



Week 3
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.

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Background: As Jesus and His disciples traveled throughout Judea and Galilee, spreading the Good News, the religious leaders started to take notice—and not in a good way. Instead of celebrating the healing, freedom, and hope Jesus brought, many responded with criticism, suspicion, and opposition. Why? Because Jesus didn't play by their religious rules. He prioritized people over policies, brought joy instead of pressure, and refused to stay silent in the face of suffering. And that made the gatekeepers of religion deeply uncomfortable.

Read: Mark 2:18:3-6

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:

In verses 18–22, Jesus is challenged for not following expected religious behavior. What assumptions are the Pharisees making about what it means to be spiritual? What is Jesus trying to communicate about His mission and the kind of faith He offers?

What rule were the Pharisees concerned with in v.23-27? How does Jesus reframe the purpose of the Sabbath? What warning do you see here for churches today?

Jesus is angered and grieved by the Pharisees' silence in the face of suffering. Why is silence so damaging when someone is hurting?

Jesus healed the man even though He knew it would bring opposition. What does that say about His priorities and mission? How might we follow that example?

End this time with a prayer.

Heavenly Father, we know that it grieves Your heart to see how Your children wound each other. May we be ministers of reconciliation to those who have been hurt, and vessels of grace and comfort to those who grieve. It is our privilege to be your hands and feet, Lord, but we have a responsibility to represent you well. May we take that seriously and strive to reflect Your face to a world that desperately needs to see you. In Jesus' name, Amen.