

The Unexpected King: The Gospel of Mark

A study for Community Groups to use the week of February 15th

To prepare for your group discussion each week, group members should use the **Series Guide** to complete foundational questions in the book for week 5 using the scripture below.

Week Three: Mark 1:14-20

Overview

Mark doesn't just tell us what Jesus did; he shows us who Jesus is in a way that forces us to rethink the world we're living in and the stories we're being sold every day.

"Jesus then issued the same call to two similar brothers with the same response. All four men were evidently partners in the fishing business. James and John had also come to believe that Jesus was the Messiah. Mark recorded more about their decision to follow Jesus than he did about Simon and Andrew's. James and John broke family ties to follow Jesus. The mention of hired men suggests that Zebedee owned a prosperous business that James and John left. It also shows that these brothers did not leave their father all alone; they were not being irresponsible. The main point, however, is the immediacy of their response to Jesus. This reflects Jesus' great authority over people. James and John were Jesus' cousins. However, they did not yet know that He was also God." -Constable's Note

Questions

*In the Series Guide you will find basic questions we want all to use as they begin to look at the passage. Questions such as; *Who have you had the opportunity to BLESS this week? What does this passage reveal about God? About people? About the life He has planned for us?* These additional questions relate to the passage specifically for your benefit.

- In Mark 1:14–15, Jesus announces, “The kingdom of God has come near. Repent and believe the good news.” What do you think Jesus is inviting people into with this message? When you hear the idea of changing direction and trusting good news, what reactions or questions rise up in you?
- In Mark 1:16–17, Jesus calls everyday fishermen and tells them, “Follow me... and I will make you become fishers of people,” inviting them into transformation, not just a new role. What exactly is he inviting them into? Where in your own life might you sense an invitation toward growth, and what makes it easy, or difficult, to say yes?
- Mark 1:18–20 shows the disciples responding immediately, leaving behind their nets, their work, and familiar security to follow Jesus. What do you notice about their willingness to respond without delay? When you sense a pull toward something meaningful, what tends to hold you back—and how do you discern what is worth rearranging your life for?