



# WEEKLY SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE

## Easter Sunday

### *Hopeful Expectation*

**Mark 16:1-8**

#### EXPLORING THE SERMON

- What did you hear?
- What did you think or feel about what you heard?
- What is one thing you can take away from the sermon this week?

#### VERSES FOR MEDITATION AND REFLECTION

*“When they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had already been rolled back. As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man, dressed in a white robe, sitting on the right side; and they were alarmed. 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. 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.” 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.*

**Mark 16:4-8**

*Jill points out that the truth of the resurrection involves three factors, none of which could have stood alone:*

1. *The empty tomb*
2. *The testimonies of believers*
3. *The lifetime impact made on followers of Jesus*

*Consider the burden that was placed on the disciples who witnessed the risen Christ. At least 9 gave their lives over the years in Christ’s name, which ushered in a movement that turned the world upside down. 2,000 years later, nothing less than the power of the resurrection calls believers to remain faithful.*

- *Jill says that at the end of the book of Mark, the “baton” is passed to us, and it is now our turn to love one another and cultivate hopeful expectation. How can being confident in the resurrection change enable us to live with **hopeful expectation**?*

*The good news, Jill says, is that Jesus longs to be in fellowship with us and bless us with a rich and purpose-filled life. He longs to change our hearts and give us peace, with the ability to live and love like Jesus.*

- *How can we support one another in being people who are a blessing to each other and to the world? Discuss some daily practices which would be helpful in remembering and reaffirming this truth to ourselves and each other.*

**Prayer:** *Dear Heavenly Father, thank you for the miracle of Easter, the greatest news we will ever receive. We are grateful for the empty tomb and the resurrection of Jesus. Instill in us the courage, hope, and faith to be people who live in hopeful expectation while boldly declaring your resurrection as the source of our greatest hope. Amen.*

