

The Unexpected King: The Gospel of Mark

A study for Community Groups to use the week of February 22nd

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 Four: 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.

"Mark implied that these events happened the next day. Many people would have slept late after such a busy day, but Jesus rose early, even before dawn, and went to a remote. This sacrificial act paints Jesus as consciously dependent on His Father for strength and direction for what lay ahead of Him. It also implies further conflict with Satan since Satan had confronted Him in the wilderness previously. Prayerlessness typically manifests self-sufficiency, but prayerfulness reveals humility." – Constable's Notes

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 1:21–27, Jesus teaches with authority and confronts spiritual brokenness right in the middle of a normal synagogue gathering. What stands out to you about how Jesus uses His authority? What voices or influences shape your thinking and decisions right now, and how do you discern which ones to trust?
- In Mark 1:29–34, Jesus moves from the synagogue into a home and then to the crowds gathered at the door, meeting both private and public needs. What does this reveal about where and how Jesus chooses to work? When you look at your own daily rhythms, your home, friendships, workplace, routines, where might you be overlooking opportunities for the Kingdom? What would it actually require of you to move toward someone's need instead of staying comfortable?
- After His busiest recorded day, Mark 1:35 shows Jesus withdrawing to a solitary place to pray before continuing on (1:38–39). What does this pattern of private prayer and purposeful movement reveal about how Jesus lived? Where in your life might you need to slow down, refocus, or realign before stepping into what's next?