

**April 5, 2026**

**Title:** Easter Sunday

**Passage:** Mark 14-16

What are some of your earliest or favorite Easter memories?

When you think of Easter, what stands out most—tradition, family, or meaning?

### **Who Is Jesus?**

**Read:** Mark 14:61-64

- What stands out to you about Jesus' response to the high priest?
- Why do you think His answer was considered blasphemy?
- What does Jesus claim about Himself in this moment?
- How do people today commonly define Jesus? How does that compare to what He says here?
- If Jesus really is who He says He is, what are the implications?
- Which is harder to accept: that Jesus is fully God, or that He has authority over your life? Why?

### **What Happened to Jesus? (Mark 14-15)**

Betrayal (Judas & Peter): Matt 27:3, Mark 14:72

- Why do you think betrayal is such a central part of Jesus' story?
- Have you ever experienced betrayal or denial? How does that shape your understanding of this moment?

Mockery & Suffering: Mark 15:17

- What does it mean that Jesus endured humiliation and abuse without retaliation?
- How does this change the way you view God?

The Cross: Mark 15:21-32

- Why do you think the cross became a symbol of hope instead of just death?
- How does reflecting on this moment impact you today?
- What was accomplished?

Burial: Mark 15:46

- At this point in the story, what would you have been feeling if you were one of His followers?
- Why is it important that Jesus truly died and was buried?

### **What Happened Next? (Mark 16:5-7)**

**Read:** Mark 16:5-7

Discuss:

- What is the significance of the empty tomb?
- Why do you think the resurrection is so central to the Christian faith?
- What are some alternative explanations people give for the resurrection?
- How does the resurrection change how we view Jesus' earlier claims?

### **Why Does Easter Matter?**

(The sermon highlighted three: (1) Victory over sin and death, (2) Reconciliation with God, (3) Invitation to a full life)

- Which of these stands out most to you right now? Why?
- What do you think it means to "embrace" rather than "ignore" the resurrection?
- What might it look like practically to trust and follow Jesus in this season of your life?
- What questions or hesitations do you still have about Jesus?
- Have you been baptized, identifying yourself with Jesus's work? If not, why not soon?
- Who are you praying for to embrace Jesus?