



WEEK 1: Write This Down
(Mark 1:1-22; 12:28-34 NIV)

Do you ever feel far from God? It's not uncommon. As it turns out, God is closer than you think. Join us as we study the book of Mark to explore how you are never far from God.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. [ICEBREAKER] What do you see in these images? How do you see it?



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2. The book of Mark is the true story of Simon Peter, as transcribed by John Mark. It is not the normal storytelling style we prefer – patterned, encapsulated, linear. Instead this story is a more stream-of-consciousness, personal account. How might you prepare yourself for the nonlinear progression of such a story?
3. Read Mark 1:15 (listed below). In looking at this verse, Pastor William spoke about the different meanings in the word “repent”. It can mean either to turn away from sin or to change your worldview. What has been your experience with how this word has been used in the church? Does one meaning speak to you more than the other? Why?
4. The story of Mark begins with the big idea, the “good news” that we are not to miss that “the kingdom of God has come near”. Pastor William examines this “Kingdom of the Heart”, where loving God and loving others is a priority, offered to everyone, regardless of circumstance [Mark 12:30]. Who have you not allowed yourself to love? Was it due to their circumstances or yours? Why might you feel this way?
5. Many of us know someone, perhaps ourselves, who has walked away from God. Do you know someone that might benefit from hearing the experiences of Peter’s journey? How might you invite them to hear this message, either directly or indirectly?

MOVING FORWARD

Will you turn away, or will you believe the good news?

*“The time has come,” he said. “The kingdom of God has come near.
Repent and believe the good news!”*
—Mark 1:15 (NIV)