

## Life Group Guide – Week Starting 18<sup>th</sup> January 2026

### Key Scripture Mark 4:1-3

#### This Week's BIG IDEA

Mark writes his Gospel to help ordinary people discover Jesus — who He is, why He matters, and how following Him reshapes our lives. Returning to Mark *again* reminds us that discipleship is not about hearing something new, but about truly **listening** — hearing in a way that leads to obedience. As we journey through this Gospel together, we allow the words and life of Jesus to examine us, shape us, and lead us into deeper trust and faithfulness.

#### Focussing on God

Before discussing anything, spend a few minutes in simple worship and stillness. Encourage the group to slow down, breathe, and become aware of God's presence. Invite the Holy Spirit to help you truly **listen** — not just with your ears, but with open hearts and obedient lives.

This worship song might help:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ywFlrOVW12I>

You may want to remind the group that in Scripture, *hearing* God is always connected to *responding* to God. Allow space for prayers of welcome, surrender, and attentiveness.

#### Missional Conversations

Take time to share together:

- Where have you noticed God at work in your everyday life recently?
- Have there been conversations, moments, or opportunities where faith or hope naturally surfaced?
- Take 5 minutes to pray for those on your lost lists and anyone you might be inviting to one of our Alpha courses that start this week.

#### Discipleship Discussion

**Read together:**

- **Mark 4:1-3** – “Listen!”
- **Deuteronomy 6:4-5** – “Hear, O Israel...”
- **Psalm 95:6-8** – “Today, if only you would hear his voice...”

Hopefully these questions will help the group reflect on the sermon and begin the journey through Mark together:

- What stood out to you from the introduction to Mark's Gospel, and why?
- Why do you think it's important for us to return *again* to the story of Jesus rather than constantly seeking something new?
- Jesus begins by saying "Listen!" What do you think it means for you personally to truly listen to Jesus, not just hear Him?
- Are there areas of your life where you sense God inviting you from hearing into obedience?
- As we journey through Mark together this year, what do you hope God will reveal to you about Jesus?

Encourage honesty. Listening often involves allowing ourselves to be challenged, not just comforted.

### **Prayer**

Pray for one another that, like Mark and Peter, you would be ordinary people who allow the life and words of Jesus to reshape you. Pray for:

- Open ears and responsive hearts.
- Courage to obey what Jesus highlights.
- Perseverance as you walk through Mark together.
- Those facing pressure, uncertainty, or suffering.

Finish by asking the Holy Spirit to help you not only **hear** Jesus this week, but to **follow** Him.