



FEBRUARY 2009 TEACHING PLANS

YOU HAVEN'T MADE IT THIS FAR IN LIFE without encountering your fair share of stress. Between figuring out how to pay for college, juggling class assignments and work commitments, dealing with roommates and social obligations, and somehow trying to squeeze in more than a few hours of sleep a night, college life can feel like one big stressful endurance test.

The good news is, the Bible provides some excellent advice for living in stressful times. Throughout the Book of Mark are guidelines you can use to make it through another day, another week, another semester. And by putting these principles into practice, you won't just be surviving — you'll be living a life worthy of your calling as a Christian. So what's going to be covered in January and February?

This month, we'll study some of the ways Jesus can meet our needs — by giving us courage, helping our faith grow, enabling us to get along with others, and allowing us to be successful according to His standards. Finally, we'll look at some scenarios in which Jesus helps us face our problems — when our priorities are challenged, when we feel overwhelmed, when we're facing difficult decisions, and when life is unfair.

So have at it. Dig in. See what God is teaching you through the Book of Mark, and see how it applies to your life right now. In the midst of all the chaos, Jesus is the constant. He's been there before and can guide you through whatever tough times you're facing. And with that kind of resource at your fingertips, stressful times don't stand a chance.

WHAT'S INSIDE ... The goal of the *Collegiate* online features is to bring you a structured teaching plan with additional helps and relevant questions to equip you to lead a strong discussion-based lesson. Here's a breakdown of what's inside: *Getting Started* helps introduce the topic and get your students engaged in the lesson. *Need to Knows* provides the lesson overview and key verses of each lesson. *Explore the Bible* leads your students through the Scripture passages of the lesson, helping them understand the text, its historical and cultural context, and what it means to them today. *Apply to Life* gives you ideas for furthering the application of the Scripture, so students can take active steps to process what they're learning and how it impacts their lives. Be sure you also utilize the commentary provided (threadsmedia.com/collegiate) to help with your preparation and personal study of the lessons. As always, we're here for you. Please send us your questions, thoughts, and suggestions. Let us know what we could do better and how these teaching plans could be even more relevant to your students and your ministry.

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THIS WEEK YOU'LL NEED

- A COPY OF THIS LEADER GUIDE
- THIS WEEK'S LESSON IS ON PAGE 46 OF THE WINTER ISSUE OF *COLLEGIATE*.
- THE SONGS "LOSE IT ALL" BY RUSH OF FOOLS, FROM THE ALBUM *WONDER OF THE WORLD*, AND "TAKE IT ALL" BY HILLSONG, FROM THE ALBUM *MIGHTY TO SAVE*.

NEED TO KNOWS

LESSON OVERVIEW

This lesson concerns Jesus' being questioned about paying taxes and about the most important commandment. The emphasis is on Christians' obligations to God, to others, and to their governments. The lesson encourages college students to give first priority to God.

FOCAL PASSAGES

MARK 12:13-17,28-34



WHAT'S MINE IS YOURS: MEETING FINANCIAL OBLIGATIONS

GETTING STARTED

Have the song "Take it All" by Hillsong playing in the background as students arrive.

- If you were going to be stranded on a deserted island, what three things would you take with you?
- If your dorm room caught on fire, what would you grab on your way out the door?
- If you made a list of the things you spent money on this month, what would be at the top of the list? What would be at the bottom?
- What do these answers say about the kinds of things we value?

If we approach our money, time, and possessions with a misplaced sense of priority, we'll end up focusing on the wrong things in life. But if we understand our obligations as they're laid out in Scripture, our priorities will fall into place. These passages give insight into Christians' obligations to God, to others, and to our government.

DIG DEEPER

Refer to "Dig Deeper" on page 46 in the Winter issue of *Collegiate* magazine for related stats, a word study, and a recommended read.

EXPLORE THE BIBLE

Have someone read the introduction to the session on page 46 of the Winter 2009–10 *Collegiate* magazine.

1). WHAT DO I OWE GOVERNMENT? (MARK 12:13-17)

READ MARK 12:13-17.

¹³Then they sent some of the Pharisees and the Herodians to Him to trap Him by what He said. ¹⁴When they came, they said to Him, “Teacher, we know You are truthful and defer to no one, for You don’t show partiality but teach truthfully the way of God. Is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar or not? ¹⁵Should we pay, or should we not pay?” But knowing their hypocrisy, He said to them, “Why are you testing Me? Bring Me a denarius to look at.” ¹⁶So they brought one. “Whose image and inscription is this?” He asked them. “Caesar’s,” they said. ¹⁷Then Jesus told them, “Give back to Caesar the things that are Caesar’s, and to God the things that are God’s.” And they were amazed at Him.

Have someone read “What Do I Owe Government?” on page 46 of *Collegiate* magazine.

- Why would Jesus be concerned with things like paying taxes?
- If a government is corrupt, do Christians still have an obligation to support it with their tax dollars? Why or why not?

Facilitator’s Note: Connect the dots with other passages:

READ 1 TIMOTHY 2:1-2.

¹First of all, then, I urge that petitions, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for everyone, ²for kings and all those who are in authority, so that we may lead a tranquil and quiet life in all godliness and dignity.

- What’s the rightful place of the government in our lives, according to Scripture?

- What relationship should we have with our government?

We have obligations to our government, but our first priority is to God.

2). WHAT DO I OWE GOD? (MARK 12:28-30)

READ MARK 12:28-30.

²⁸One of the scribes approached. When he heard them debating and saw that Jesus answered them well, he asked Him, “Which commandment is the most important of all?” ²⁹“This is the most important,” Jesus answered: Listen, Israel! The Lord our God, The Lord is One. ³⁰Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.

Ask a volunteer to read “What Do I Owe God?” on page 46 of *Collegiate* magazine.

Because loving God supremely is the most important commandment, we’re to give Him priority over all else.

- How does loving God supremely allow our other priorities to fall into place?
- Have you ever known someone whose love for God was so apparent that it affected every aspect of life? Describe what that kind of love looked like.
- Is it a struggle to prioritize God in your everyday life? Why, or in what ways?
- Do the people you surround yourself with at school make loving God their priority? If not, do you find those friendships hindering your own desire to make God your first priority? What can you do about that?

If we prioritize God first, we’ll love other people and value them as much as we value ourselves. It’s Christ in us that allows us to love others.

3). WHAT DO I OWE OTHERS? (MARK 12:31-34)

READ MARK 12:31-34.

³¹“The second is: Love your neighbor as yourself. There is no other commandment greater than these.” ³²Then the scribe said to Him, “You are right, Teacher! You have correctly said that He is One, and there is no one else except Him. ³³And to love Him with all your heart, with all your understanding, and with all your strength, and to love your neighbor as yourself, is far more important than all the burnt offerings and sacrifices.” ³⁴When Jesus saw that he answered intelligently, He said to him, “You are not far from the kingdom of God.” And no one dared to question Him any longer.

Have someone read “What Do I Owe Others?” on page 47 of *Collegiate* magazine.

- Is it possible to love God and not love others? Why or why not?
- Is it possible to love others and not love God? Why or why not?
- Have you noticed times in your life when your relationship with God has affected, either for the better or for the worse, your relationships with other people? What was that like?
- What does it look like to love our neighbors as ourselves?
- What does it look like for men to love women as themselves, or for women to love men as themselves?

THIS WEEK YOU'LL NEED

- A COPY OF THIS LEADER GUIDE
- THIS WEEK'S LESSON IS ON PAGE 48 OF THE WINTER ISSUE OF *COLLEGIATE*.
- THE SONGS "HOPE NOW" BY ADDISON ROAD, FROM THE ALBUM *ADDISON ROAD*, AND "BEAUTIFUL JESUS" BY KRISTIAN STANFILL, FROM THE ALBUM *PASSION: GOD OF THIS CITY*.

NEED TO KNOWS

LESSON OVERVIEW

This session is about Jesus' instructions to His disciples concerning the future, specifically on enduring through times that threaten to overwhelm. The lesson encourages college students to endure through times that threaten to overwhelm them.

FOCAL PASSAGES

MARK 13:9-13,21-27,32-37



PREPPING FOR OVERWHELMING TIMES

GETTING STARTED

Have the song "Beautiful Jesus" by Kristian Stanfill playing in the background as students arrive.

- When do you tend to feel overwhelmed?
- How do you react in overwhelming times?
- Is there a discrepancy between how you approach stressful situations and how you think you *should* approach them? If so, talk about it.

Scripture gives solid advice on enduring through tough times that threaten to overwhelm. In this study, we're going to look at preparing for overwhelming times through trusting the Spirit, staying with the truth, rejoicing, and remaining faithful.

DIG DEEPER

Refer to "Dig Deeper" on page 48 in the Winter issue of *Collegiate* magazine for additional verses to check out and a word study.

EXPLORE THE BIBLE

Have someone read the introduction to the session on page 48 of the Winter 2009–10 *Collegiate* magazine.

1). PREPARE BY TRUSTING THE SPIRIT (MARK 13:9-13)

READ MARK 13:9-13.

⁹“But you, be on your guard! They will hand you over to sanhedrins, and you will be flogged in the synagogues. You will stand before governors and kings because of Me, as a witness to them. ¹⁰And the good news must first be proclaimed to all nations. ¹¹So when they arrest you and hand you over, don’t worry beforehand what you will say. On the contrary, whatever is given to you in that hour—say it. For it isn’t you speaking, but the Holy Spirit. ¹²Then brother will betray brother to death, and a father his child. Children will rise up against parents and put them to death. ¹³And you will be hated by everyone because of My name. But the one who endures to the end will be delivered.

Have someone read “Prepare by Trusting the Spirit” on page 48 of *Collegiate* magazine.

- In this context, what threatens to overwhelm the disciples?
- Why is the Holy Spirit trustworthy in those situations?
- What similar situations might you face in your day-to-day experiences?
- What generally happens when we try to handle overwhelming situations on our own?
- Is it helpful to know that the Holy Spirit is trustworthy in threatening situations? In what way?

The Holy Spirit is available to fight your overwhelming battles, and when we face times that threaten to overwhelm us, we know we can stick with the truth that Jesus taught us.

2). PREPARE BY STAYING WITH THE TRUTH (MARK 13:21-23)

READ MARK 13:21-23.

²¹“Then if anyone tells you, ‘Look, here is the Messiah! Look—there!’ do not believe it! ²²For false messiahs and false prophets will rise up and will perform signs and wonders to lead astray, if possible, the elect. ²³And you must watch! I have told you everything in advance.

Ask a volunteer to read “Prepare by Staying with the Truth” on page 48 of *Collegiate* magazine.

- What does Jesus mean by “false Christs” and “false prophets”?
- Have you encountered any “false prophets” or “false Christs” on your campus?
- Why are people so easily deceived?
- What steps do you take to keep from being deceived by wrong ideas, or from following wrong leaders?

In stressful situations, we have the truth, revealed in Scripture, to use as a standard against which we judge everything else. Also, when we face times that threaten to overwhelm us, we can rejoice because we belong to Christ and His power is greater than any of our difficulties.

3). PREPARE BY REJOICING (MARK 13:24-27)

READ MARK 13:24-27.

²⁴“But in those days, after that tribulation: The sun will be darkened, and the moon will not shed its light; ²⁵the stars will be falling from the sky, and the celestial powers will be shaken. ²⁶Then they will see the Son of Man coming in clouds with great power and glory. ²⁷He will send out the angels and gather His elect from the four winds, from the end of the earth to the end of the sky.”

Have someone read “Prepare by Rejoicing” on page 48 of *Collegiate* magazine.

- Does this passage promise that Jesus will make everything better right now? If not, what does it promise?

- What hope does this passage offer you in your situation?
- Why are we able to rejoice in overwhelming times?
- As Christians, what’s the worst that could happen to us? And if that happened, then what?

Knowing that Jesus will make everything right one day allows us to face with power and confidence situations that seem overwhelming.

A final principle to remember when we face overwhelming times is that we’ve been equipped to keep on serving God faithfully in whatever He assigns us to do.

4). PREPARE BY REMAINING FAITHFUL (MARK 13:32-37)

READ MARK 13:32-37.

³²“Now concerning that day or hour no one knows—neither the angels in heaven nor the Son—except the Father. ³³Watch! Be alert! For you don’t know when the time is coming. ³⁴It is like a man on a journey, who left his house, gave authority to his slaves, gave each one his work, and commanded the doorkeeper to be alert. ³⁵Therefore be alert, since you don’t know when the master of the house is coming—whether in the evening or at midnight or at the crowing of the rooster or early in the morning. ³⁶Otherwise, he might come suddenly and find you sleeping. ³⁷And what I say to you, I say to everyone: Be alert!”

Ask a volunteer to read “Prepare by Remaining Faithful” on page 48 of *Collegiate* magazine.

- What’s your initial gut reaction to this passage? Is it comforting or worrisome to know that Jesus could return and God could bring the world to an end at any moment? Why is that?
- If we really took this passage to heart, would it affect the decisions we make, or the things we choose to spend our time on now? In what ways?

THIS WEEK YOU'LL NEED

- A COPY OF THIS LEADER GUIDE
- THIS WEEK'S LESSON IS ON PAGE 50 OF THE WINTER ISSUE OF *COLLEGIATE*.
- THE SONGS "EVERYWHERE THAT I GO" BY ISRAEL HOUGHTON, FROM THE ALBUM *THE POWER OF ONE*, AND "I'M LETTING GO" BY FRANCESCA BATTISTELLI, FROM THE ALBUM *MY PAPER HEART*.
- INDEX CARDS WITH JOB 1:13-22; 2:3,7-8; AND LUKE 22:39-46 WRITTEN ON THEM.
- A CURRENT NEWS STORY OF SOMEONE WHO IS EXPERIENCING A TRAGEDY. PROVIDE ENOUGH COPIES SO THAT EACH STUDENT IS GIVEN ONE OF THE SCRIPTURES OR AN ARTICLE.

NEED TO KNOWS

LESSON OVERVIEW

This session is about Jesus' prayer and arrest in the garden of Gethsemane. The emphasis is on praying about God's will as a way of facing difficult decisions. The lesson encourages college students to make decisions only in light of God's will.

FOCAL PASSAGES

MARK 14:32-39,41-50



DIFFICULT DECISIONS: WHAT'S GOD'S ADVICE?

GETTING STARTED

Have the song "I'm Letting Go" by Francesca Battistelli (*My Paper Heart*) playing in the background as students arrive.

- What's the least responsible way you've ever gone about making a decision?
- What was the outcome of that decision?
- What about that decision-making process was flawed?
- Is there another (perhaps better) way you typically make decisions? What does it look like? What are its strengths? Its weaknesses?

As we move through this lesson, keep your own decision-making process in mind, and evaluate it in light of these passages from Mark 14.

DIG DEEPER

Refer to "Dig Deeper" on page 50 in the Winter issue of *Collegiate* magazine for related stats and additional verses.

EXPLORE THE BIBLE

Have someone read the introduction to the session on page 50 of the Winter 2009–10 *Collegiate* magazine.

1). PRAY ABOUT THE DECISION (MARK 14:32-35)

The best way we can begin dealing with a difficult decision is in prayer.

READ MARK 14:32-35.

³²Then they came to a place named Gethsemane, and He told His disciples, “Sit here while I pray.”³³He took Peter, James, and John with Him, and He began to be deeply distressed and horrified. ³⁴Then He said to them, “My soul is swallowed up in sorrow—to the point of death. Remain here and stay awake.”³⁵Then He went a little farther, fell to the ground, and began to pray that if it were possible, the hour might pass from Him.

Have someone read “Pray About the Decision” on page 50 of *Collegiate* magazine.

- Do people tend to pray as a first resort or a last resort? What does that say about the way they make decisions?
- Does prayer ever seem like an overly simplistic or fruitless step in the decision-making process? Why or why not?
- If Jesus relied on prayer when dealing with a difficult decision, what insight does that give into our own situations?

Facilitator’s Note: Connect the dots with other passages:

READ 1 THESSALONIANS 5:17-18.

¹⁷Pray constantly. ¹⁸Give thanks in everything, for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.

- How do these two verses shed light upon prayer and the decision-making process?

The best way we can pray about a difficult decision is to focus on finding God’s will.

2). IDENTIFY GOD’S WILL (MARK 14:36-39)

READ MARK 14:36-39.

³⁶“Abba, Father! All things are possible for You. Take this cup away from Me. Nevertheless, not what I will, but what You will.”³⁷Then He came and found them sleeping. “Simon, are you sleeping?” He asked Peter. “Couldn’t you stay awake one hour?”³⁸Stay awake and pray so that you won’t enter into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak.”³⁹Once again He went away and prayed, saying the same thing.

Ask a volunteer to read “Identify God’s Will” on page 50 of *Collegiate* magazine.

- From Scripture, what do we know about God’s will?
- How difficult is it for us to submit our own wills to God? Why is that?
- In what ways is identifying God’s will easy? In what ways is it difficult?

What God reveals to us through prayer will always be consistent with what He has revealed to us in Scripture.

- If we were to reach a decision that isn’t supported by Scripture, what can we conclude? What should we do?

The best decision we can make in any difficult situation is to choose God’s will.

3). COMMIT TO DO GOD’S WILL (MARK 14:41-44)

READ MARK 14:41-44.

⁴¹Then He came a third time and said to them, “Are you still sleeping and resting? Enough! The time has come. Look, the Son of Man is being betrayed into the hands of sinners. ⁴²Get up; let’s go! See—My betrayer is near.”⁴³While He was still speaking, Judas, one of the Twelve, suddenly arrived. With him was a mob, with swords and clubs, from the chief priests, the scribes, and the elders. ⁴⁴His betrayer had given them a signal. “The One I kiss,” he said, “He’s the One; arrest Him and take Him away under guard.”

Have someone read “Commit to Do God’s Will” on page 50 of *Collegiate* magazine.

- In this passage, what was Judas’ dilemma?
- Think about the people you know. What typically keeps people from doing God’s will?
- Think back to times in your life when you’ve known what God’s will was but didn’t do it. What was the outcome?
- In what sense is committing to do God’s will easier said than done?

4). KEEP THE COMMITMENT (MARK 14:45-50)

READ MARK 14:45-50.

⁴⁵So when he came, he went right up to Him and said, “Rabbi!”—and kissed Him. ⁴⁶Then they took hold of Him and arrested Him. ⁴⁷And one of those who stood by drew his sword, struck the high priest’s slave, and cut off his ear. ⁴⁸But Jesus said to them, “Have you come out with swords and clubs, as though I were a criminal, to capture Me?”⁴⁹Every day I was among you, teaching in the temple complex, and you didn’t arrest Me. But the Scriptures must be fulfilled.”⁵⁰Then they all deserted Him and ran away.

Ask a volunteer to read “Keep the Commitment” on page 50 of *Collegiate* magazine.

- What does verse 50 tell us about the way we so often treat our commitments to God?
- What resources do we have to help us keep our commitment to do God’s will? How often do you look to these resources? If you don’t rely on these resources, what do you rely on?
- What’s at stake if we choose not to keep our commitments to do God’s will?

THIS WEEK YOU'LL NEED

- A COPY OF THIS LEADER GUIDE
- THIS WEEK'S LESSON IS ON PAGE 52 OF THE WINTER ISSUE OF *COLLEGIATE*.
- THE SONGS "FOUND" BY AARON IVEY, FROM THE ALBUM *BETWEEN THE BEAUTY & CHAOS*, AND "THERE WILL BE A DAY" BY JEREMY CAMP, FROM THE ALBUM *SPEAKING LOUDER THAN BEFORE*.
- FAMILIARIZE YOURSELF WITH THE STORIES OF SOME MODERN-DAY CHRISTIAN MARTYRS. CONSIDER STARTING WITH DIETRICH BONHOEFFER, CASSIE BURNALL, AND JIM ELLIOT.

NEED TO KNOWS

LESSON OVERVIEW

This session is about Jesus' crucifixion, death, and resurrection. The emphasis is on how Christians are to face unfair experiences. The lesson encourages college students to be faithful to God even when life is unfair.

FOCAL PASSAGES

MARK 15:15-20,29-32,37-39; 16:5-7



REMAINING FAITHFUL WHEN LIFE'S UNFAIR

GETTING STARTED

Have the song "There Will Be a Day" by Jeremy Camp playing in the background as students arrive.

- What's the worst abuse you've ever suffered for following Jesus?
- What were your thoughts and feelings as you went through those situations?
- How did you react in those circumstances?

If you've ever been ridiculed, insulted, or mistreated because of your commitment to follow Christ, you're in good company. All around the world today, people are experiencing horrific injustices because they are Christians. What does the Book of Mark have to say about being faithful to God when life is unfair?

DIG DEEPER

Refer to "Dig Deeper" on page 52 in the Winter issue of *Collegiate* magazine for related stats, Web sites to check out, and recommended reads.

EXPLORE THE BIBLE

Have someone read the introduction to the session on page 52 of the Winter 2009–10 *Collegiate* magazine.

Even when we're treated unfairly, we can be faithful to God by demonstrating behavior that reflects our relationship with Jesus Christ.

1). WE MAY BE ABUSED (MARK 15:15-20)

READ MARK 15:15-20.

¹⁵Then, willing to gratify the crowd, Pilate released Barabbas to them. And after having Jesus flogged, he handed Him over to be crucified. ¹⁶Then the soldiers led Him away into the courtyard (that is, headquarters) and called the whole company together. ¹⁷They dressed Him in a purple robe, twisted together a crown of thorns, and put it on Him. ¹⁸And they began to salute Him, "Hail, King of the Jews!" ¹⁹They kept hitting Him on the head with a reed and spitting on Him. Getting down on their knees, they were paying Him homage. ²⁰When they had mocked Him, they stripped Him of the purple robe, put His clothes on Him, and led Him out to crucify Him.

Have someone read "We May Be Abused" on page 52 of *Collegiate* magazine.

- What was unfair about the way Jesus was treated?

Facilitator's Note: Connect the dots with other passages:

READ MATTHEW 27:12-14. THIS SCENE TAKES PLACE RIGHT BEFORE THE ONE ABOVE:

¹²And while He was being accused by the chief priests and elders, He didn't answer. ¹³Then Pilate said to Him, "Don't You hear how much they are testifying against You?" ¹⁴But He didn't answer him on even one charge, so that the governor was greatly amazed.

- From this passage, what can we learn about the way we should respond to persecution?
- What kinds of abuse might Americans expect to experience for following Christ?
- Are those kinds of abuse typical of the abuse Christians around the world experience?

The persecution we experience may not always take the form of abuse. Sometimes Christians are persecuted through being mocked. If we're treated unfairly by being mocked, we can be faithful to God by refusing to respond in kind to the taunts of others.

2). WE MAY BE MOCKED (MARK 15:29-32)

READ MARK 15:29-32.

²⁹Those who passed by were yelling insults at Him, shaking their heads, and saying, "Ha! The One who would demolish the sanctuary and build it in three days, ³⁰save Yourself by coming down from the cross!" ³¹In the same way, the chief priests with the scribes were mocking Him to one another and saying, "He saved others; He cannot save Himself! ³²Let the Messiah, the King of Israel, come down now from the cross, so that we may see and believe." Even those who were crucified with Him were taunting Him.

Ask a volunteer to read "We May Be Mocked" on page 52 of *Collegiate* magazine.

- Are Christians easy targets for mockery? Why or why not?
- Why are insults and mockery so hard to take?
- What do we sacrifice if we respond to mockery with mockery of our own, or if we lash out in anger?
- Have you ever blown an opportunity to be a witness for Jesus because of a response you made to being mocked or insulted? Looking back on the experience, what disappoints you the most about your reaction?
- What does this passage reveal about Jesus' character and His sacrifice?

Sometimes the persecution Christians face results in death. But we can face death, even when it seems unfair or is untimely, with faith in God.

3). WE MAY FACE AN UNTIMELY DEATH (MARK 15:37-39)

READ MARK 15:37-39.

³⁷But Jesus let out a loud cry and breathed His last. ³⁸Then the curtain of the sanctuary was split in two from

top to bottom. ³⁹When the centurion, who was standing opposite Him, saw the way He breathed His last, he said, "This man really was God's Son!"

Have someone read "We May Face an Untimely Death" on page 52 of *Collegiate* magazine.

- Think back on the stories of modern-day Christian martyrs, such as Dietrich Bonhoeffer, Cassie Burnall, Jim Elliot. What about their lives strikes you the most?
- How have the deaths of Christian martyrs affected the world? Can you see any positive outcomes?
- What would be your thought process if faced with the possibility of martyrdom?

Regardless of how unfairly we're treated during our lives, we can be sure our faithfulness will be vindicated.

4). WE WILL BE VINDICATED (MARK 16:5-7)

READ MARK 16:5-7.

⁵When they entered the tomb, they saw a young man dressed in a long white robe sitting on the right side; they were amazed and alarmed. ⁶"Don't be alarmed," he told them. "You are looking for Jesus the Nazarene, who was crucified. He has been resurrected! He is not here! See the place where they put Him. ⁷But go, tell His disciples and Peter, 'He is going ahead of you to Galilee; you will see Him there just as He told you.'"

Ask a volunteer to read "We Will Be Vindicated" on page 53 of *Collegiate* magazine.

- What form does our vindication take?
- What does this passage say about God's overarching purposes in the world?
- Practically speaking, how can this passage encourage us in our own situations of persecution?

