the culmination of everything that Jesus came to do on the earth. Through His resurrection, Jesus proves that everything He claimed to be is true. He is not just a wise teacher, but He is God Himself. He doesn't just say He can forgive sins, but He fully overcomes sin and death. The resurrection is incredibly important to who we are and how we live, too. As Paul says in 1 Corinthians 15 if Jesus didn't rise from the dead, we are to be pitied for placing our faith in Jesus because we won't be resurrected either. So, understanding Jesus' resurrection and its impact on our lives now and in eternity is vital to all our walks with Jesus.

Furthermore, each Gospel has an account of the events surrounding Jesus' resurrection but Mark's is unique because it comes at the very end of the book. In fact, some of the early manuscripts of Mark's Gospel end at verse 8 which makes this whole scene a cliff hanger. It is as if this abrupt ending forces the readers to think about what they are supposed to do with this information. Whether you have been in a relationship with Jesus for 50 years, one week, or have never put your faith in Jesus at all, our passage today forces you to contemplate what it means that Jesus truly physically rose from the dead.

### Insights and questions to engage with the text:

1. What does Jesus' resurrection teach us about God? What is the significance of Jesus' resurrection within the Gospel?
2. Verse 8 says that the women were afraid because of what they experienced at the tomb. How do you think you would have responded in that situation? When you first heard someone tell you about Jesus rising from the dead, how did you respond?
3. How does Jesus' resurrection impact the way you live your life? Who can you share the good news of Jesus resurrection with over the next couple of weeks? How do you plan on sharing with them?