

Preparing for Mission

Session Thoughts:

- Among your group discuss how you were able BLESS a few individuals around you over the past week.
- Read Mark 1:14-34 at least twice. Try reading the text from two different translations. What do you observe in the text? What jumps out at you and grabs your attention? What questions do you have from the text?

Discussion Questions:

1. Read Mark 1:14-15. These are Jesus' first recorded words in the book of Mark. They are also the words that summarize his message and set the trajectory for the rest of the book. Each word in these verses is important. Discuss your understanding of what Jesus was saying with each of these words or phrases.
 - "The Gospel of God" (v.14)
 - "The time is fulfilled" (v.15)
 - "The Kingdom of God is at hand" (v.15)
 - "Repent" (v.15)
 - "Believe the Gospel" (v.15)
2. Read Mark 1:16-20. Jesus calls several men to follow him, and they immediately drop everything to do so. What does this show you about their devotion to him?
3. Read verse 17. What was the command and their responsibility? What was the result of their obedience to the command? What did Jesus promise to do through them?
4. Read Mark 1:21-34. Immediately, Mark begins to show us Jesus authority (comes from the root word author- "out of the original"). Over what read does Jesus show authority in these verses? How does this bring us hope and peace?

"If you say 'I'll obey you Jesus if my career thrives, if my health is good, if my family is together,' then the thing that's on the other side of that if is your real master, your real goal. But Jesus will not be a means to an end; he will not be used. If he calls you to follow him, he must be the goal."

Next Steps:

- Jesus words "Repent and Believe" are a summary of the Christian life. The Christian life begins as we repent and believe, and we are to continue this pattern throughout our lives. Can you remember a specific time in your life when you initially repented of sin and believed in the Gospel? How often do you do repent and believe now?
- This week EAT with 3 people; 1 person from your community, 1 person from your workplace or neighborhood and 1 person as the Spirit leads.