



## Small group discussion questions April 2015

### Chapter & verse – Rosalind Selby (p22)

Read Mark 16:1-8, followed by Rosalind Selby's article.

1. In paragraph two, Rosalind says there has been much speculation about why Mark would end his Gospel with the words “for they were afraid”. Does it strike you as a strange ending? What effect does it have? What do you think the reason might be for ending on these words?
2. What does Mark tell us about the women’s emotions at different points in the passage? Why do you think they felt like they did? Do you imagine you would respond in the same way in their situation?
3. It is good news, says Rosalind in paragraph three, “that the message Jesus leaves is completely focussed on human need”. In what way is it focussed on human need? Why is this good news?
4. What significance does Rosalind find in the words “just as he told you”?
5. At the end of paragraph three, Rosalind talks about Resurrection and “a new meeting”, happening today. How might those things happen in our own lives? Do those promises continue to be real for you?
6. In the final paragraph, Rosalind compares the women in this story with the two sons in Matthew 21:28-32. What is the similarity?
7. Has fear played a role in your spiritual life? What makes you afraid? How can we overcome our fear, as the women in Mark’s story did?

# Reform

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Chapter & verse

### Rosalind Selby Chapter & verse

"The women are so terrified that they flee – where is the good news, in that?"



Thelma Mack, the master storyteller, recently reminded me of a Bible scene, the flight of Joseph and Mary. I think I was born on a farm in a small town in the north of England, but I was not there when it happened. I was born in 1942, and I was not there when it happened. I was born in 1942, and I was not there when it happened. I was born in 1942, and I was not there when it happened.

**These women fled in fear, but also found courage**



As I read the story of the flight into Egypt, I was struck by the courage of the women who fled. They were fleeing for their lives, but they were also fleeing for their children. They were fleeing from a man who had the power to kill them and their children. They were fleeing from a man who had the power to kill them and their children.

For further reflection: "The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The Lord is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?" Psalm 27:1

Prayer: Jesus, who promised new life to followers, and who promised to be with us always, help us to hear your promises to us. Help us to trust in your promises, and give us the courage to share that message. Amen.