

Small Group Guide: "The Heavens Ripped Open"

Mark 1:9-11 | The Jewish Gospel of Mark – Part 2

Key Scripture Passages

- Mark 1:9-11 (Yeshua's immersion) - Isaiah 40:3-4 (Voice in the wilderness)
- Ezekiel 37:11-14 (Dry bones prophecy) - Isaiah 42:1 (Behold My servant)
- Hebrews 1:1-2 (God speaks through His Son)

Discussion Questions

1. Why do you think the people in Yeshua's hometown couldn't recognize Him as Messiah, even though they knew Him personally? What does this teach us about familiarity creating spiritual blindness?
2. The message mentions that the vision at the Jordan was only seen by Yeshua (and possibly John the Immerser). Why would God reveal Yeshua's identity privately rather than publicly at this moment?**
3. What is the significance of Mark using the same word (schizo - "tear") for both the heavens opening and the temple veil ripping? How are these two events connected?
4. The message connects the torn heavens to Jacob's ladder—both showing connection between heaven and earth. How is Holy Spirit Himself that connection point for us today?

5. The message asks: "How do you know if Torah is written on your heart if you do not know God's instructions?" How would you answer this question? Why is studying the Hebrew Bible important for followers of Yeshua?

6. John the Immerser called for both individual and corporate repentance. Why is corporate repentance often overlooked in modern Christianity? What might corporate repentance look like today?

7. The sermon states that "the Kingdom of God is at hand" was both good news for the righteous and threatening news for those in power. Why? How does this dynamic still exist today?