



Westminster Presbyterian Church
Digging Deeper Questions
April 1, 2018: “Roll Away Your Stone”
Scripture: Isaiah 65:17-19, 25;
Mark 16:1-8

Week 7: Reflecting on both the WPC Sermon from April 1, Easter Sunday, and “Easter Week” of N.T. Wright’s *Lent for Everyone: Mark, Year B*.

Open in Prayer

Fellowship Question: What do you like to do on Sunday mornings?

Study Questions for the Sermon and Text:

1. Do you have any favorite Easter traditions?
2. In your experience, what is one of the most common barriers when it comes to belief and Christianity? What’s one of the biggest “stumbling blocks” for you, when it comes to the Easter story?
3. Read Mark 16:1-8
 - a) As the women journeyed toward the tomb, they talked with one another about who would roll away the stone for them so they could find their friend Jesus. They knew they needed help removing the barrier to get to Jesus. Who are some of the people in your life that help you remove barriers and move forward in your faith journey?
 - b) Summarize the response of the three women as they entered the tomb. What can we learn from the way they respond?
 - c) In verse 8 we’re told that the women were seized by terror and amazement as they fled from Jesus’ empty tomb. Can you think of a time in your life when you experienced both terror and amazement? If you can’t think of an example, do you think the two emotions can be experienced all at once? What other words might you use to describe what the women felt?
4. While reflecting on Mark 16:9-20 and the ambiguity of the conclusion of Mark’s Gospel, N.T. Wright notes, “Scripture, the record of God’s messy and damaging entry into his own world, is itself at this point rather obviously messy and damaged.” In what way was Jesus’ life and ministry “messy and damaging” for the world He entered? How is following Jesus ‘messy’ today?
5. N.T. Wright’s devotional for Wednesday is on Mark 4:26-33 and the Parable of the Mustard Seed. He says that many of Jesus’ parables are “Easter parables: parables of surprise, of seeds sown and coming up unexpectedly, of growth nobody even understands.” With the mustard seed parable, we see that kingdom-work typically starts small before growing to have great impact. Can you think of an example of a ministry that started small, but grew to have big impact? How can we participate in planting seeds today?

Prayer: Lord of life, risen from the dead, lead us on through fear and astonishment to share in the new work of your kingdom.