# Gospel of Mark Weekly Talk Ideas | Sean McGever

## Mark Chapter 16

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| Scripture suggestion, basic overview, and background:  This may be the last chapter of Mark’s gospel, but we know that it is not the final word of *the* gospel. I believe a major weakness of our proclamation in YL/WL is that, sadly, our tendency is to end our gospel proclamation with the cross talk. Resurrection talks are rushed. I have never heard a talk on the ascension of Jesus (except my own). There is no discussion of Pentecost and God’s abiding presence that comes inside of Christians. Bluntly, it does not surprise me that our mission is needing to recalibrate everything we do to go “deeper” … ***the gospel goes beyond the cross***! Rant over. Please contact me if you want to discuss this further. In the meantime, let’s talk about Mark 16.  The Gospel of Mark ends at verse 8. NT Wright is correct: “Mark’s ending is missing.” It was cut off and/or damaged and we do not have it. Your Bible should have a footnote about this. So, please do not build your talk on any verses after Mark 16:8.  Mark is about the simple facts. Below is a simple outline of what Mark wrote. Consider reviewing 1 Cor. 15:14, 54-55 too.   1. The women **go to Jesus’ tomb** (vv.1-3) 2. The women **see** 1) the **stone rolled back** and 2) an **angel** (vv.4-5) 3. The angel said:    1. **Jesus has risen** from the dead (v.6)    2. **See for yourselves** (v.6) [SEE]    3. **Tell others** (v.7) [RESPOND] 4. The women are flooded with **emotions**: trembling, astonishment, fear (v.8)   Mark does not provide detailed theology or conclusions, but in his text is an invitation to the women and I think we can use that as an invitation in our talk to invite people to follow Jesus, even if it brings fear.  I suggest that after we walk through the resurrection story, we challenge students if they have 1) SEEN and 2) RESPONSED |
| Possible main point(s):   * Have you seen “for yourself” if Jesus is God? Will you respond make him the ruler of your life? * What happens after you die? Death is not the end for Jesus or for us. * Do not rush through Jesus’ suffering for three days in the tomb. Suffering often occurs in slow motion. |
| What this shows us about Jesus:   * Jesus is God – only the creator of life can conquer death. * Jesus did not resurrect immediately. Often our suffering does not get better overnight. |
| What this has to do with our life:   * If Jesus rose from the dead, we know what happens after death, and that changes not only our future but our present. * Jesus’ death and resurrection shows us that God doesn’t immediately “fix” problems. Our challenges might remain. |
| Relevant technical details:   * *Sabbath was past* (v.1) = The women were Jewish and were not allowed to “work” on the Sabbath. They took the first opportunity they could to return to Jesus and care for his body. * *The women* (v.1) = Women were not regarded as credible witnesses in the ancient world. 1) This gives historical credibility to the gospel accounts of the resurrection; no one in the ancient world would make-up a story in which women were the witnesses, and 2) Women are not secondary in Jesus’ kingdom. In this case they are the first witnesses of the resurrection, the first evangelists (the good news that Jesus’ is risen). * *Spices… anoint* (v.1) = The spices offset the odor of the decomposing body. * *Roll away the stone (*v. 3) = The stone was heavy and the women were in such a rush to get to the tomb that they had not thought of a way to roll it away from the tomb. * *Young man sitting... dressed in a white robe* (v. 5) = This is angel. White robes signified supernatural encounters (see Mk. 9:3; Acts 1:10, 10:30), and the empty tomb was certainly a supernatural encounter. |
| Possible illustrations:   * *Clock with a second hand*: Use a clock (an old school one with a second hand, or a digital one projected on the screen to draw attention to how time keeps going. For some it goes slow (especially when things are difficult) but it keeps going nonetheless. Jesus experienced suffering. He also showed the death is not the final end – eternity is. * *Death to life*: Consider doing a cardboard testimony. Strong suggestion: Have the “new” side be in the present tense… so *not* “broken and“healed” but “being healed” … *not* lost and“found” but “being found” , etc. * *Tree Branch/Flower*: Show the branch or flower and say that it is actually dying because it is cut off from the source of life. While it still might look healthy, it is actually dying. We are like that. But, Jesus conquered death. We can be replanted / reconnected with the source of life if we repent and turn to follow Jesus. * *Flashlight / battery*: Use a flashlight that has weak or no batteries, it is dying. New batteries are available, but only if you use them. The batteries symbolize the life that comes when we repent and turn to follow Jesus. |

*For more details, see ylhelp.com*

Mark 16 (ESV)

**The Resurrection**

**16**When the Sabbath was past, Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices, so that they might go and anoint him. **2**And very early on the first day of the week, when the sun had risen, they went to the tomb. **3**And they were saying to one another, “Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance of the tomb?” **4**And looking up, they saw that the stone had been rolled back—it was very large. **5**And entering the tomb, they saw a young man sitting on the right side, dressed in a white robe, and they were alarmed. **6**And he said to them, “Do not be alarmed. You seek Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has risen; he is not here. See the place where they laid him. **7**But go, tell his disciples and Peter that he is going before you to Galilee. There you will see him, just as he told you.” **8**And they went out and fled from the tomb, for trembling and astonishment had seized them, and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.

[Some of the earliest manuscripts do not include 16:9–20.]

**Jesus Appears to Mary Magdalene**

**9**[[Now when he rose early on the first day of the week, he appeared first to Mary Magdalene, from whom he had cast out seven demons. **10**She went and told those who had been with him, as they mourned and wept. **11**But when they heard that he was alive and had been seen by her, they would not believe it.

**Jesus Appears to Two Disciples**

**12**After these things he appeared in another form to two of them, as they were walking into the country. **13**And they went back and told the rest, but they did not believe them.

**The Great Commission**

**14**Afterward he appeared to the eleven themselves as they were reclining at table, and he rebuked them for their unbelief and hardness of heart, because they had not believed those who saw him after he had risen. **15**And he said to them, “Go into all the world and proclaim the gospel to the whole creation. **16**Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned. **17**And these signs will accompany those who believe: in my name they will cast out demons; they will speak in new tongues; **18**they will pick up serpents with their hands; and if they drink any deadly poison, it will not hurt them; they will lay their hands on the sick, and they will recover.”

**19**So then the Lord Jesus, after he had spoken to them, was taken up into heaven and sat down at the right hand of God. **20**And they went out and preached everywhere, while the Lord worked with them and confirmed the message by accompanying signs.]]