



NG Study Guide: Mark 16:9-20 “Sharing Jesus” (10.10.21)

Love God + know the Bible better:

1. Read the passage cited above, and try to answer the questions below before your group meets.
2. *Leader note: Please review the brief instructions for leaders at the bottom.*

The Study

Thesis: Jesus has commissioned His followers to proclaim the message of His kingdom and His gospel throughout the world to all peoples (15, Mt. 28:18-20, Ac 1:8). We are to share Jesus with others (those who know Him *and* those who don't). We have been called to engage people, live on mission, and make disciples who make disciples. To fulfill the Great Commission we need to know Him and make Him known.

The manuscript issue: An issue exists because two of the oldest manuscripts do not contain verses 9-20. Nevertheless, these verses are included in the great majority of ancient manuscripts, and many early Christian writers refer to this passage. The manuscripts that do not contain this section were discovered outside of Jerusalem. Also, it is unlikely that Mark would conclude his gospel account at 16:8. So, to the extent these verses are consistent with the rest of the Bible they are clearly reliable and profitable for our learning.

1. The need to know Jesus (9-13)

Now when He rose early on the first day of the week, He appeared first to Mary Magdalene, out of whom He had cast seven demons.¹⁰ She went and told those who had been with Him, as they mourned and wept.¹¹ And when they heard that He was alive and had been seen by her, they did not believe.¹² After that, He appeared in another form to two of them as they walked and went into the country.¹³ And they went and told it to the rest, but they did not believe them either.

He rose early on the first day of the week (9) refers to Jesus' resurrection at sunrise Sunday morning. Jesus appeared first to Mary Magdalene (9, Jn. 20). Mary Magdalene went to the disciples as they mourned and wept (10). Initially, when she told them that Jesus was alive and had been seen by her, they did not believe her (11). Note: unbelief prolongs emotional distress (11,13).

Jesus is made known through the Bible:

After that, He appeared in another form to two of them as they walked and went into the country.¹³ And they went and told it to the rest, but they did not believe them either (12-13). Jesus appeared to two of His followers, who were not part of the twelve. Luke's account provides more details (Luke 24:13-35). They were walking slowly on the road to a village called Emmaus about seven miles from Jerusalem. Jesus approached them on the road, and at first they don't recognize Him as His appearance was concealed. The two were talking about the events of the past few days, and they were sad. Jesus asks them what they're talking about, and one replied are you the only stranger in town who hasn't heard about these things. Jesus replies, "What things?" They began to describe how they were *hoping* Jesus

would redeem Israel, Jesus' death, the reports of the women about the resurrection, and the disciples inspection of the empty tomb. Jesus rebuked them for being slow to believe all that was written regarding the Messiah's suffering and glory.

Then beginning at Genesis and the books of Moses, through the Prophets, Jesus expounded to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself. Jesus would have kept sharing the Scriptures as long as they would listen, but when they arrived at Emmaus near sundown the two encouraged Jesus to join them for a meal. Note, Jesus wants to teach us as long as we will listen and seek to learn. While they were eating, Jesus took the bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. Then their eyes were opened and they knew Him and He departed (Lu. 24:31). Why did they suddenly recognize Jesus? Perhaps they saw the nail prints, or the familiar way He prayed, or likely the Lord simply chose to reveal His identity. Jesus could have simply revealed to them that He was alive, but instead reveals the truth of His resurrection through the Scriptures as a model for us.

Luke records their reaction, "Did not our heart burn within us while He talked with us on the road, and while He opened the Scriptures to us" (Lu. 24:32). There was a burning, consuming, passionate fire raging in their hearts as they understood and knew Jesus with their minds, hearts, and spirit in connection with the Scriptures.

The Bible is the best way to know Jesus: There is a tendency to project our own personal and cultural values upon Jesus. We need the Bible to have a clear of Jesus. Here are four steps to help you know the Bible and Jesus better:

Listen (Rom. 10:17): "Faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God." Listen to audio versions of Bible reading, sound Bible teaching and preaching (Right Now Media). Especially helpful for auditory learners.

Study (2Tim. 2:15): "Be diligent to show to present yourself approved to God, a worker who need not be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth." Listening and reading the Bible will help you discover Jesus, but will also prompt questions regarding who, what where, when, and why. Take the extra step of using a study Bible or commentaries. A good free online source is available at (<https://www.blueletterbible.org/>).

Memorize (Ps. 119:11): "I have stored up your word in my heart, that I might not sin against you." Discover a way that helps you to memorize verses (See the article link in the Disciples Who Dig Deeper section below).

Apply (Ja. 1:22): "Be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves." We demonstrate that we are growing in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ (2Pet. 3:18) as we seek to apply biblical truth to our lives and grow in Christlikeness. We rejoice in progress in the process. You can know Jesus through His Word and through your experience with Him.

2. The need to make Jesus known (14-20)

¹⁴ Later He appeared to the eleven as they sat at the table; and He rebuked their unbelief and hardness of heart, because they did not believe those who had seen Him after He had risen. ¹⁵ And He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. ¹⁶ He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned.

The mission of proclaiming Jesus and His gospel (14-16):

Jesus later appeared to the eleven, and rebuked their unbelief (14). The heart of the problem, was their *hardness of heart* (14). They had not understood or fully believed Jesus when He foretold His death and resurrection, and they had not believed the women (11), the two on the road to Emmaus (13), nor the physical evidence at the empty tomb (Jn. 20:3-10). Jesus rebuked them, because their lack of faith (unbelief) hindered them from doing what Jesus had been preparing them to do for the better part of three years.

And He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. Jesus is speaking to the eleven, but the application of this principal is intended beyond the eleven. Similarly, in Mathew's account, Jesus is addressing the eleven when He Commissions them to proclaim the gospel to all nations

(lit. all people groups), but that mission would be continued and completed by others as indicated by Jesus' assurance that He would be with them until the end of the age (Matt. 28:18-20). The mission would be initiated by the eleven and fulfilled by the Church. Since the Church is individual followers of Jesus, this commission is an ideal for all believers.

Engage people: *Go into* (15) conveys the idea of engaging people. Jesus' went into our world (The Incarnation) to reveal truth about God, the gospel and His kingdom (Jn. 18:37). We want to engage people like Jesus did. Jesus manifests compassion without compromise. He engaged people that were outside of the God-following community, and even engaged people perceived as notorious sinners. Yet, Jesus was never contrary to God's commandments in doing so.

You engage by seeking to develop relationships with people where you live, works, study, and play. Spend time seeking to listen, understand them and their worldview. Demonstrate gentleness, humility, respect, and patience. Love and serve people with no strings attached so they can experience your faith in a tangible way.

Two alternatives to *engage*, that we should be careful to avoid are: *enclave and enrage*. To *enclave* is to withdraw from the culture and isolate from unbelievers. To *enrage* is to condemn, rail against, judge and create an us vs. them dynamic.

Wherever: *all the world* (15) is literally "as you are going throughout the world." The gospel has spread globally and has been proclaimed to most people groups (*ethnos* or cultures with distinct customs, language, and values). There are some who are called to cross-country or global missions, but the majority of God's people can all engage "their world" (i.e. wherever with whomever whenever).

Proclaim: *preach* (15) is the idea of an ambassador proclaiming a message, and thus is much broader than Bible teaching or preaching at a gathering. We are God's ambassadors seeking to communicate God's message on Christ's behalf so that people are reconciled to God (2Cor. 5:20).

To all people: *to every creature* (15) refers to all humanity: Jews and Gentiles, male and female, rich and poor, moral and immoral, etc. (rather than sharing the gospel with your dog, cat, rabbit, goldfish, turtle). No one is too good or bad.

The gospel: What is the gospel? Jesus dies for our sins and rose on the third day as foretold by the prophets, and we receive God's forgiveness, Spirit, and life through faith (believing) in Christ (1Cor. 15:1-4, Eph. 2:8-9, Jn. 11:25-26).

He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned (16). You are saved through faith in Christ (not baptism or any other ritual), but all believers should be baptized as a symbol of identification with Jesus' death and resurrection (Rom. 6, Matt. 28:18-20). Those who reject God's offer of salvation through Christ experience God's condemnation or judgement. That is the bad news, that makes the gospel good news (Rom. 3:23, 6:23).

The manifestation of proclaiming Jesus and His gospel (17-20):

And these signs will follow those who believe: In My name they will cast out demons; they will speak with new tongues; ¹⁸ they will take up serpents; and if they drink anything deadly, it will by no means hurt them; they will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover." ¹⁹ So then, after the Lord had spoken to them, He was received up into heaven, and sat down at the right hand of God. ²⁰ And they went out and preached everywhere, the Lord working with them and confirming the word through the accompanying signs. Amen.

Signs are listed that may occur to manifest the authenticity of the gospel message (these are not intended as a means to share the gospel) (17-18): cast out demons (Mk. 9:38), tongues (Ac. 2), protection from venomous snakes (Ac.28), healing (Ja. 5:14), and protection from poison (no NT mention). In our culture, the relevant sign might be what Jesus declared, "By this all will know you are My disciples, if you have love for one another" (Jn. 13:35).

After the commission, Jesus ascended *up into heaven, and sat down at the right hand of God* (19). Jesus is manifest in the position of honor and authority where He empowers His Church, and the mission of advancing the gospel. *And they went out and preached everywhere, the Lord working with them and confirming the word through the accompanying signs* (20). Mark concludes that Jesus' followers did just

what they were commissioned to do and the gospel was manifest throughout the Roman Empire. The same Lord *who was working with them* wants to work through you and I to know Him and make Him known.

Study Guide Qs:

Q1. How has learning the Bible helped you to know Jesus?

Q2. What tips would you give to someone who wanted to learn and live (apply) God's truth (the Bible)?

Q3. Share an experience (either positive or negative) where you shared Jesus. What happened, what did you learn?

Q4. List family members, friends, and neighbors where you live, work, study and play that you would like to share Jesus with. Share with your group and pray for God's boldness, words, and open doors to share.

"Disciples Who Dig Deeper" (optional or alternative study)

1. Here is a helpful article from the Navigators regarding memorizing Scripture:

<https://www.navigators.org/resource/how-to-memorize-scripture>.

2. Re-read Mark's Gospel and focus on the theme "Jesus Came to Serve." What did you discover about Jesus? How might you seek to imitate Him?

Love your neighbors (inside + outside the group) better:

1. Who would like to share how they sought to befriend or build relationship with their neighbors inside or outside the group?

2. Are there some needs that can provide us an opportunity to love our neighbors inside or outside the group?

Disciples who make disciples:

1. Who would like to share how they recently sought to make disciples?

2. Here is a disciple making idea to consider for the weeks ahead:

Pray for God's boldness, words, and open doors to share Jesus with family, friends, and neighbors this week.

Prayer [Loving God and Neighbors better]:

Close the NG meeting with a time of group prayer. Encourage each participant to pray, but don't force anyone to pray. Encourage the group to keep their prayers brief so that each person can pray.

Leader Notes:

1. Seek to involve as many group participants as possible. A good group discussion time allows people to get to know the passage and one another better.

2. Feel free to pre-select the discussion questions that you want to focus on in case there isn't enough time to answer them all.

3. The "Disciples Who Dig Deeper" section provides some optional or alternative study and discussion activities. As a group leader, you can choose to focus on the "Disciples Who Dig Deeper" section, include part of that section in your group meeting, or not use it at all. Try to give the group sufficient notice so they can be prepared for the meeting.

4. Every time you meet consider asking:

a. What about this passage is particularly exciting, challenging, or confusing? If a leader is uncertain about a question of doctrine or theology don't hesitate to follow-up with your coach during the week. Then revisit the issue(s) when the group gathers next time.