

# KINGDOM

the gospel of mark

## Week 1 | Kingdom: The Gospel of Mark | January 4, 2015

### Opening Up:

Would you rather spend an hour dreaming and brainstorming or doing a very specific task?

Do you work best under pressure? Why or why not?

In Mark's gospel we don't hear a lot about what Jesus taught, but we do see Jesus doing a lot. Mark reminds us that we are saved not by what we do or think, but we are saved by what Jesus has done. Mark tells us that Jesus is our king and his kingdom is here. In Mark we discover that Jesus is an upside down king who leads an upside down kingdom where the last are first and the first are last and the king himself comes to be a servant.

### Read: Mark 1-15

### Discuss:

1. Read Isaiah 40:3-5 with Mark 1:1-4. What did you discover about the identity of Jesus?
2. What do verses 4-8 of Mark 1 tell us about how we are to receive Jesus? (John's baptism was startling because he called everyone to repentance, Jews and Gentiles. Gentile converts had to be baptized to be ceremonially clean. John taught that no one could come into the kingdom without repentance.)
3. What is hard about repentance?
4. Under Jewish law a slave could not be required to untie a sandal on a smelly foot. John says, he could not even aspire to do what is beneath a slave in verse 7. Why does John feel this way?
5. Has the holiness of Jesus ever struck you with such a feeling toward him?
6. In verse 8 we learn that Jesus comes to baptize with the Holy Spirit. In verses 9-11 Jesus is baptized and the Spirit descends upon Jesus. The Father declares that Jesus is his "beloved Son" with whom he is "well pleased." What does the Spirit say to us when we are saved by Jesus? (See Romans 8:15)
7. Do you feel like a child with whom God is "well pleased?"
8. How does the good news of Jesus' life in exchange for our life (2 Corinthians 5:21) affect how you feel about yourself and God?
9. What was the good news that John preached in verses 14-15?
10. The kingdom is both here and not yet. What would be different if the kingdom was perfectly expressed now on earth and God's will was done as it is in heaven? (see Matthew 6:10) What would be different in your life?
11. When James and John questioned Jesus about who would be great in his Kingdom, how did Jesus respond? (see 10:42-45) What does this teach us about the Kingdom of Jesus?
12. How do we receive the good news? (verses 15-16)
13. What do you need to repent of and believe in?
14. Pray.