

Unexpected Beginnings

August 9, 2020



Reading/Group Discussion

Begin with prayer

As you begin your gathering, designate someone to pray that the Holy Spirit would lead and guide your time together. Before they do so, spend a few moments together in prayerful silence. Then, after a few seconds of quiet and centering, have the specified person pray for the group.

Read this overview

During this 13-week series, we are going to be opening up the Book of Mark together to study the life of Jesus—The Unexpected King. During this series, we will gain a better understanding of who Jesus is and what it really means to be his disciple.

This past weekend Dan preached through Mark 1.

Scripture + Discussion

The goal of your discussion in this first week is twofold: (1) to grow in our awareness of the reality of Jesus and His Kingdom and (2) to really reflect on who Jesus is to us personally.

Take turns reading through all the way through **Mark 1**. Then, talk through the questions below to guide your discussion to hit on the above objectives.

Here are a few questions to guide the discussion:

- How did this sermon/chapter deepen your faith? How did it challenge you?
- Who is Jesus to you?
- What do the different words in **Mark 1:1** (i.e. “beginning,” “gospel,” “Christ,” and “Son of God”) teach you about who Jesus is and His coming? Does your answer to question 2 align with what Mark writes here? Why or why not?
- If you had to sum up the gospel in one sentence, how would you summarize it? How does your definition differ from what you see Jesus describing here in **Mark 1:14-15**? Where does your

definition align with his? (for additional passages on the gospel see **Romans 1:1-4; 1 Corinthians 15:1-8; Acts 2:14-36**).

- The introduction of Jesus in Mark's gospel is meant to wake us up to the *reality* of Christ and His Kingdom. Have each person go around and describe the extent in which Christ and His Kingdom is the driving force behind their whole life.
- How have you seen the Gospel of the Kingdom and it's reality work its way down into your life? How has it affected or changed you in an emotional sense, a relational sense, a financial sense, or a vocational sense? How has the Gospel seeped into your character? Into your decision making processes? Into your personality? Etc.
- Why do you think Jesus' first word in Mark's Gospel is "repent?" What is repentance? Where might there still be areas in your life where you need to "repent" and align your life more fully with Jesus' kingdom?
- What in one practical next step you are going to pursue as a result of this sermon or this discussion?

Accountability

Take some time again this week to split your group into smaller or gender specific groups and share your answers to the questions below. Be sure to follow up on anything that was shared last week.

- What has your time in God's Word and prayer been like this week?
- What have you learned from Jesus this week?
- Have you consistently reflected the love of Christ to those in your life this week (such as your spouse? Your children? Your co-workers?)?
- Where have you wrestled with temptation this week?
- What sins do you need to confess right now?
- Have you been 100% honest?

Finish with prayer

You might designate someone in your group to write down everyone's prayer requests and then send them to the whole group for everyone to be praying about through the week.

- What is on your heart that you need prayer for?
- Who in your life needs prayer?

Have someone close your time together by interceding for the requests that were shared.