

January 15th, 2023 – Red Letters: Gospel of Mark (part 1)

This guide is designed to give helpful hints in preparing and leading your group discussion.

Quick Review

Look back from your sermon notes – Was there anything that particularly challenged you from this sermon? Anything you didn't understand, agree with or connect with?

Introduction

Have you ever had to read a book for something and you left it to the last minute? Instead of reading the whole book or story, you skimmed it or got the "Cliff Notes" book to understand the story? Why does this strategy not give us a true understanding of the whole story?

Digging In

Question 1: Read Mark 1:1. Pastor Jeff asked the question, "am I proclaiming the Gospel like John Mark did? The first question we should ask ourselves is, what is the Gospel? If someone you knew asked you to explain the Gospel, how would you do it? Have you ever thought about how you would explain it? Why is this so important?"

Read John 1:29 to help you form your answer.

Question 2: Read Mark 1:2-3 and Isaiah 40:3. Pastor Jeff emphasized that the gospel of Mark is the messenger to this Gospel spoken on in verse 1. The Old Testament through Isaiah proclaims that this Gospel will come and someone will prepare the way for it. Another way to say "prepare the way" is to say "clear obstacles out of the way." Pastor Jeff challenged us with this question – how are you clearing out obstacles for the Gospel in your own life? How are you doing that in other people's path? What would that look like in the relationships you have?

Question 3: Read Matthew 3:5-8. We will talk more about this in the following weeks, but notice what "preparing the way" for Jesus was in the ministry of John the Baptist – what word or phrase is given in these verses? "Confessing sin, repentance." How is my life marked by "confessing sin and keeping with repentance?" How do you think these actions help "prepare the way" for Jesus in your own life or the life of those you want to reach?

Taking it Home

Take a moment to reflect on **Luke 5:32, 13:5, 24:47**.

A life of following Jesus is not just at one time repenting of your sin, but of life of continual repentance (**Luke 3:8**).

Reflect on how you are bearing fruit in keeping with repentance. What does that look like in your life? How do you think it should look based off of God's Word?

Praise / Prayer Requests

Pray for your group with these things in mind:

Adoration – How can I praise God for what this teaches me?

Confession – What sin can I confess because of what this teaches me?

Thanksgiving – How can I thank God for what Jesus has done?

Supplication – What do I need to ask of God in order to grow in light of this?