

4. The young man specifically mentions Peter in verse 7. In light of what we last read about Peter in Mark 14:66-72, what's the significance of this?

5. The Bible says the women "were afraid" and "said nothing to anyone." What do you think was going on for them? Why do you think they at first didn't say anything to anyone?

### BRINGING IT HOME

6. Most scholars believe that Mark ends after verse 8 (your Bible probably has a footnote about this). Mark ends his gospel in the same way Jesus used parables: to tell enough to get you curious, and to see how you'll respond to the light you've been given. Take a moment to stop, reflect on the whole Gospel of Mark, and answer the following questions:

What have you learned about Jesus?

How have you been affected by Him?

How do you want to respond to what you've learned?

How has God transformed you as a result of reading the Gospel of Mark?

## THE FOUNDATION FOR NO-FEAR LIVING

*"Don't be alarmed," he said.* Mark 16:6a

*"In Christ we can come before God with freedom and without fear. We can do this through faith in Christ."* Ephesians 3:12 (NCV)

### HOW TO ESTABLISH YOUR FOUNDATION

#### A \_\_\_\_\_ God's love for me

*"Where God's love is, there is no fear, because God's perfect love drives out fear."* 1 John 4:18a (NCV)

*"Nothing in all creation can separate us from God's love for us in Christ Jesus our Lord!"* Romans 8:39 (CEV)

*"Are not five sparrows sold for two pennies? And not one of them is forgotten before God. Why, even the hairs of your head are all numbered. Fear not; you are of more value than many sparrows."* Luke 12:6-7 (ESV)

#### B \_\_\_\_\_ Jesus died and rose for me

*"That is why Jesus became one of us. He died to destroy the devil, who had power over death. But he also died to rescue all of us who live each day in fear of dying."* Hebrews 2:14-15 (CEV)

*"For God loved the world so much that he gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life."* John 3:16 (NLT)

## C \_\_\_\_\_ my fears and my life to Jesus

*“Do not be afraid of anyone, and do not worry. But have reverence for Christ in your hearts, and honor him as Lord.”* 1 Peter 3:14-15 (GNT)

*“Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you.”* 1 Peter 5:7

*“God’s Spirit doesn’t make us slaves who are afraid of him. Instead, we become his children and call him our Father.”* Romans 8:15 (CEV)

*“May God bless you richly and grant you increasing freedom from all anxiety and fear.”* 1 Peter 1:2b (The Living Bible)

## Growth Group Homework

For the Week of April 12, 2009

Mark 16:1-8

### INTO THE BIBLE

In this week’s Growth Group, we’re going to walk through the experience Mary, Mary, and Salome went through on Easter morning. **Read Mark 16:1-8.**

1. Jews would not do any work on the Sabbath, which begins at sunset on Friday and ends at sunset on Saturday. Bodies were normally anointed with spices and oil before burial to reduce the immediate stench of rapid decomposition in the hot Mediterranean days, but because Jesus had died on Friday just before the Sabbath began, this anointing had been postponed. What do their buying spices say about the women’s mindset and expectations as they approached Jesus’ tomb?
2. Back in Jesus’ day, setting the large stone in place in front of a tomb was a relatively easy task, but once it had slipped into the groove cut in bedrock in front of the entrance it was very difficult to remove. Normally several strong men would be needed to roll it back. What do you think the women were thinking when they arrived at Jesus’ tomb and saw the stone rolled away?

Imagine you decided to visit a friend’s grave a couple days after he or she died. As you walk up to the gravesite, you notice that it has been dug up. What would be your first reaction?

3. The women went in and saw a young man in a white robe sitting there. In verse 5 it says there were “alarmed.” How would you have responded?

Footnote:

\* Rick Warren, *Freedom from Your Fears*, The Foundation for No-Fear Living