

WEPC Missional Community Group Network

Questions about this week's study guide? Contact Kevin Greene, kevin@wepc.org

WEPC's Missional Community Groups Network meets in homes across Richmond every week to participate in Jesus Christ's mission to Richmond, enjoy fellowship, study God's word, pray together, and explore the fruit of the Gospel on our lives. Simply put, these groups are small enough to be the church to one another, and they serve as bridges between WEPC and the community where God has planted us. It is a place where the church can go deeper in the worship of God and further in Christ's mission.

Note to Discussion Leaders: Have members read the Bible passage in the group meeting. This is a "worship discussion" guide, and our reflections and applications are grounded in Scripture. Read through this guide before meeting with the group. You do not need to work through the whole guide. Decide which points would be most helpful for the time of meeting together, and use them as a starting point for your time together. Want to go in a different direction with group questions? Get some guidance [here](#).

Sermon :: *Raised to Life*

This week, Steve Shelby preached on [Mark 16:1-8](#)

What Does the Ending of the Story say about the Story?

- When last we saw Jesus, He was dead, His disciples were scattered and demoralized. Only Joseph and the women are available to bury Him.

The Witnesses

- The women who go to the tomb had no expectation of the resurrection
- They bring spices to anoint the body making clear that there is no doubt in their minds that Jesus is dead.
- However, they are only partially prepared. How will they get the stone rolled away?

What the Witnesses Saw and Heard

- They see a "young man" who "alarmed" them (v5)
- When someone is confronted by God or an angel, the first words spoken are words of reassurance
- The specific person they are seeking is not there. He has risen. Go and tell.

The Message Given to the Witnesses

- It was this very Jesus who was born in Bethlehem, grew up in Nazareth, was crucified in Jerusalem and now is risen from the dead. Confirmation of the proclamation comes from what they can see (the tomb is empty). However, they need to hear a message explaining what they are seeing.
- They are now to go and tell a specific and limited audience: "His disciples and Peter" (v7)
- Jesus will appear to them, and He will reassure them by His presence
- The women fled (v8), but we know they ultimately went and did as they were told
- No one saw the resurrection they only saw evidence for it

How Would One Know Today that Jesus is Risen from the Dead?

- The witness of the early church: they were willing to die for what they had seen, heard and believed.
- Our witness: A people who rest in the fact that the tomb is empty, who live for others because they believe Jesus lives for them, who tell others in Whose name we live this way.
- The angel points Peter out specifically. What of the "Peters" among us who wonder if it is possible that God loves and forgives you? Jesus sees you, He wants to restore you, and give you a powerful message.

Going Deeper in God's Worship & Further in Christ's Mission

Warm Up

- We began Sunday's sermon with a discussion about ways we see the glory of God. Give Jesus some glory and encourage one another as you start your group discussion today. What is one, simple way you have seen God at work this past week?

Read [Mark 16:1-8](#)

- What do the women's actions and words reveal about what they expect to find at Jesus' tomb in vv.1-3
- In vv.4-5, they are not prepared for what they find. What might they be thinking at this point?
- What is "*the young man dressed in a white robe*" communicating to the women? Why does the angel single out Peter in particular?
- The three women have a very strong reaction to what they see and hear. What do you make of the women's reaction to the angel's message?
- The earliest and most reliable manuscripts of Mark's gospel end with 16:8. Why do you think Mark ended his gospel in this way? If this is indeed the end of Mark, what sense are you left with?
- Looking back over the whole of Mark's gospel what are one or two insights or truths you received that were most helpful? What will you remember most from Mark's gospel about the person of Jesus?

Pray

- For grace to rest in the truth that the Tomb is empty
- For courage to who live for others because you believe Jesus lives for you
- For opportunities to tell others in Whose name you live this way

Mission Discussion

- Part of the inherent mission of the WEPC Missional Community Group Network is simply making room for others & welcoming them. How will your group be a part of welcoming others next year? Will you invite new people? Will you send out new leaders? Will you begin a new ministry together? Will you multiply your group into two new groups?
- Discuss a plan to gather as a group before mid-June to reflect on the year, celebrate God's goodness together, and look to the future together.