



WEEK 1: THE BEGINNING OF THE GOOD NEWS

ICE BREAKER

WORSHIP

PRAYER

SERMON REWIND

Mark introduces Jesus as a King who brings God's Kingdom near and calls for us to respond. Repentance and belief are not just about changing what we feel, but about changing who leads our lives. When the disciples follow Jesus, they show that the good news is not an improvement to our plans, but a surrender to His. From the start, we are confronted with a question that will echo throughout the series—will we rearrange our lives around this King, or attempt to fit Him into the margins of our own?

KEY VERSES

Look up theses additional verses:

Mark 1:1-15 (NLT)

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1

Making Jesus King

Jesus announces a Kingdom, which means He is not just an advisor, but the King..

- a. Where have you treated Jesus like He is just an addition to your life, rather than your King?
- b. What is one decision area right now where you are clearly asking, "What do I want?" more than "What does Jesus want?"

2

The Kingdom is at Hand

In **Mark 1:15**, Jesus pairs the Kingdom God being at hand with repenting and believing.

- a. Why do you think the nearness of God's Kingdom leads Jesus to call people to repent and believe?
- b. How has your understanding of repentance been shaped more by guilt than by direction?

3

Jesus Transforms Us

Surrendering to Jesus is submitting our lives, our views, our goals into His hands.

- a. What is the hardest thing to submit to Jesus (relationship, political views, work, personal struggle...)?
- b. When someone challenges a belief you strongly disagree with, how might following Jesus shape your response? Where have you seen this displayed well?

4

Trusting God in Each Step

Unsure of where they might end up, the disciples lives and mission changed when Jesus called them.

- a. What do you think the disciples felt as they let go of what was familiar and safe?
- b. Where might Jesus be calling you to take a step before you feel ready or certain?

Jesus, Our Lord

When Jesus enters our story, He is not entering as a guest but as our Lord.

- a. Where do you notice the tension between letting Jesus lead versus staying in control in of daily lifestyle?
- b. How could that awareness help you begin to surrender day-by-day?

DIVE DEEPER

Reflection Questions: Making Jesus our King is a work in progress, but it involves keeping our ears open to where He is calling us to submit.

- Dive Deeper" to this, "Where is it hardest to submit to Jesus as King (our heart posture, attitude, actions...)?
— *Important Note:* There is no shame from Jesus or this small group. Jesus just wants us to start living for Him. Breathe and release the weight.
- What would obedience look like this week if you stopped negotiating with Jesus?

PRACTICAL APPLICATION

Making Him King—Each day this week:

- Write down the areas you notice you prefer to be in control.
- Pray into how to release that control to Jesus.

Ask the Holy Spirit to help you release areas of control and help you trust Him.

PRAYER/MINISTRY TIME

CLOSING SCRIPTURE

Psalms 33:4 (NLT), "For the word of the Lord holds true, and we can trust everything he does."

Let the group rest in that truth as you close together in prayer.

NOTES

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