BEYOND SUNDAY

Fear Doesn't Get the Final Word

Mark 16:1–11

Leader Purpose

Help people identify the "stone" producing fear in their lives and move them toward trusting the risen Jesus—even when they do not understand how the situation will be resolved.

Big Idea

Faith is trusting what God has said when circumstances are speaking louder.

Key Scripture

"Whenever I am afraid, I will trust in You."
—Psalm 56:3 NKJV

TOTAL GROUP TIME — 60 MINUTES

1. CONNECT — 5 MINUTES

Opening Question

What is something you worried about that ended up being easier to handle than you expected?

Allow two or three people to answer.

Leader Transition

"Fear has a way of making us mentally carry problems before we ever reach them. In Mark 16, the women spent their journey worrying about a stone that God had already moved.

Tonight, we're going to talk about trusting Jesus when the problem is real, the answer is unclear, and fear is speaking loudly."

2. READ AND SET THE CONTEXT — 7 MINUTES

Ask different people to read:

- **Mark 16:1–4**
- **Mark 16:5–8**
- **Mark 16:9–11**

Leader Context

The women loved Jesus, but they came expecting a dead Jesus.

They had watched Him suffer and die. Those circumstances were real, painful, and overwhelming. But Jesus had also repeatedly told His disciples that He would be killed and rise again.

Read or summarize:

- **Mark 8:31**
- **Mark 9:31**
- **Mark 10:33–34**

The problem wasn't that Jesus had failed to speak. Their circumstances were simply speaking louder than what He had said.

Leader Transition

"The women expected death, but God had already released resurrection. They saw a tomb. God knew it was empty."

3. TALK ABOUT IT — 33 MINUTES

Keep Moving Toward Jesus — 11 Minutes

Read **Mark 16:1–3**.

The women were grieving, confused, and carrying the wrong expectations—but they still moved toward Jesus.

They did not understand what God was doing. They did not arrive with perfect faith. They came prepared to anoint a dead body.

Still, they came.

Sometimes faith does not look dramatic. Sometimes faith is simply taking the next step toward Jesus without having every answer.

Read **Psalm 119:105**.

A lamp does not normally illuminate the entire road. It gives enough light for the next step.

Discuss:

1. What does the women's decision to go to the tomb teach us about moving toward Jesus when we are confused or disappointed?

2. What is one next step of faith you can take without knowing how the whole situation will work out?

Answers to Listen For

- Continuing to pray when feelings have not changed
- Coming to church or group while hurting
- Asking for help
- Obeying the last thing God made clear
- Refusing to isolate
- Taking a practical step while trusting God with the outcome

Leader Emphasis

Faith is not pretending we understand everything. It is moving toward Jesus because we trust Him more than we trust our understanding.

You don't need the entire plan to take the next step.

What Is Your Stone? — 11 Minutes

As the women walked, they asked:

“Who will roll away the stone from the door of the tomb for us?”

The stone was real. It was large, heavy, and beyond their ability to move.

Faith does not deny that the stone exists. But fear can keep us mentally trying to solve problems we were never meant to carry alone.

Our stone might be:

- A health diagnosis
- A financial need
- A struggling child
- A broken relationship
- An uncertain future
- A decision we cannot figure out
- A situation beyond our control

Read **Proverbs 3:5–6**.

Discuss:

3. What is the difference between responsibly addressing a problem and carrying it through fear?

4. What “stone” have you been mentally trying to move?

Leader Caution

Do not minimize anyone’s situation or offer quick answers. The women’s stone was real. The point is not that the problem is imaginary; it is that the problem is not greater than Jesus.

Leader Emphasis

Fear asks:

“How am I going to make this work?”

Trust asks:

“What has God said, and what is my next step?”

We do what God gives us to do and trust Him with what is beyond our ability.

The Stone Was Already Moved — 11 Minutes

Read **Mark 16:4–7**.

When the women arrived, they discovered that the stone they had been worrying about was already moved.

They came expecting death and encountered resurrection.

Jesus was alive. Death could not hold Him. The grave could not contain Him. The stone could not stop Him.

Because Jesus is alive, no circumstance is greater than Him.

The angel then said:

"Go, tell His disciples—and Peter…"

Peter had denied Jesus three times and failed deeply. Yet Jesus specifically included him.

Peter's failure did not get the final word. Grace did.

The angel also reminded them:

"He is going before you into Galilee; there you will see Him, as He said to you."

Jesus did exactly what He promised.

Read **Numbers 23:19**.

Discuss:

5. What does "and Peter" reveal about the heart of Jesus toward us when we fail?
6. How does the resurrection change the way we view situations that appear hopeless?

Answers to Listen For

- Failure is not necessarily final
- Jesus still pursues and restores people
- God remains faithful when we struggle
- No situation is beyond resurrection power

- We can trust what Jesus has said
- Circumstances do not have the final word

Leader Emphasis

The resurrection means:

Death does not get the final word.
Failure does not get the final word.
The stone does not get the final word.
Fear does not get the final word.

Jesus does.

4. LIVE IT OUT — 5 MINUTES

Give everyone a quiet moment to complete these statements:

- The stone I have been worrying about is _____.
- The next step I can take toward Jesus is _____.
- The promise I need to trust is _____.

Weekly Challenge

When fear rises this week:

1. Name the stone.
2. Remember what God has said.
3. Take the next step He has given you.
4. Give the outcome back to Him.

Declare:

“This situation does not get the final word. Jesus does.”

5. PRAYER AND MINISTRY — 10 MINUTES

Invite people to share their "stone" without pressuring them to reveal private details.

Pray specifically for:

- Fear and anxiety
- Health concerns
- Children and family situations
- Financial pressure
- Broken relationships
- Grief and disappointment
- Restoration after failure
- Courage to take the next step

Leader Direction

Do not turn this into a problem-solving session. Bring each need to Jesus.

Help people distinguish between:

- The step God has given them to take
- The weight they need to release to Him

Read **1 Peter 5:7**:

"Casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you."

Closing Prayer

"Father, thank You that Jesus is alive.

Forgive us for allowing circumstances to speak louder than what You have said. We bring You every stone that is too heavy for us to move.

Show us the next step You want us to take, and help us trust You with everything beyond our control.

Thank You that failure does not get the final word. Fear does not get the final word. Death and the grave do not get the final word.

Jesus, You have the final word. We choose to trust You.

In Jesus' name, amen."

FINAL TAKEAWAY

The women saw a stone.
God knew it was moved.

They saw a tomb.
God knew it was empty.

They expected death.
Jesus was alive.

Because Jesus is alive, fear doesn't get the final word. Jesus does.