



LIFE GROUP LEADER DISCUSSION GUIDE

Hearing the News That Jesus Is Risen

Mark 16:1–8 • Dec 6, 2026 • 35 minutes

Aim Hear the announcement of Jesus' resurrection and consider how his promise meets fear, grief, and failure.

Before you lead

Read Mark 15:40-16:8 for continuity, then focus on Mark 16:1-8. The women come expecting to care for a dead body and receive unexpected news. Keep the commissioned message and their fear together. Do not add later appearances as though they occur within this passage.

Ask the main questions first. Use the follow-ups when the group needs help going deeper; the leader notes are for your preparation. Give people time to answer, and ask them to point to the verses behind their observations.

Suggested timing Welcome, prayer, and reading 4 min • Head 7 min • Heart 12 min • Hands 9 min • Closing prayer 3 min

HEAD

Understand the passage

Read Mark 16:1–8 aloud from the ESV. Keep the passage open throughout the discussion.

1. What do the women expect when they approach the tomb in verses 1-4?

Follow-up: What are they worried about as they talk?

Leader note: Their preparations and question about the stone show what they expect to find.

2. What does the young man tell them in verses 5-7?

Follow-up: How does the message connect with what Jesus had already said?

Leader note: Attend to the announcement, the empty place, the instruction to tell, and Jesus' promise to meet his disciples.

3. How do the women respond in verse 8?

Follow-up: Why should we take their fear seriously?

Leader note: Mark describes trembling, astonishment, and silence. Avoid assuming this verse tells everything they ever did afterward.



HEART

Examine our motives

Choose a follow-up when it helps someone explain an answer. Allow people to share honestly without pressing them to disclose more than they are ready to share.

4. Where are you expecting only loss or disappointment right now?

Follow-up: How does Jesus' resurrection give hope while still taking our pain seriously?

Leader note: Do not promise that every present difficulty will disappear. Let resurrection hope be larger than a quick improvement.

5. How do you respond to Peter being mentioned by name after he failed Jesus?

Follow-up: When does shame make it hard to believe Jesus still calls you toward him?

Leader note: The message includes Peter by name. Let the group notice that invitation without inventing an unseen conversation.

6. What makes it hard for you to talk about the good news of Jesus?

Follow-up: Is the difficulty fear, uncertainty, indifference, or something else?

Leader note: Welcome honest answers. The women's fear gives room to discuss ours without ridicule.

HANDS

Put the passage into practice

7. What promise of Jesus could you return to when fear rises this week?

Follow-up: How will you remind yourself of that promise?

Leader note: Choose a verified passage and read it in context rather than relying on an inspirational phrase.

8. Who could you speak with about the hope of Jesus' resurrection?

Follow-up: How could you start that conversation naturally?

Leader note: Aim for a truthful and caring conversation, with room to listen and answer questions.

Close in prayer

Thank God that Jesus is risen. Bring him our fear and shame, and ask for trust in Jesus' promises and willingness to share his good news.