



INTRODUCTION / EASTER

Christ is Risen! On Easter we celebrate that we have a God who overturns our failures, raises us from our missteps, resolves the endings of our stories, and promises to resurrect us! The failures of those disciples didn't hinder what God was up to, and it's the same for us. Whoever we are and whatever our lives look like, God is eager to resolve the endings to all of our stories.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What Easter traditions do you have?
2. What words would you use to describe the Easter story? (ex. power, victory)
3. **Read the Easter Story in Mark 16:1-8.**
4. Did you notice how the Easter story ends? At the end of the story where are the women?
5. The women were asked to do one thing — they were given one command — in the most important story of our faith and what did they do?
6. The women “botched” their Easter job. They did the opposite of what they were supposed to. Have you ever “botched” something really good? Failed at something that was really important? Made a big mistake that hurt?
7. In your Bible, notice what comes after Mark 16:8. (Multiple endings that were written 100-300 years after Mark was originally written.) What do you imagine that's all about? Why would people try to rewrite the ending of Mark's Easter story?
8. What consequence did the women's botched job have on the Easter story and what God was up to?
9. What consequence do your botched jobs have on your relationship with God?

MOVING FORWARD

The women who went to the tomb had one thing to do and they failed. Jesus rises from the dead, but no one sees him because “they said nothing to anyone.” This isn't the Easter story we're used to, but I wonder: Maybe it's the story we need. Ever since this story was put to paper people have tried to disguise the ending to Mark's gospel, make it more triumphant, even add verses. But, maybe this story of the women's colossal mess up is the story we need, because we too know failure, don't we?

Folks, this Easter we celebrate that we have a God who overturns our failures, raises us from our missteps, resolves the endings of our stories, and promises to resurrect us! The failures of those disciples didn't hinder what God was up to, and it's the same for us. Whoever we are and whatever our lives look like, God is eager to resolve the endings to all of our stories. That's the Easter promise, and this is the story we exist to tell.