

Week 1: Drop Everything – The Kingdom is Here

Overview: Mark opens with urgency: ‘The beginning of the good news about Jesus the Messiah’. No birth narrative, no genealogy - just immediate action. In the first 45 verses, Jesus is baptized, tempted, calling disciples, teaching in the synagogue, casting out demons, healing the sick and withdrawing to pray. Urgency is the point. The kingdom of God has arrived, and it demands a response.

Passages covered this week: Mark 1

Key Scripture: Mark 1:14-15

CONTENT

Key Takeaway: Jesus arrived with an announcement and an invitation – the kingdom of God is here, and it demands a response.

Overview of Mark

Key Points

- The beginning of the gospel (Mark 1:1-13)
 - Mark opens without a birth narrative – he leads with the conclusion: the good news about Jesus the Messiah.
 - John the Baptist prepares the way – the prophetic announcement that something new is breaking in (Isaiah 40:3)
 - Baptism and temptation: Jesus is affirmed by the Father (“you are my Son”) and immediately tested. Ministry begins in the wilderness.
- The kingdom of God is at hand (Mark 1:14-15) – primary focus
 - This is the first thing that Jesus says publicly in Mark. It’s not a gentle invitation – it’s a proclamation
 - The time has come; something decisive has happened in history – the kingdom is near.
 - Repent and believe the good news: two actions, both required, both immediate. Note this is the memory verse – unpack it word by word!
- Jesus calls and people actually drop everything (Mark 1:16-20) – primary focus
 - Simon, Andrew, James, and John leave mid-work – no long discussion, no negotiation
 - Jesus doesn’t recruit the theologically educated. He calls fishermen.
 - I will make you: the call is a promise. Following produces something. You don’t arrive ready – you become when you walk with him.
- Authority, healing, prayer (Mark 1:21-45) – briefly set up week 2
 - Touch on the pace: demon cast out, Peter’s mother-in-law healed, the whole town at the door – all in one day

- Note 1:35: even at the peak of ministry, Jesus withdrew alone to pray. The kingdom comes from intimacy with the Father, not just activity
- Leper touched and healed – Jesus moves toward the untouchable – note this for week 2

Gospel Application: Jesus doesn't ask for perfection before he calls – he calls ordinary people and transforms them along the way. The gospel invitation is the same today: repent, believe, follow. You don't clean up first. You come as you are and he makes you into something.

Key Question: What is Jesus asking you to drop to follow him? And what would it actually cost you to do it?

APPLICATION

Activity Suggestions

- Drop it: give students a card at the start of the night. During the message, ask them to write one thing they'd find hardest to drop to follow Jesus more fully. Revisit this card each week.
- Mark 1:15 is our memory verse for this series. Spend extra time during the message and during Community Group unpacking this verse.

Community Group Questions

- What's your first impression of Jesus in Mark 1? How does this version of Jesus compare to how you usually picture him?
- Why do you think the disciples dropped everything immediately? What would it take for you to respond the same way?
- What does "repent and believe" actually mean? How is repentance different from just feeling bad or trying harder?
- What is one thing in your life that feels harder to drop than it should?
- What are you going to drop to follow him? Share with each other and pray specifically for each other.