

## Study Guide

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### Small Group Questions *February 22 & 23, 2020*

The pace of Mark's gospel now slows down considerably. Whereas he spent the first ten chapters on three years of Jesus' public ministry, he spends the final six chapters on seven days. Clearly, the death and resurrection of Christ are the most significant events in the book.

1. *Read Mark 11:7-10.* Why does the crowd give Jesus such a royal welcome on "Palm Sunday?" *Now read Mark 15:12-15.* How do they respond on "Good Friday?" What accounts for this change? What does this tell us about human nature?
2. Where do we see evidence of spiritual fickleness in our own lives?
3. *Read Mark 11:12-14 and 20-25.* Why does Jesus curse the fig tree? What does it symbolize? What is Jesus looking for in us?
4. *Read Mark 11:20-25.* What does Jesus teach here about the nature of faith, particularly when it comes to prayer? How does this encourage us to pray? How could these verses be abused? How can we guard against those abuses?

## Study Guide, continued

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5. Why does Jesus mention forgiving others in the context of prayer (verse 25)? What implications does this have for your own prayer life (compare Matthew 6:14-15)?
  6. *Read Mark 11:15-18.* Why does Jesus cleanse the temple? What does this tell us about the state of religion in Israel at that time? How did the religious leaders respond (verse 18)? Ponder the irony of this.
  7. Assess where you are at spiritually. Are you close to the Lord right now or not so much? If Jesus were to return today, would you be ready to meet him? Why or why not?
- In the prayer time, remember to pray in faith (verse 24). Bring each other's requests before God's throne with boldness.