



# Summer Blockbuster Reading Challenge

3 months—4 Gospels—Go!

## THURSDAY, JULY 14, 2022



### Take your Pulse

What is the best news you have ever heard?

Tell about a time when you were utterly surprised.

### Today's Reading

Mark Chapter 16

Now that the sabbath is over, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome brought spices to the tomb to anoint Jesus body. However, the stone blocking the tomb was rolled away and they saw a young man in a white robe who told them that Jesus has been raised. He then instructed the women to go and tell the disciples that he is going on ahead of them to Galilee where he will meet them. Unfortunately, the women were terrified and ran away and said nothing because they were afraid. This ends the original ending of Mark. However, most scholars believe that a longer ending of Mark was added later to help fill in the gaps. This ending has Jesus appearing to Mary Magdalene and then to two disciples. He also commissions the disciples in this longer ending and then ascends to heaven and is seated at the right hand of God.



### Start the Thinking

In the original ending of Mark, the women say nothing to anyone about the resurrection because they are afraid. How then are people going to find out that Jesus, the crucified Messiah, was raised? Do you think this is a literary device that the author used to get the reader engaged in the story? Why or why not?



### Conversing with God

Dear Jesus,

Because of your death and resurrection, you have destroyed the power of death and opened the gates for us to have eternal life with you. Give us the courage to tell this story of your amazing love and help us to live into the resurrection everyday. Amen.



### Be blessed

May the God of surprises bring smiles and joys to the everyday and ordinary.

May the God of love be seen in all we do and say.

May the God of life who has brought us from death to life fill you with great joy.

Almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever. Amen