



THE WAY OF THE CROSS

Life Group
Discussion
Guide

Easter Sunday

4/05/2026

Sermon Summary: In Gospel of Mark 16:1–8, the resurrection story ends abruptly with fear, silence, and an unfinished sentence, “they were afraid... because.” Pr. Tara Beth highlights how this unusual ending is intentional: it points backward to the resurrection (“He is risen”) and forward to a response that must be lived out. The empty tomb is not the end of the story, it’s an invitation for our lives to become the continuation of it. Just as the angel specifically names Peter, the message of resurrection meets us in our failure, fear, and uncertainty. The risen Christ goes ahead of us into the ordinary places of life, already present in the spaces where God can feel absent. Because Jesus is alive, fear does not get the final word. Resurrection does.

Conversation Starter: What’s a movie, book, or show that ended in a way that left you thinking, “Wait... that’s it?” What made that ending feel incomplete or unsettling?

Prayer: Risen Jesus,
Open our hearts to hear your Word today.
Meet us in our fears, our questions, and our unfinished places.
Help us trust that you go before us.
Amen.

Read Scripture together: Mark 16:1-8

3-Question Study Method

Use this method to understand the passage.

1. What is the passage about?
2. What do I learn about God?
3. What is the lesson I learn that I can apply to my life?

Discussion Questions:

1. What stands out to you most about the ending of Mark's Gospel (Mark 16:1–8)? Why does it feel so abrupt or unresolved?
2. The women leave the tomb “trembling and bewildered... afraid.” What kind of fear do you think this is? How is it different from ordinary fear?
3. The sermon emphasizes the word “because” (Greek: *gar*)—pointing backward to the resurrection and forward to a response. What does the resurrection mean because Jesus is alive?
4. Why do you think the angel specifically names Peter? What does that reveal about how God deals with failure?
5. Where in your life do you currently feel like you're living in an “unfinished sentence”—a place of fear, uncertainty, or unanswered questions?
6. Pr Tara Beth said in her sermon, “Christ is most present in the places where He seems most absent.” Where is that hard to believe right now?
7. If your life is part of the “rest of the story,” what might it look like this week to respond to the resurrection—to live like Jesus really has gone ahead of you?
8. Mark's Gospel ends without visible resurrection appearances, placing the weight of belief on trust rather than sight. How does this shape our understanding of faith, especially compared to the other Gospels?

Memory Verse: Mark 16:6 (NIV) “He has risen! He is not here.”

Closing Prayer: Jesus,

Thank you that you are alive and that you go before us.

Meet us in our fear and lead us into faith.

Help us live as part of your story this week.

Amen.