

How Will the Story End?

Mark 16:1-8

Ice Breaker: Describe a time when the ending of a book or a movie or a television series made you angry. Why were you upset with the way the writer ended the story?

Big Idea: Mark's story ends on a note of the women being afraid to tell the others about Jesus because Mark knows that we (his readers) will be able to relate to this fear of sharing Christ. The question at the end of Mark's gospel is not: 'How long will the women keep silent?' but 'How long will we keep silent?'

Digging Deeper:

1) Read Mark 1:1. What is the title of Mark's Gospel? What does this imply about the whole book of Mark – including the end of the story?

2) Read Mark 16:1-6. What are the women planning to do when they set out for the tomb? What do they encounter instead? How do you think you would have responded if you had been there with them?

3) Read Mark 16:7-8. What are the women commissioned to do? How do they respond instead? Why don't they (at least at first) obey the mandate to tell the others about the resurrection? Can you relate to their fear? Why or why not?

4) If the title of Mark's Gospel is: "The *Beginning* of the Gospel of Jesus Christ" – then what does that imply about the rest of the Jesus story? How does the end of Mark's Gospel actually invite us into the rest of the Jesus story?

5) Pastor Joshua mentioned five ways that we can continue the Jesus story in our world:

- * Pray for those who are not yet following Christ
- * Invite people to our worship services
- * Start a small group – specifically geared toward seekers
- * 'Be the church' on September 25 – and invite a pre-Christian to join you
- * Be willing to share your faith when the Lord opens the door

Spend some time talking about ways (these or others) that you and/or your small group can continue the Jesus story in your sphere of influence.