



Week 1  
Discipleship Study  
Questions



**Mark Part 1: The Journey to the Cross**

During the season of Lent, we will follow Jesus on His journey to the cross. As disciples of Jesus, we have to understand the cost of what He did for us. Jesus intentionally went to His death, suffering physical pain and separation from God. Even if we've heard this story before, we still can remind ourselves of the enormity of Christ's sacrifice for us.

But praise God, His journey didn't end at the cross – He is risen!

### **Read the Scripture:**

*Individual:* Read the passage from two or three different translations.

*Group:* Have two different group members read the passage using different Bible translations.

### **Speak the Scripture:**

*Individual:* Recite the story aloud from memory (as best you can) or tell it to a friend or family member. The goal here is to get the essence of the passage in your heart.

*Group:* Have someone volunteer to recite the passage aloud in their own words, as best they can.

### **Understand the Scripture:**

*Individual or Group:* Use the Discovery Questions to help ensure you understand the passage.

### **Dig Deeper into the Scripture:**

*Individual:* Work through the Digging Deeper questions and pray about what God reveals to you through His word. Discuss with a Christian friend or family member if you choose.

*Group:* Work through the Digging Deeper questions as a group, celebrating the work God is already doing in each person's life, and encouraging each other to trust Him in the places that need growth.

# Small Group Guidelines

## **This is a Safe Group**

Confidentiality is key—what is said in the group stays in the group. Be aware of how you are affecting the environment with your words, actions, and non-verbal communication. This needs to be a place where people feel comfortable opening up and sharing.

## **No Crosstalk**

Be considerate of others as they are sharing. No side conversations, phone time, texting etc.

## **Listen**

Let's value one another by listening to what is being shared. Allow a pause after someone shares to allow them to finish and others to consider what was said. Eye contact and body posture play key roles in creating a positive or negative group environment.

## **No Rescuing or Fixing**

We are not here to fix each other; Jesus does that part. Avoid the tendency to rescue when someone is struggling to get the words out or shares a struggle or conviction.

## **Use "I" Statements**

It's easy to talk about the issues of others, or respond with "we," "us," or "the church," but for us to grow as disciples and build relationships, we want to use "I" statements.

## **Don't Over-Talk**

We want to create time for all members of the group to participate in the discussion. Be careful not to always be the first responder or regularly give long responses.

## **Fight for Relationship**

It's not if conflict or hurt feelings will happen, but when. We commit to fight for relationship with each other. Go to the person and share your struggle or seek wise advice if you are not sure how to handle the conflict.

## Week 1

**Background:** Mark (also known as John Mark) was a figure in the early church. He traveled with his cousin Barnabas as they accompanied Paul on his first missionary journey. He was also close to Peter. While Mark was not an eyewitness to the life of Jesus, scholars believe that Peter relayed much of what he saw to Mark. As we enter the season of Lent in preparation for Christ's death and resurrection, we will study the last third of this action-packed gospel.

**Read:** Mark 1:1-20

### **Discovery Questions:**

What do we learn about God in this passage?

What do we learn about what it means to be a follower of Christ in this passage?

What do you think the Holy Spirit might be teaching you personally through this passage?

Is there anything God is leading you to do after reading this passage?

### **Digging Deeper:**

How did John the Baptist prepare the way for Jesus?

How many times does Mark use the word "immediately" in this passage? Why do you think he does that?

Repent comes from the Greek word *metanoia*, which means "to change direction". How is this different from how you understand the word "repent"? How are faith and repentance linked?

What did Peter, Andrew, James, and John give up to follow Jesus? What have you given up in order to follow Jesus?

### **End this time with a prayer.**

*Heavenly Father, we are so thankful to have these accounts of Jesus' life on earth so that we can know Your Son more. Send your Spirit to speak to us and give us understanding of Your Word, and give us a burning desire to pursue knowledge of You and intimacy with You. In Jesus' name, Amen.*