

KINGDOM

the gospel of mark

Week 14 | Kingdom: The Gospel of Mark | April 5, 2015

Opening Up:

- Do you like change? Why or why not?
- Tell the group about a change that you have made in your life. How did it go?
- What is something you don't want to change but you know it will? (explain)
- What is something you have always wanted to change, but haven't? (explain)
- Why is change hard? What helps you to make change happen?

Read (or reference): Mark 16:1-8

Discuss:

1. When you ponder your faith, or when you face doubts, what is the bottom line for you—what is your anchor? How do you give a brief answer to the question "Why are you a Christian"?
2. In Mark 15:33 there was a supernatural darkness over the whole land. Before creation in Genesis 1:1 there was darkness over the whole land. Darkness carries a negative connotation. It is a sign of no life or the break down of life. When you feel darkness, what does it feel like?
3. In Mark the disciples did not appear to expect Jesus to rise from the dead. But for Jesus, death was not final. Why do we sometimes fixate on the visible reality (as if it is final) and fail to see the divine possibility? What are signs in our lives when we are no longer envisioning the divinely possible?
4. How does the resurrection answer the problem of our darkness? How does the resurrection help us to see the divine possibilities?
5. When you feel hopeless, like everything that is bad is set in stone, what do you need to hear? What would help you to seek what God can do?
6. Why do bad things tend to happen in the dark?
7. Why is the lack of darkness in the New City (Rev. 21) important?
8. What memory in your life most approximates "life as it ought to be"? How does this help you envision our future resurrected glory?
9. Read the words of Tim Keller. What do you think about how he has described heaven? How is this different from what you have thought about heaven in the past?

"If you can't dance and you long to dance, in the resurrection you'll dance perfectly. If you're lonely, in the resurrection you will have perfect love. If you're empty, in the resurrection you will be fully satisfied. Ordinary life is what's going to be redeemed. There is nothing better than ordinary life, except that it's always going away and always falling apart. Ordinary life is food and work and chairs by the fire and hugs and dancing and mountains—this world. God loves it so much that he gave his only Son so we—and the rest of this ordinary world—could be redeemed and made perfect and that is what is in store for us."

10. Pray

