

GONE FISHING

WEEK 3 | The Redemption (Say So)

PRAYER

O God, who for our redemption gave your only-begotten Son to the death of the cross, and by his glorious resurrection delivered us from the power of our enemy: Grant us so to die daily to sin, that we may evermore live with him in the joy of his resurrection; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever, Amen.

- Revised Common Lectionary: Easter Sunday

WARM UP

(OPTIONAL)

Is there a trend from the past that you wish would come back?

PRAYER



EVERY NATION
BRISBANE

© 2023 by EVERY NATION BRISBANE®

All rights reserved.

Scripture quotations are from The Holy Bible, English Standard Version® (ESV®), Copyright © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Permission to photocopy this material is granted for local church use. This is not for sale.

WORD

¹ When the Sabbath was past, Mary Magdalene, 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 And they were saying to one another, "Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance of the tomb?" ⁴ And looking up, they saw that the stone had been rolled back—it was very large. ⁵ And entering the tomb, they saw a young man sitting on the right side, dressed in a white robe, and they were alarmed. ⁶ And he said to them, "Do not be alarmed. You seek Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has risen; he is not here. See the place where they laid him. ⁷ But go, tell his disciples and Peter that he is going before you to Galilee. There you will see him, just as he told you." ⁸ And they went out and fled from the tomb, for trembling and astonishment had seized them, and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.

MARK 16:1-8

Jesus has said to his disciples, "I will rise on the third day." He said it in [Mark 8](#), again in [Mark 9](#), and yet again in [Mark 10](#). Given that repetition, something curious is going on. On the third day after Jesus's death, there are no male disciples around; these female disciples do appear, but they are bringing along all the expensive spices and perfumes with which a dead body was customarily anointed. Nobody is expecting a resurrection. If you were the Gospel writer Mark, trying to write a credible piece of fiction, and you have had Jesus saying repeatedly to his disciples that he would rise on the third day, wouldn't you have at least one disciple thinking this through after Jesus's death and saying to the others, "Hey, it's the third day."

Maybe we ought to go take a look at Jesus's tomb. What can it hurt?" That would only be reasonable. But nobody said anything like that. In fact, they did not expect a resurrection at all. It didn't occur to them. The angel in front of the empty tomb had to remind the women: "You will see him, just as he told you." If Mark had made up this story, he wouldn't have written it this way. And here's the point: The resurrection was as inconceivable for the first disciples, as impossible for them to believe, as it is for many of us today. Granted, their reasons would have been different from ours. The Greeks did not believe in resurrection; in the Greek worldview, the afterlife was liberation of the soul from the body. For them, resurrection would never be part of life after death. As for the Jews, some of them believed in a future general resurrection when the entire world would be renewed, but they had no concept of an individual rising from the dead. The people of Jesus's day were not predisposed to believe in resurrection any more than we are.

- Tim Keller, *The Death of Death*

GUIDE QUESTIONS

(NUMBERED ACCORDING TO LEVEL OF DEPTH AND READINESS TO SHARE)

1. On a scale from 1 to 10 (1 being never and 10 being always), how would you rate your belief in the miraculous/supernatural? Why would you rate yourself this way?
2. The women were surely surprised by the events of that Sunday morning. Can you recall a time when God surprised you with what was completely unexpected?
3. What does the resurrection mean for your own life? Does it cause you to live and think differently?
4. What areas in your life (or troubles that you observe in the world) are weighing you down or making you feel hopeless? Do you feel as though you can bring them to God in prayer? Why/why not?
5. If you believe that Jesus is alive, who do you have in your life that need to hear this good news? What do you think would be the most effective way to communicate this to them?

If you are not yet a follower of Jesus, would you choose today to trust Him and to follow the One who sacrificed His all for you, and offers you life by His grace and not by our own "fig leaf" salvation projects? Will you enable him to have all authority as the one who calls the shots in your life? Would you like to enter into a saving relationship with God through Jesus? Ask your Life Group leader to lead you in prayer to receive Christ. You can pray this prayer:

Dear Lord Jesus, I know that I am a sinner, and I ask for your forgiveness. I believe you died for my sins and rose from the dead. I turn from my sins and invite you to be the master of my life. I want to trust and follow you as my Lord and Saviour. I declare that I am yours, and you are mine. In Jesus' name, Amen.

NOTES