

Looking back at your life, do you see evidence of God using challenging times to prepare you for something he had for you to do in the future? If so, share that with the group.

[Note: For further study on ekballo, see the Go Deeper Section 3 at the end of this session.]

Mark opens his gospel with a dramatic picture that depicts Jesus as the Son of God. C. S. Lewis once famously wrote that we must not fall into the trap of merely considering Jesus to be a good moral teacher:

Either this man was, and is, the Son of God: or else a madman or something worse You can shut Him up for a fool, you can spit at Him and kill Him as a demon; or you can fall at His feet and call Him Lord and God. (*Mere Christianity*, p. 56)

Who is Jesus to you? Have you decided to trust that he is indeed the Son of God? If not, what is holding you back?

If you do believe Jesus is God, what kind of savior has he been in your life? How are you living daily with that reality?

LAST WORD

The Gospel of Mark examines Jesus’s claim to be the Son of God. As we work through this study, we will see much more evidence to bolster Jesus’s claim. Once Mark establishes Jesus as the Son of God, he then asks us how we plan to respond to that truth. **Will you keep your ears open and willing to hear? And if you already believe, what will you do with his teachings?**

GO DEEPER

The Go Deeper section has two potential functions. It can supplement your small group

obey him. The Creator-God promises them everything: life, happiness, power, friendship, and rulership over all the earth. They just have to trust and obey. But they didn't.

Re-read Mark 1:11–13. Then, if you don't remember the story of Adam and Eve's failure, read Genesis 3:1–15 too.

What mandates from God were ignored or disobeyed in the Genesis passage? What resulted from their rebellious behavior?

Jesus obeyed the directive of his Father out of love and trust. Too often we fail to obey God due to our selfishness and fear. We can't seem to truly believe that his way is the best way, that he will strengthen us for the task he's set before us. So we refuse his direction and end up losing out on the blessing he had planned for us.

Take time to reflect on your ability to discern God's leading. Consider why you may be choosing to delay obeying.

Spend a couple of minutes in prayer, asking God to teach you more about Jesus as the Son of God through studying the Gospel of Mark.
