

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

These questions are designed to help you talk about God's word and Pastor Brian's message with friends and family. You of course can use your own questions, but we'd like to give you this tool to encourage Biblical fellowship and discipleship in your circle of relationships. ***Enjoy discovering more about Him!***

"RESURRECTION ECHO" | MARK 16: 1-13 | PASTOR BRIAN BELL

WARM-UP QUESTION:

How do you react to being surprised or caught off guard?

"It Means My Past Can Be Forgiven" Mark 16: 1-13

Jesus' resurrection proves that His death on the cross worked for salvation. **Why do some people not seek forgiveness? What causes others to seek forgiveness?**

"It Means My Present Has Power and My Future is Secure" Mark 16: 1-13

The power that raised Jesus from the dead now lives in His followers and shows one day they will live forever with Him. **What keeps people from living in His power? How should knowing the future is secure impact how Christ followers live today?**

"It Means My Suffering Is Not Meaningless" Mark 16: 1-13

Just as Jesus' painful crucifixion turned into victory, so will every trial and tear His people had will be turned into good. **What are examples of suffering being turned into good in your life or the lives of people around you?**

"It Means My Mission Is Clear" Mark 16: 1-13

Just as the women heard the angel say, "Go and Tell", all Jesus' followers have a mission to share the good news of the resurrection. **What are ways to overcome fear and to share the good news of Jesus?**

REFLECTION QUESTIONS:

Because Jesus rose from the tomb and lives, anyone's past can be forgiven, their present is empowered and their future is secured. They know their pain is not wasted and their purpose is clear. **What sins and fears are you holding onto instead of confessing and receiving forgiveness? How can you live in the power and hope of Jesus' resurrection? How can you honor and celebrate this good news? Ask God for discipline and take time over the next few weeks to meditate on resurrection of Jesus.**

Resurrection Echo

I. Announce:

- A. Slide1-4 Tony: Harvest Festival. TGE Service. Pantry. Women's xmas Celebration.
- B. Slide5 Church Prayer: Join us next Sun at 1:30p in Agape. [today Missions Prayer]
- C. Prayer:

II. Slide6 Intro: Resurrection Echo

- A. You've heard of *Christmas in July*, today we have *Easter in October*.
 - 1. Because Resurrection truth is not just tied to *Easter Sunday*, but actually to every Sunday. (the reminder) *It's not just Seasonal, it's Foundational!*
 - 2. *The resurrection isn't an event we remember once a year, it's the reality that fuels *every week, every worship, and every witness*.
- B. Tim Keller, "*If Jesus rose from the dead, then you have to accept all that He said; if He didn't, then why worry about anything He said?*"
 - 1. The resurrection is not just the happy conclusion after the cross, it is the beginning of **God's - New - Creation**. (adapted from N.T. Wright)
 - 2. God is making *dead people* alive. Resurrection is not only physical, it's spiritual.
- C. Here's what I would hope to answer today: What does Jesus' Resurrection have to do with me today? short answer: [**Because Jesus lives**: my past is *forgiven*, my present is *empowered*, my future is *secure*, my pain is *not wasted*, and my purpose is *clear*].
- D. Slide7 Read Mark 16:1-13. **Resurrection Echo**

III. Slide8a 1. IT MEANS MY PAST CAN BE FORGIVEN

- A. The resurrection proves the cross worked. I don't have to carry my guilt anymore.
 - 1. The empty tomb is God's "*Amen!*" to Jesus' "*It is finished.*"

B. **None** of his followers, **no not one** was expecting resurrection, even though he said it 3 times. His **male disciples** are all far away (not even, “well we might as well go check”) **and** His **female disciples** are expecting a body.

1. The women **came expecting** a dead Jesus, **but found** an empty tomb.

C. They brought spices to honor his body, **but** this gift failed, as *He was not there*.

1. **Who, already had honored His body?** The woman 2 ch’s earlier who broke the alabaster jar, that Jesus commented, *she has anointed my body beforehand for burial*.

2. **Every religion** has tombs **you can visit**, **only Christianity** has **one that’s vacant!** *He has risen; He is not here*.

D. **Why we remember:** Because if Jesus *did not* rise, our faith is empty (1 Cor 15:17).

1. A **crumbling foundation**, no matter how nice the house, **is doomed**.
The resurrection is the **load-bearing wall** of Christianity.

E. **Every Sunday gathering is a “mini-Easter.”** We meet (no longer on the 7th day/Sabbath) **but on** the **1st day** of the week, *because* Jesus rose on the 1st day.

F. There is **an empty tomb** in the Middle East. There’s **an occupied throne** in heaven.
And life is worth living because of that reality.

IV. Slide8b **2. IT MEANS MY PRESENT HAS POWER**

A. **The same power** that raised Jesus from the dead now lives in **me** (Eph.1:19,20).

1. Resurrection **isn’t** just an event, **it’s a power source!**

2. I can face today’s *trials, temptations, and weaknesses* with **resurrection strength**.

B. **Mary Mag loved her Jesus:** **He cast out** the 7 demons. **He changed her** life forever. **He freed her** from untold torment. **He gave her** life. **He gave her** a reason to live. **He gave her** a place in His kingdom. **He gave her** worth and dignity. **He gave her** understanding and compassion. **He gave her** love and **Hope**. [her present had power]

- C. *Every act of worship, every baptism, every communion, every life changed, every mission trip ... is a *Resurrection Echo*.
- D. The empty tomb is the reason we *keep gathering, keep believing, keep hoping*, whether it's on *Easter or* in *October*.

V. Slide8c 3. IT MEANS MY FUTURE IS SECURE

- A. *His* resurrection is the down payment of *my* resurrection 1 day.
1. *Death* doesn't get the last word; *Jesus* does.
 2. Jesus' empty tomb *guarantees mine* will one day be *empty too*.
- B. This is a story of *Transformation*. The story of *Victory*. *New beginnings*. *Fresh starts*. *Refreshed purpose*. *An invigorated life*. *Revived faith*. *And Restored Hope*.

VI. Slide8d 4. IT MEANS MY SUFFERING IS NOT MEANINGLESS

- A. Because Jesus walked out of the grave, *every tear* and *trial* will one day be redeemed.
1. *He who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies*. Rom.8:11
 2. *The resurrection turned 1 *Good Friday* into *every future Sunday* - a *forever Easter!* *Think about this ...*
 3. **Every grave** in a believer's life is temporary, whether it's *loss, grief, heartache, pain, sickness, suffering, hurts, etc.* [stamp it "temporary"]
- B. *Do not be alarmed ... go tell His disciples and Peter*.
- C. The 1st witnesses came *trembling and afraid*, *but* *grace* met them there.
- D. Peter sharing with Mark what to write adds ... *and Peter*. *He couldn't get over that!*
1. Like you, Peter would have been thinking, *should I go to, to Galilee?*
 2. This is *the gospel*, put your name in here (and Brian). *We don't deserve to be included, yet we're included*.
 3. Those who have been *forgiven* much, *love* much.

4. **Galilee** - where their instructions **first started**, **and** now where they will be **completed**.
5. Luther said, **We receive God's grace**, in 3 ways: **once for all** (justification), **again and again** (sanctification), **and more and more** (glorification).
- E. The angel's words "*and Peter*" reveal **resurrection mercy** for **failures**.
 1. **Resurrection hope** meets us in our **failures, fears, and doubts**.
 2. I like this phrase: "**Sunday Resets**". The **resurrection** turns our **Saturdays of fear**, into **Sundays of hope**.
 - a) We remember because we need to *rehearse the gospel* for our own trembling hearts, that **He** still *goes ahead of us* into our Galilee.

VII.Slide8e **5. IT MEANS MY MISSION IS CLEAR**

- A. The risen Jesus didn't just rise, He **appeared** and **sent**.
- B. **Think about this - the gospel** is preached here, the 1st time, after the resurrection, by an angel, at the empty tomb.
 1. **The gospel** is not just a *nice story*, it's rooted in **history**. The first time **the gospel** is preached, is **in** the tomb. *He is not here, He has risen!*
 2. **A new order of existence has been inaugurated, a new age has dawned.**
- C. **The Great Commission** flows from **resurrection reality**. (Great Commission next week)
 1. We don't just celebrate the **resurrection**; **we carry it** into the world.
 2. **The resurrection isn't** a monument to visit, **it's a movement** to join.
- D. **Let this Mission consume your life.**
 1. **We're to be on mission**. The resurrection **motivates** our mission. It **inspires** service to Jesus.
 - a) The more we **cherish** Jesus, we **commend** him to others. *We always commend what we cherish. We talk about what excites us. Maybe, if we're not consistent in our witness, it's because we're not consistent in our worship.*

- E. ***Because Jesus lives:** my past is *forgiven*, my present is *empowered*, my future is *secure*, my pain is *not wasted*, and my purpose is *clear*.
- F. **Jesus appeared** - He didn't just *rise and retreat ...* He **ris**es and **send**s.
- G. The resurrection turned *fearful followers* into **bold witnesses**.
1. **Resurrection power** still sends *ordinary people* on extraordinary mission.
 2. We are not *keepers of a memorial*; we are **carriers of a message**.
 3. **Application:** When we gather on Sundays, we don't just *look back*, we **go out again in resurrection power**.

VIII. Slide9 **BRACKETS?**

- A. [Some early Manuscripts do not include 16:9-20]
- B. **Manuscript** (written by hand). **Papyrus** (writing on Egyptian paper/sheets/reeds). **Parchments** (writing on animal skins). **Codex** (book form/not scrolls).
1. 2 Codex: (**Sinaiticus** and **Vaticanus**) both full OT & NT. **Both are oldest full books, 4th cent.** These are the 2 that do not include it. **In textual criticism the oldest is best.**
 - a) Many textual critics think it was added later by Scribes, **yet** still put it in your Bible. **16:6–8 is a strange way to end Mark.** Some believe a scribe made a compilation of *Matthew, Luke, John*, summed it up, **and** added it to Mark to give it a better finish.
- C. **Arguments Against:** They say **it reads differently** from the rest of Mark's gospel in the Greek. **They say it's awkward transition** from vs.8 to vs.9 (like its starting the res story over). They say some **new words** are introduced that Mark doesn't use.
- D. **Arguments For:**
1. Yes, there are *new words* Mark hadn't used **in the end**, **but do we omit all the other places** in his gospel where he introduced new Gk words that he hadn't used yet?
 2. There are others who believe **the majority** of the texts are important, not just **oldest**.

- a) **I.e.** we do have **1,650 manuscripts** that **have** the longer ending of Mark.
- b) We could say it this way, 99.8% of the existing Greek manuscripts include it.
- 3. There are also **empty columns** at the end of Mark in the Codex Vaticanus. Which fit the ending. **Why missing? We don't know?** Never found anywhere else.
- 4. Vs.9-20 were widely referenced, recognized, and circulated in the early church.
 - a) The **2 Codices** were from the **4th cent AD**, **but** they're not the oldest *"historical pieces"* of evidence that referenced the ending of Mark.
 - b) **Yet**, the **Patristic Evidence**, the *early church fathers* reference it. In the **2nd century Irenaeus** quotes from it (16:20). Along with **Justin Martyr** (16:20), and **Tatian** (16:9-20) and 1 other.

E. **Slide10 Did Mark end on verse 8?**

- 1. **We do know** that **everything we find in here** can be found in **the other 3 gospels**.
- 2. **We do know** though it is not found in the 2 codex, it **is** found in **all other manuscripts**.
- 3. **We do know** no major doctrine is changed **nor** even diminished.
- 4. **We do know** it is **in harmony** w/the rest of the NT teachings.

F. Keywords: