

Countdown to Jesus

“Beginning”

GETTING STARTED

ICE BREAKER: What is your favorite spy or war movie?

KEY THOUGHT: ***The infiltration to establish the Kingdom of God has begun***

GETTING THE POINT

Read Mark 1:1

1. What typically comes to your mind when you hear the word “gospel”?
2. How is the historical idea of “victory announcement” appropriate when the Bible uses the word “gospel”?
3. Knowing that similar phraseology to Mark 1:1 was used to deify Roman emperors, how does this sentence reflect subversion? How does this usage reflect on all the gospel writers?
4. How does the descriptor “Son of God” bring to mind the deity of Jesus? In what respects is the term broader than that?
5. How does the idea that “beginning” here refers not just to the first few paragraphs of Mark’s gospel, but all 16 chapters, put this first sentence into a different light?

GETTING DEEPER

Read Mark 1:14-15

1. This is Mark’s version of Jesus’ announcement about why He has come. How would you phrase this in your own words?
2. What “time” is Jesus speaking of as having been fulfilled? Why is this important?

GETTING PERSONAL

1. What is your reaction to the idea of Jesus being subversive to the Roman government?
2. What kinds of worldly oppression plague people today? What evidence do you know that Jesus is still able to set people free?
3. Being careful not to betray confidences...who do you know who is subject to oppression (it’s ok to share about yourself) that you would like to pray that Jesus will subvert the spiritual powers that keep them trapped?

PRAY...

that Jesus will subvert the powers of oppression in our world and in our hearts.