

Mark Chapter 15 & 16

Use story cards for the icebreaker questions this week.

1. Choose a card that describes your most embarrassing story.
2. Choose a card that describes how you're feeling about Thanksgiving break.

Discussion Questions

Ask students to give a brief overview of what they read this week (Mark 15 & 16)

***One thing to keep in mind** - Many of the people expected Jesus to lead a rebellion and overthrow the Jewish occupiers (the Romans). Jesus did in fact come to defeat their enemy, but not the one they were expecting. Jesus came to defeat death and pay the penalty for everyone's sins. When the people didn't understand this, they got upset and began to turn on Jesus.*

1. Have a student read Luke 23:2-5 - Jesus' trial is somewhat ironic. **Many of the people were upset that Jesus did not come to start a rebellion, but what is the reasoning they give Pilate for why he should crucify Jesus?** (V. 2) They claim that He was trying to start a rebellion.
2. Have students read Mark 15: 6-15. Pilate could not find anything wrong that Jesus had done. In an attempt to spare Jesus, Pilate offered to release one prisoner to the people, a tradition he would do every year. **Who did Pilate want to release? Who did the people ask for?**
3. Go back - Have a student read Mark 9:9 then have them read Mark 15:13-14. **What were the people shouting at Jesus when He entered the city in chapter 9? What are they shouting about Jesus in chapter 15?**
4. **Have your students' close their eyes and have them envision Mark 15:16-20 as you read it.** This is an important moment: The soldiers leading Jesus away are mocking Him, pretending that He is a king. Yet, the reality is that He IS a king. He is the king of the universe and He is humbly heading toward a cross to die for the very people who are harming and mocking Him. **Is that crazy to you? To think that as they are doing this, Jesus is enduring it all FOR them. Why do you think Jesus willingly died when He could have stopped it at any time?**
5. Have a student read Exodus 26:33. **The curtain in the temple was meant to separate people from where God's presence was.** Have a student read Mark 15:38. **When Jesus died, what happened to the same curtain?** (It was torn, symbolizing that people no longer separated from God. Notice that it was also torn from top to bottom. God was the one who tore it, God is the one who made a way for people to be made right with Him.)
6. Have a student read Mark 8:31. **Jesus predicted everything that happened to Him. In chapter 16 two women came to anoint Jesus' body, yet the tomb was empty and Jesus was not there. What does Jesus coming back to life mean for you and I?** (After enduring the penalty for our sin, Jesus came back to life defeating death and proving His power over it. Those who follow Jesus are forgiven of their mistakes because of what Jesus did on the cross, and they don't have to fear death because it is not the end.)

7. What has God taught you this semester as you have read through the Gospel of Mark?

Follow up questions

1. What stuck out to you as you were reading?
2. What did this chapter teach you?
3. What questions do you have?

End your small group by taking prayer requests and praying. Invite any students to pray for the requests if they are comfortable. If not, you can pray as the leader.

NO SMALL GROUPS NOVEMBER 23-27!

BRC HS Leaders: HS Night is December 2nd from 7-8:30pm. Start talking with your group about you want to do for your Small Group Christmas Party

BRC JH Leaders and MCC Leaders: Decide what you want to do as a group for your Christmas party on December 2nd. JH Night and MCC Night are on Dec 9th

Gospel of Mark Reading Plan	
Week	Chapter
September 7-11	1
September 14-18	2 & 3
September 21-25	4
September 28-October 2	5
October 5-9	6 & 7
October 12-16	8
October 19-23	9 & 10
October 26-30	11
November 2-6	12 & 13
November 9-13	14
November 16-20	15 & 16
November 23-27	Thanksgiving
November 30-December 4	HS NIGHT JH/MCC Christmas Parties
December 7-11	JH NIGHT/MCC HS & JH NIGHT HS Christmas Parties