



## Mark 16

**It's News Too Good to Keep to Ourselves** [Mark 16:9-20]

Reading and Study Guide for the week of Aug. 20-27, 2023

**This week, read Mark 16.** On Sunday, August 27: Pastor John will be preaching on the theme, **It's News Too Good to Keep to Ourselves** [Mark 16:9-20]. In the concluding comments of Mark's Gospel, Jesus commissioned the disciples to take the gospel into all the world. If we continue to follow Jesus, He will lead us to people and places that need to hear the gospel.

**Some questions to answer and think about this week with your family or Community Group:**

### **The Resurrection and its Impact on the Disciples: Mark 16:9-20**

1. To whom did the resurrected Jesus appear first? ([16:9](#))
2. How did Jesus' disciples respond each time someone told them that He had risen from the dead? ([16:11-12](#))
3. Why did Jesus rebuke the disciples when He first saw them? ([16:14](#))
4. What instructions did Jesus give to His followers? ([16:15-18](#))
5. What happened to Jesus after He was taken up into heaven? ([16:19](#))
6. What did the disciples do after Jesus had left earth to return to heaven? ([16:20](#))
7. What is the responsibility of every Christian in fulfilling Christ's command to tell others about Him?
8. What do you see as your personal role in helping spread the news about Christ? \What is one concrete step of faith you can take this week in your life at work, among your family, or in your personal life?

### **Life Application Bible Notes**

**16:15** Jesus told his disciples to go into all the world, telling everyone that he had paid the penalty for sin and that those who believe in him can be forgiven and live eternally with God. Christians today in all parts of the world are telling this Good News to people who haven't heard about Christ. The driving power that carries missionaries around the world and sets Christ's church in motion is the faith that comes from the Resurrection. Do you ever feel as though you don't have the skill or determination to be a witness for Christ? You must personally realize that Jesus rose from the dead and lives for you today. As you grow in your relationship with Christ, he will give you both the opportunities and the inner strength to tell his message.

**16:16** It is not the water of baptism that saves but God's grace accepted through faith in Christ. Because of Jesus' response to the criminal on the cross who died with him, we know it is possible to be saved without being baptized ([Luke 23:43](#)). Baptism alone, without faith, does not guarantee that a person will go to heaven. Those who refuse to accept Jesus as their Savior will be condemned, regardless of whether or not they have been baptized.

**16:18** There are times when God intervenes miraculously to protect his followers. Occasionally he gives them special powers. Paul handled a snake safely ([Acts 28:5](#)), and the disciples healed the sick ([Matthew 10:1](#); [Acts 3:7, 8](#)). This does not mean, however, that we should test God by putting ourselves in dangerous situations or try to tempt the laws of nature. No one should build a religion on a portion of Scripture. God calls us to live as new citizens in the eternal Kingdom and to witness by word and service to God's love and power. Our witness should center on Jesus, not on superhero-type stunts.

**16:19** When Jesus ascended into heaven, his physical presence left the disciples ([Acts 1:9](#)). Jesus' sitting at God's right hand signifies the completion of his work, his authority as God, and his coronation as King.

**16:20** Mark's Gospel emphasizes Christ's power as well as his servanthood. Jesus' life and teaching turned the world upside down and continue to do so. The world sees power as a way to gain control over others. But Jesus, with all authority and power in heaven and earth, chose to serve others. He held children in his arms, healed the sick, washed the disciples' feet, and died for the sins of the world. Jesus' followers today receive this same power to serve. As believers, we are called to be servants of Christ. As Christ served, so we are to serve.

Mark Study Guide questions and notes are from

