International Fellowship of Christians
For Christ and His Kingdom · Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire

Home Fellowship Outline
WEEK 6 · 2026

2026 THEME
Transformed to Bear Much Fruit

THIS WEEK'S STUDY

Faith When Sight Fails

Mark 16:14–20

I Introduction

Life constantly presents us with moments where what we see contradicts what God has spoken. We pray, yet the situation looks unchanged. We obey, yet progress seems slow. We commit to God's way, yet others who ignore Him appear to advance faster. In such moments, faith is stretched.

Human nature relies heavily on visible evidence. We trust what we can measure, analyse, and control. In our careers, finances, families, and even ministry, we often look for signs of growth before we stay committed. When results are visible, belief feels easy. But when outcomes are delayed, or circumstances look worse before they improve, doubt quietly begins to grow.

II The Disciples at the Crossroads

For three years the disciples followed Jesus. They saw miracles, authority, power, and crowds. They believed they were witnessing the rise of a Kingdom. Then suddenly, everything collapsed. Jesus was arrested without resistance. There was no angelic intervention at the trial, no dramatic rescue at the cross. He was crucified publicly and buried. Rome looked stronger than ever; the religious leaders appeared justified.

> EVERYTHING VISIBLE SUGGESTED FAILURE
>
> *Then reports began to surface that Jesus was alive. Mary Magdalene testified; two disciples confirmed it. Yet grief, disappointment, and the visible evidence of death made belief difficult. Their faith had been shaken by what they saw.*

Mark 16 shows us something critical: when sight fails, faith must decide whether God's Word still stands. Jesus appears, corrects their unbelief, and then entrusts them with a global mission. The Kingdom did not end at the cross; it began to expand through weak but willing men.

Faith is trusting the Word of the King even when circumstances seem to argue against it.

III Discussion Questions

1. Why is it difficult to believe God when circumstances seem to prove the opposite?
2. What does Jesus' rebuke in Mark 16:14 reveal about the danger of unbelief?
3. How can we remain faithful when results are not immediately visible?
4. Share experiences of when you had options and chose to trust God's unpopular, and perhaps less promising, instruction. Share Bible examples where there are no personal ones.

MEMORY VERSE

And they went out and preached everywhere, while the Lord worked with them and confirmed the message by accompanying signs.

MARK 16:20 (NIV)

✷ ACTION POINT

Choose one area this week where circumstances discourage you, and deliberately obey God in that area, trusting His Word over what you see.

Conclusion

At the cross, everything visible said it was over, but in heaven it was just beginning. Faith does not deny reality; faith refuses to let visible reality have the final word. We will all face moments when results are slow, doors seem closed, and obedience feels costly. In those moments the question is not, "What do I see?" but "What has the King spoken?" When sight fails, the throne still stands.

And because the King reigns, obedience is never wasted and faith is never misplaced.