

Dear Life Group Leaders,

It's the start of a new term. Ahead of our Autumn Term sermon series through Galatians, Simon preached a one-off sermon on Mark 1:16-20. This is a good opportunity for a back-to-basics-of-faith conversation. Amongst all the changes of this season God is still good, the gospel is still true. Do use this study to fuel prayer for this coming term and this new chapter for us as a church. // And a quick reminder of how to use this Guide... in writing it I've tried to balance three types of questions: observation, interpretation and application. That is, what does the passage say? What does it mean? So what should we do? Balancing these types of questions encourages our Life Group members to wrestle with scripture for themselves (after all, this is a Bible study, not an opportunity for you to preach). These questions should help us read the Bible in its context and ours, and challenge us to apply the truths we discover to our lives. Please do give me feedback on the questions. You don't need to read them verbatim, but hopefully they will guide you to the main points of a passage. I'm praying for you as you lead others in this study!

God bless, take care and stay strong,

Andy

LIFE GROUP GUIDE

Mark 1:14-20

This Week's BIG IDEA: God calls us to be with him and be fruitful.

Please read Mark 1:14-20.

1. v14-15 provide us with the context of v16-20 that Simon guided us through on Sunday. What's happened so far in Mark's Gospel?

[Leaders note: Mark has introduced John the Baptist's ministry, Jesus' baptism and temptation in the desert. Now we're arriving at the start of Jesus' public ministry. You might also want to give some context to Galilee, in Jesus' day it was on a busy trade route, a place of bustling activity and ethnic mix. It was also densely populated, with plentiful food from fishing and fertile farmland.]

2. v15 summarises Jesus' teaching at the start of his ministry. What is his message?

[Leaders note: try breaking v15 into three parts... 1) "The time has come", something that has been long awaited is finally here! 2) "The Kingdom of God has come near", Jesus himself is fulfilling what he is proclaiming. 3) "Repent and believe the good news!", this looks like recognising the path you're on isn't the right way, and instead, turning around and following Jesus.]

3. What parallels can you find between v16-18 and v19-20?

4. v17, how would you characterise what Jesus says to Simon and Andrew?

[Leaders note: perhaps calling and commissioning? Come be with me + find a new and greater purpose.]

5. v18 and 20, what was the response of these brothers to Jesus? What did it mean for them to obey him?

6. As disciples of Jesus, and in this new season for us as a church, what might it look like for us to respond to Jesus calling and commissioning? Think both personally and as a community.

[Leaders note: This is a deliberately wide-open question! And you can choose the focus for your Life Group. E.g. you might choose to focus on personal application, and lead in to confession and repentance. Or what it looks like to be with Jesus through personal devotions. You might want to think through our commitment to corporate moments together, like Sunday services. You might want to focus on our witness to those that don't know Jesus... loads of options for you, give a few minutes thought to what's most appropriate for those in your group.]

7. Let's finish our time together in prayer in response to what we've studied together...

[Leaders note: Like Simon's sermon on Sunday, you could finish by pivoting to Matthew 28:16-20. There Jesus commissions us to make disciples and promises to be with us. Pray in to these two things.]