

NOTES

Scripture: Mark 16:1-8, Romans 6:6-11

REVIEW AND INTRODUCTION

1. Looking back over your notes, what did you find most helpful, challenging, or interesting in this week's teaching? Was there anything you've never heard before or something that made you think differently?

2. If your Life Group has not been meeting for the past month or so, what have you missed most? What are most looking forward to with your group meeting together again?

The Story of Jesus
Part 51
He Is Alive

Jenn Lewis
Connections Director
January 30, 2022

MY STORY

1. Jenn talked a bit about stories of faith. What's your story of faith?
2. What is the most interesting or compelling story of faith you've ever heard? When thinking about this story, how does it make you feel? Does it encourage you to step out more in your own faith?
3. Why is the event (Jesus is risen) discussed in Mark 16 "the most important event in the history of humanity"?
4. What has Jesus done in your life? What does His presence mean to you?
5. Can you think of any specific things that have happened to you or events you've experienced that have grown your faith? Speak of these together with your Life Group.
6. Jenn talked about how the culture in Jesus' time saw women but Jesus loved the women who followed Him in a way they had probably never experienced before – Jesus loved them in the way God loves His children not for what they could do for Him. Have you experienced this kind of amazing love? Can you talk with your Life Group about the radically different love you've experienced from Jesus?
7. Jesus is the one who bridges the gap between a sinful, fallen creation and a righteous, holy Creator. What does this mean? Why is this important? How does this play out in your life?
8. Jesus often uses the lowly, the weak, and the oppressed to bring glory to His name. Have you experienced this in your own life? How?
9. Do you see any confusing messages being sent to us in our culture regarding gender identity? How can you apply Biblical principles and truth to help you and your family understand God's definitions and roles for the two genders He created?

DIGGING DEEPER

Read through these guiding scriptures and answer the corresponding questions.

Read Romans 6:1-14

1. Jenn talked about what Jesus' death and resurrection meant to the women at the tomb as well as what it means to us. When you read this passage in Romans, what do you get from the Apostle Paul's discussion of how Christ's death and resurrection applies to us as His followers today?

2. What does this passage say in regards to baptism and how it applies to Jesus' death and resurrection? Have you made the personal decision to be baptized and were you baptized? If so, what did this mean to you? If not, what's holding you back?

Read Psalm 18:19, Psalm 17:6-9, Psalm 91:14-16

3. What do the above verses tell you about how God feels about you?

4. Have you ever thought of yourself as the "apple of God's eye" or thought that He delights in you? When you think of God having those kinds of intimate and personal feelings towards you, what does that make you think? Do you believe it? Why or why not? Can you think of or find any other scripture that supports this?

BRINGING IT HOME

1. Jenn said that the confusion around gender identity in our culture is not going to keep God from fulfilling His purpose for you. Do you believe God designed and created you the way He did for a reason? Do you believe that God put you in the body you are in with a purpose in mind?

2. Do you know your purpose? If you do, how do you know that's the purpose God has for you? If not, what can you do to understand the purpose God has for you?

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3. In Mark 16:7, what was so significant about the angel telling the women to go tell Jesus' disciples AND Peter? Why do you think God made it a point to single out Peter here?

4. Jenn said that we're all like Peter to varying degrees and the words "and Peter" are for us too. Peter was grieving the loss of his best friend but must have also been feeling the intense shame and guilt of having abandoned Jesus because Peter did the very thing he had promised Jesus he would never do. Now Jesus was dead and Peter didn't think he would ever have a chance to make things right with Him. Have you ever felt like Peter must have been feeling? Have you ever felt like what you've done or you continue to do is too much for God to forgive you and make you right with Him?

5. Put yourself in Peter's place with the message God delivered to Peter from the angel through the women at the tomb. Do you believe that God is still calling you to Him? Do you believe that Jesus died and rose for you?

6. Are you holding onto sins of your past? Are you struggling to break free from a recurring sin? What does Romans 6:5-14 tell you about sin's power over someone "in Christ"? How can you put that sin to death (hint Romans 7-8 helps answer this question)?

7. After hearing this message, is there anything that is currently weighing heavily on you - an issue that you're wrestling with? If you're comfortable, share that issue out loud with your Life Group or with someone you trust. Ask them to pray for and with you.

Your Next Steps are: 1) Reflect on an issue weighing heavily on you, seek God's will through prayer around that issue, and choose to obey God even if your step of obedience doesn't seem to make sense. **2)** Accept what Jesus did for you in these eight verses in Mark and what the Apostle Paul tells us about putting sin to death and joining Jesus in life in Romans 6. **3)** If you're not in a Life Group or engaging in life with other followers of Jesus, join one today.