

**Encounter | Week 5 - When We Encounter Jesus****Big Idea**

Jesus' resurrection transforms fear into confident hope.

**Scripture**

Mark 16:1-8, Mark 16:9-11, and Mark 16:12-20

**Points to Keep In Mind**

1. In Jewish tradition, anointing the deceased's body with spices and oils was customary as a final act of honor and respect. Bringing spices to the tomb was like bringing flowers to a grave today. The women's actions demonstrate their love and devotion to Jesus no matter what the cost, with the likelihood of Roman soldiers stationed at the burial site who may have harassed them.
2. Mary and the other women leave feeling bewildered and afraid. However, in verses 9-11, that changes for Mary. Seeing Jesus alive gave Mary the hope and courage to share this incredible news with those who had been with Jesus and were mourning. May we similarly encounter Jesus, giving us hope and courage amid life's challenges and sharing the Good News of Jesus with others.
3. Even though some of the disciples doubted that Jesus had risen from the dead, he still entrusted them to "preach the gospel to all creation" and do miraculous signs in his name. This gives us, as followers of Jesus, reassurance that despite our doubts, Jesus can still work in us and through us by his resurrection power. All we need to do is be available and listen to his voice, and he will do the rest!
4. Jesus' ascension into heaven, seated at the Father's right hand, shows us that he is sovereign over all creation and actively involved in reigning over his people and his church. Just as "the Lord worked with them" then, he is working with us now as we share the Good News of Jesus. In fact, we have the added bonus of the Holy Spirit's help, power, and guidance (John 14:15-17).
5. Pastor Rick Warren tells us the command, "Do not be afraid," is in the Bible 365 times, one time for every day of the year. God knew we would need it! He shouts to us in the pages of the Bible over and over and over again: "Do not be afraid!" "Do not be afraid!" "Do not be afraid!" A lot of what it means to follow Jesus is learning not to be afraid, to trust God with the big things, and to trust God with the small things. To believe that because Jesus rose from the dead, despite how it might appear in our world right now, everything will be alright.

**Additional resources**

visit [communitychristian.org/nextsteps](http://communitychristian.org/nextsteps)

**What's going on this week?**

visit [communitychristian.info](http://communitychristian.info)