



Week 1
Discipleship Study
Questions



Mark Part 2: The Good News

If you've been around church for any period of time, you have probably heard of "the good news". Do you ever struggle to believe that God has good plans for your life? Do you sometimes think that God might not love you? Most of us have times where we wonder if "the good news" is truly that good. The "good news" of His Kingdom isn't just some abstract, distant promise but a tangible, present reality that affects everything—our relationships, our struggles, and our purpose.

In the first 8 chapters of The Gospel of Mark, Jesus moves with urgency – healing the sick, casting out demons, and teaching with unparalleled authority. And everywhere He goes, He announces one central message: "The kingdom of God has come near. Repent and believe the good news!" But Jesus didn't just *proclaim* this message- He *demonstrated* it as well. Everywhere Jesus went, He showed people who He is, and how that is good news for all of humanity. Jesus continues to show us over and over the reasons why we would want to follow a man like Him. In "The Gospel of Mark: The Good News," we will explore the radical way Jesus reveals Himself and calls us to respond to the good news of His Kingdom. The good news goes so far beyond salvation – it's an invitation to transform our lives, day in and day out. What good news is Jesus inviting you to believe?

Read the Scripture:

Individual: Read the passage from two or three different translations.

Group: Have two different group members read the passage using different Bible translations.

Speak the Scripture:

Individual: Recite the story aloud from memory (as best you can) or tell it to a friend or family member. The goal here is to get the essence of the passage in your heart.

Group: Have someone volunteer to recite the passage aloud in their own words, as best they can.

Understand the Scripture:

Individual or Group: Use the Discovery Questions to help ensure you understand the passage.

Dig Deeper into the Scripture:

Individual: Work through the Digging Deeper questions and pray about what God reveals to you through His word. Discuss with a Christian friend or family member if you choose.

Group: Work through the Digging Deeper questions as a group, celebrating the work God is already doing in each person's life, and encouraging each other to trust Him in the places that need growth.

Small Group Guidelines

This is a Safe Group

Confidentiality is key—what is said in the group stays in the group. Be aware of how you are affecting the environment with your words, actions, and non-verbal communication. This needs to be a place where people feel comfortable opening up and sharing.

No Crosstalk

Be considerate of others as they are sharing. No side conversations, phone time, texting etc.

Listen

Let's value one another by listening to what is being shared. Allow a pause after someone shares to allow them to finish and others to consider what was said. Eye contact and body posture play key roles in creating a positive or negative group environment.

No Rescuing or Fixing

We are not here to fix each other; Jesus does that part. Avoid the tendency to rescue when someone is struggling to get the words out or shares a struggle or conviction.

Use "I" Statements

It's easy to talk about the issues of others, or respond with "we," "us," or "the church," but for us to grow as disciples and build relationships, we want to use "I" statements.

Don't Over-Talk

We want to create time for all members of the group to participate in the discussion. Be careful not to always be the first responder or regularly give long responses.

Fight for Relationship

It's not if conflict or hurt feelings will happen, but when. We commit to fight for relationship with each other. Go to the person and share your struggle or seek wise advice if you are not sure how to handle the conflict.

Week 1

Background: We re-enter the Gospel of Mark this week by going to the beginning. Mark's writing style is action-packed and to the point, and he drops us right into Jesus' story. He will take us from scene to scene at what can almost seem like a breakneck pace. This week we see Jesus begin His earthly ministry with a bold declaration – the kingdom of God has come near! How, then, should we live?

Read: Mark 1:9-28

Discovery Questions:

What do we learn about God in this passage?

What do we learn about what it means to be a follower of Christ in this passage?

What do you think the Holy Spirit might be teaching you personally through this passage?

Is there anything God is leading you to do after reading this passage?

Digging Deeper:

When in your life have you experienced a “kairos moment”—a time you knew something would never be the same again?

In verse 15, Jesus says, “The time has come. The kingdom of God has come near. Repent and believe the good news.” What does this moment tell us about the urgency and importance of Jesus' mission?

How does seeing this *kairos* moment through the lens of the resurrection change how we hear these words?

What stands out to you about the way Simon, Andrew, James, and John responded to Jesus? What did they leave behind? Why do you think they responded “at once”?

If you truly believed Jesus is alive and the kingdom of God is at hand, what would change in the way you live this week?

End this time with a prayer.

Heavenly Father, Jesus' life, death, and resurrection literally changed everything. Let it change me – how I think, how I speak, how I treat others, how I trust you. Help us respond with boldness to this call, that we would live fearlessly as we proclaim Your word and Your truth. In Jesus' name, Amen.