

PRAYER REQUESTS:

GROUP GUIDE



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DIVINE ENCOUNTERS

Icebreaker

Have you ever personally met anyone famous? Who was it? How did you meet them? How did the conversation go? What did you learn about that person that you did not know before?

If you've met someone famous, then you know that it can be a nerve-wracking experience for some. Some of us may "clam up" and not be able to speak, while others may talk incessantly or even incoherently in their enthusiasm. Sometimes famous people can be difficult or awkward to speak with, but often times we discover that they are normal people just like us. It just takes time to get to know them.

Lesson Overview:

The Gospel of Mark is the shortest of the four gospels in the New Testament. Mark wastes no time or space in his account of Jesus' presence on earth. Through the experiences and teachings he shares, readers are called to respond in faith and follow Jesus, the Son of God, the Savior of the world. The purpose of this group guide is to highlight who Jesus is and how we should respond.

READ MARK 1:21-28.

Why were people astonished at Jesus' teaching? What was different about His teaching from that of the scribes (v. 22)? What did this demon know about Jesus (v. 24)?

How did people respond when Jesus cast out the demon (v. 26)? Why do you think Jesus healed the sick, cast out demons, and raised the dead?

What might demonstrating his authority over sickness, death, and demons communicate about Jesus' mission?

When Jesus exercised authority over the demons, sickness, and death, He was not just showing us how great he is, he was telling us that he has come to do something about those things. Jesus has come to establish his kingdom and restore the world back to its pre-fall state. Jesus has come to establish God's kingdom on earth by doing something about what is wrong with the world. Jesus' miracles were precursors to his death and resurrection by which he would render our great enemies absolutely powerless

over us. Jesus is the Good News of God. Through him, God's kindness entered our world. Through Jesus, God offers to free us from that which oppresses us. It's what he had to do to free us that is most surprising.

READ MARK 15:16-47.

Why did the crowd choose these particular ways to mock Jesus? What's the irony of what they did to Jesus in these verses?

What are some ways we might try and twist the claims of Jesus, even today, for our own ends?

READ MARK 16:1-8.

Following the crucifixion, Jesus was laid in a new tomb on the first day of the week, as was customary. Women in Jesus' life came to the tomb to prepare and anoint the body with spices.

What explanation did the angel give for Jesus not being in the tomb?

READ MARK 16:15 AND MATTHEW 28:19-20.

If you're a Christian, the message of Mark calls you to action. How can you be a part of God's plan and make it known to others? How should it affect the way that you plan?

Share prayer requests and pray together.

For details on all upcoming events, scan the QR code to visit our website!

