

Small Group Sessions – The Gospel of Mark

Who is the Author?

John Mark, was a man who joined Barnabas and Paul on their first missionary Journey to Antioch of Pisidia (Acts 13-14).

When was it Written?

Most scholars believe that it was written around AD 64 or 65. It was likely the first Gospel to be written and could have been used as a source for the other Gospels.

What is the General Theme?

Mark highlights the life of Jesus, starting almost at the beginning of Jesus's ministry. He tends to highlight the courage that the followers of Jesus had, their boldness to go against cultural norms, and their faith. This book moves quickly through Jesus's ministry, but it is a great representation of Who Jesus is and why He came to save us.

Outline of Mark 1

Section 1: The Beginning of the Gospel (1:1–13)

1. John the Baptist prepares the way (1:1–8)
2. The baptism of Jesus (1:9–11)
3. The temptation of Jesus (1:12–13)

Section 2: Jesus Begins His Ministry (1:14–45)

1. Baptism of Jesus (1:9-11)
2. Temptation of Jesus (1:12-13)
3. The first disciples (1:14–20)
4. Teaching with authority (1:21–28)
5. Healing a man with leprosy (1:40–45)

Read Mark 1 together

Deep Dive

1. What stands out about how quickly Mark moves from event to event?
What does that tell us about Jesus' mission?
2. Why is Jesus' baptism significant if He had no sin?
3. What does Jesus calling the first disciples teach us about following Him?

4. What is authority? And why do people respond so strongly to Jesus' authority?

Challenge

- Spend 15 minutes alone in prayer this week like Jesus did in Mark 1:35. Try to find a place that is isolated from others so you can focus on God in the silence.
- Identify one area where Jesus is calling you to “follow” Him more closely. Maybe it is to read your Bible more, pray more, stop doing something that is hurting you emotionally, turn off your phone for an hour, whatever it is...do it with the intention of following Jesus more and see how it effects your perspective.

Outline of Mark 2

Section 1: Authority to Forgive and Heal (2:1–12)

1. The paralyzed man lowered by his friends through the roof (2:1–5)
2. The religious teachers challenge Jesus' authority to forgive sins (2:6–12)

Section 2: Calling Levi and New Wine (2:13–22)

1. Jesus calls Levi (2:13–14)
2. Jesus eats with sinners (2:15–17)
3. New wineskins teaching (2:18–22)

Section 3: Lord of the Sabbath (2:23–28)

1. Disciples pick grain (2:23–24)
2. Jesus declares lordship over Sabbath (2:25–28)

Read Mark 2 together

Deep Dive

1. In verses 1-12, why was forgiving sins more controversial than healing?
2. What does Levi's calling show about grace? (another name for Levi is Matthew)

3. What does Jesus teach about the Sabbath? Why was this such a big deal to the religious leaders? (Hint: it broke their laws/customs)

Challenge

- Who is someone in your life that is often overlooked? Maybe they sit by themselves at lunch, maybe they are glued to their phone when everyone is together, or maybe it is someone that you know doesn't have any friends? Reach out to that person and just be a friend! You don't have to have a whole Gospel presentation with them, but start building a relationship with them by talking to them!

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