

Talking through the message during the week helps you turn what God is saying to you into action steps. These talking points, questions, and scriptures are designed to help you take the next step.

Group Question. Think back to the message. What sticks out?

Key Scripture

"... the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe..." Mark 1:15

Big Idea of the Message: We first learn about the kingdom of God and its paradoxical values by learning about its ruler, Jesus.

What It Takes To Be Kingdom Focused

- 1. Recognize God's Rule.
- 2. Refuse To Relax.
- 3. Repentance Is Required.
- 4. Relies On Relationship

Application Point: Our values and practices should look like they come from another kingdom.

Start talking. Find a conversation starter for your group.

- How does Mark begin his record 1:1? Explain the significance.
- How do you define the "good news"?
- Mark proclaims the beginning of the good news. How does this good news continue to unfold in our world and in our own lives today?

Start thinking. Perhaps it easy for us to see how they had it wrong. However, try and put the expectations into modern vernacular. When have your expectations clouded your vision of the reality of who God truly is vs. your preconceived notions?

- Who do you expect Jesus to be? How do you expect Him to act?
- How does He act differently than you expect?
- Do you tend to think of Jesus's humanity or his divinity more often?
- How does knowing the ruler of the kingdom teach us about the kingdom itself?

Start sharing.

- What is the difference between following the way of Jesus as opposed to adhering to a set of beliefs?
- How are we to conduct our daily lives in order to follow the way of Jesus?
- How do we show other people that we have different values? Are there better ways we could this than we are currently doing?
- What are the challenges we encounter as we attempt to follow the way?

Start praying. Be bold, and pray with power.

Dear Lord, thank you for your forgiveness. Thank you for not abandoning us to our mistakes, but for reaching out instead to bring us home. Help convict me of sin and help me accept your mercy without shame. Thank you for the love you have poured out for me and all of your children. Help me live out of that love today. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Start doing. Jesus also calls us to "repent and believe." To repent is "to embark on the way of return to God by going beyond the mind that we have."

- What does this change of direction mean for our individual lives and our relationship with others, and how can you move outside your normal comfort zones?
- To believe in the good news involves commitment to God and God's kingdom. What must we do today to live out this commitment?
- What are you called to repent from today?

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