

RESURRECTION HOPE

LESSON SCRIPTURE: MARK 16, 1 CORINTHIANS 15

FOCUS SCRIPTURE: MARK 16:1-9

Key Verse: “Do not be alarmed; you are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has been raised.” Mark 16:6

Mark 16:1-9 (NRSV)

1 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.

7 But go, tell his disciples and Peter that he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him, just as he told you.”

8 So they went out and fled from the tomb, for terror and amazement had seized them; and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.

9 Now after he rose early on the first day of the week, he appeared first to Mary Magdalene, from whom he had cast out seven demons.

WORD POWER!!!

- **Sabbath** – A day set aside to worship God, usually Sunday for Christians.
- **Resurrection** – Christ’s rising from the dead.
- **Anoint** – To bless (with oil) as part of a religious ritual.

GETTING READY!!!

Have you ever been to a surprise party? Share some of the experience with your classmates. In today’s lesson from the book of Mark, Mary Magdalene, Mary (James’ mother), and Salome got a life-changing surprise. The three women went to the tomb with spices to anoint the body of Jesus. However, they left with unexpected and wonderful news. Jesus had risen, just as Jesus said! How do you think this made these women feel? What would you have done if you experienced this surprise? Look at the **Key Verse**. Take turns acting out the **Key Verse**.

Easter, or Resurrection Sunday, is one of the highest holy days of the Christian calendar. Why do you think Easter is important? Easter is the celebration of Jesus’ resurrection from- and conquering of- death. We can have resurrection hope, because Jesus got up from the tomb with all power in Jesus’ hand!

Christian churches across the world gather together today to celebrate the most wonderful news on earth – *Jesus Lives!* This is good news that we are to share with everyone. Have you ever heard the scripture John 3:16? Listen to John 3:16 as the

teacher reads it to the class. God loves us so much that God gave us God's son to not only come to earth, but to die, and live again so we may have everlasting life. What a wonderful gift!

INTO GOD'S WORD!!!

Jesus' resurrection was one of the most important events ever. Paul reminds us in the Corinthian passage that since Christ indeed rose from the dead, we can have everlasting life. In honor of Resurrection Sunday, let's reenact the story of Mark. The twist, however, is that while the teacher is reading, you will be acting out what she/he is saying.

USING GOD'S WORD!!!

Can you imagine the feeling of the three women as they were making their way to Jesus' tomb? They thought they were headed to perform the ceremonial anointing of Jesus' body, but they were in for a surprise! One of the looming questions that they had amongst each other was, who would roll the stone away from the entrance of the tomb? The women asked this question because the day before, a huge stone had been placed in front of the tomb of Jesus so no one could get in or out!

When the women got to the site of the tomb, they were astonished that the huge stone had not only been rolled away, but also that a visitor was there to greet them. The young man dressed in white told them some amazing news! He shared with them that Jesus, who was crucified, was not here but had risen. Can you imagine how the women must have felt?

One of God's many promises is that God will never leave you alone. This means that no matter where you go, by yourself or with your family, God will be present with you. In this passage, the young man's news of Jesus being alive was evidence that God's love even conquers death! As you celebrate this Easter season, make sure you remember the true reason to rejoice. It is not the bunny, Easter egg hunts, or even the chocolate! The true joy and excitement is that Jesus is alive forevermore!

REMIX!!!

Resurrection to us as Christians means Jesus is alive! It is the crux of our faith as being followers of Christ. Jesus' life was that of compassion, justice, and love for all. However, Jesus knew that we would need a Savior to save us from ourselves. Jesus made the ultimate sacrifice by giving his life for us so that we may have everlasting life. What a gift! While we are still here on earth, we are called to share this good news with others so that they too will believe. This Sunday, share with someone what you learned today about resurrection hope.

QUESTIONS

1. What is the observation of Easter about?
2. Name one of the three women who went to the tomb to anoint Jesus' body?
3. How can you share the true meaning of Easter with your family and friends?

PRAISE GOD!!!

This story reminds us of the faithfulness of God throughout generations. The prophets foretold that a Messiah would come to earth, live, die, and be raised on the third day. Jesus fulfilled this duty when he conquered death, giving us everlasting life. This is good news for us because we know that no matter what happens in our lives, God's love and power gives us resurrection hope. Jesus got up, so we too can get up!

CLOSING PRAYER

Loving God, thank you for being faithful to us by raising Jesus up. Help us to remember that the true meaning of Easter is not in the baskets or the candy, but in the great news that Jesus is alive forevermore. Give us courage to share our faith with our friends and walk with you all of our days. Amen.