

Connection Group Discussion Questions

For the week of April 16, 2017

Mark 16:1-6

These questions are to be used as a spring board for discussion.

Answers may or may not be found in the sermons.

New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)

When the sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, and 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 They had been saying to one another, "Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance to the tomb?" ⁴ When they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had already been rolled back. ⁵ As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man, dressed in a white robe, sitting on the right side; and they were alarmed. ⁶ But he said to them, "Do not be alarmed; you are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has been raised; he is not here. Look, there is the place they laid him."

Common English Bible (CEB)

When the Sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices so that they could go and anoint Jesus' dead body. ² Very early on the first day of the week, just after sunrise, they came to the tomb. ³ They were saying to each other, "Who's going to roll the stone away from the entrance for us?" ⁴ When they looked up, they saw that the stone had been rolled away. (And it was a very large stone!) ⁵ Going into the tomb, they saw a young man in a white robe seated on the right side; and they were startled. ⁶ But he said to them, "Don't be alarmed! You are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has been raised. He isn't here. Look, here's the place where they laid him."

New International Version (NIV)

When the Sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices so that they might go to anoint Jesus' body. ²Very early on the first day of the week, just after sunrise, they were on their way to the tomb ³and they asked each other, "Who will roll the stone away from the entrance of the tomb?"

⁴But when they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had been rolled away. ⁵As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man dressed in a white robe sitting on the right side, and they were alarmed.

⁶"Don't be alarmed," he said. "You are looking for Jesus the Nazarene, who was crucified. He has risen! He is not here. See the place where they laid him."

Connection Questions:

1. Is it important to understand the meaning of the cross to fully appreciate the meaning of the Resurrection? Why or why not?

2. Alexander Solzhenitsyn says, "...the dividing line between good and evil cuts through the heart of every human being..." Discuss what you think he means.

3. Discuss the makeup of our human condition. Is our nature totally sinful? Do we have the potential to be perfect?

4. The Easter story is somewhat different in each of the gospel accounts. In all of the accounts the idea of Jesus being raised from the dead was initially unbelievable. Why?

5. Is the Resurrection story difficult for you to believe? Read the following appearances of Jesus to the disciples and apostles: John 20:1-2, John 20:19-24, John 20:26-28, Luke 24:13-16, Matthew 28:16-17, 1 Corinthians 15:6. Are their stories enough to confirm your belief in God and that there is an eternal quality to our lives?

6. What other ways besides the gospel accounts do we have to prove the existence of God?

7. Do you believe in the creation argument to prove God's existence, meaning that everything seems to have order to it and that couldn't have happened by accident? Discuss.

