

The Unexpected King: The Gospel of Mark

A study for Community Groups to use the week of March 1st

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 Five: Mark 1:40-2:12

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.

Now the time had come for Jesus to demonstrate to the people what His ministry was all about. After all, He had come to do much more than relieve the afflictions of the sick and the demonized. Those miracles were wonderful, but there was something greater for the people to experience—they could enter into the kingdom of God! They needed to understand the spiritual lessons that lay behind the physical miracles He was performing. In this section, our Lord makes it clear that He came to bring to all who would trust Him three wonderful gifts: forgiveness, fulfillment, and freedom. - Bible Exposition Commentary

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 1:40–42, the man says, “If you are willing…” and Jesus responds, “I am willing,” reaching out to touch him. What does this reveal about how the man viewed himself, and how he expected God to respond? Where do you struggle to believe Jesus is truly willing to meet you? What would it look like to approach Him honestly instead of holding back?
- In Mark 2:3–5, the friends refuse to let the crowd stop them, and Jesus “saw their faith.” What stands out to you about the difference between the crowd and the friends? In your current relationships, are you positioned more like someone inside the house protecting comfort, or someone willing to carry another toward Jesus? Is there someone specific you feel prompted to move toward?
- When Jesus says, “Son, your sins are forgiven” (Mark 2:5), before healing the man physically, He addresses a deeper need. What does this reveal about what Jesus believes our greatest need is? If that's true, how should that shape what we pray for — both for ourselves and for the people we care about?