Biblical scholars agree that the Book of Mark was the first Gospel written.

The word gospel, euangelion in Greek, means good news.

Not only is Mark the first Gospel, predating Matthew, Luke, and John, but it is based on the apostolic preaching of Peter.

The Book of Acts records the gathering of the first Christian church.

Despite the early losses in their lives, Peter and John Mark went on to be remembered not as losers but as heroes.

Two Reasons for the Urgency Expressed in the Book of Mark

1. Peter and John Mark experienced the undeserved compassion of Jesus.

2. The compassion their first century audience was so desperate for.

During the first century, the world was under the dominion of Rome.

Our ache accelerates Jesus’ compassion. And the heart of God is moved by the wounds of mankind.
Discussion Questions:

What drew you to study the Gospel of Mark and what are some facts you already knew about Mark—the man or the Gospel?

What is one thing from the video teaching that was new to you or you found interesting?

What do you hope to gain most from this Bible study? Discuss a few goals you hope to accomplish through this study.
Jesus’ choosing exactly 12 disciples is likely a New Testament nod to the 12 tribes in the Old Testament.

The Zealots were a radical group committed to overthrowing Rome.

Jesus can mend even the most difficult relationships.

Jesus is the only One with infinite compassion who has the capacity to meet the emotional needs of everyone around you.

All of us come to a point of faith in our life where the cost of discipleship is higher than we were prepared to pay.

Jesus has to come first.

When being a Christian gets tough, the way we must persevere is to keep our eyes on the end game.

The end game for us is the invaluable prize of being adopted into Jesus’ forever family.

The ache all of us have to belong in a safe, loving, nurturing family is perfectly fulfilled in the person of Jesus Christ.
Discussion Questions:

Glance back through your homework from last week. What one passage, key thought, or truth stuck out to you?

How have you seen and experienced the ways Jesus can mend even the most difficult relationships?

Discuss the cost of discipleship with your group. How do you keep Jesus first in your life?
When Jesus calmed the storm, He spoke three words: Peace! Be still! [see oh pa oh, fee mow] in Greek.

When Jesus calmed the storm, He demonstrated His absolute authority over the natural world.

Jesus has authority over the supernatural world.

Jesus also has authority over death.

The nature of her disease, an ongoing hemorrhage, rendered the woman ceremonially unclean.

The woman whom Jesus healed may have been trembling in fear because she was afraid of being pointed out by someone in the crowd.

Sometimes religious superiority masquerades as spiritual maturity.

We all ache for someone to see us when we feel invisible.
Discussion Questions:

What truths from God's Word came to light in your homework last week?

Discuss the authority Jesus has over the natural and supernatural world. How does that truth change the way we live today?

When have you felt invisible? What were the circumstances?

How can we reach out to those around us in tangible ways so they know they are not invisible and that Jesus cares for them?
The Mount of Transfiguration is on the northern shore of the Sea of Galilee.

Theocracy: A people group God sets apart as His very own.

God appeared to His people tangibly in the form of a theophany.

Jewish people call the glory of God Shekhinah, which means “The dwelling glory of God.”

We need to acknowledge our spiritual neediness.

“Helplessness, not holiness, is the first step to accessing God.”

Dr. Tim Keller
Discussion Questions:

As you hit the halfway point in this Bible study, what have you learned that will change your walk and relationship with Jesus?

We’ve focused on the compassion of Jesus so far in Mark’s Gospel account. In what ways have you experienced the compassion of Christ in your life?

Discuss spiritual neediness with your group and reflect on the quote by Dr. Tim Keller, “Helplessness, not holiness, is the first step to accessing God.” How can we be more vulnerable and honest with one another about our spiritual needs and helplessness?
The first chapters of the Book of Mark are all about the compassion of the Christ.

The last eight chapters of the Book of Mark are all about the passion of the Christ.

Bartimaeus’ saying, “Son of David” is a nod to Isaiah’s prophecy that the Messiah would come from Davidic lineage.

In the first half of the Book of Mark, Jesus would often silence those He healed.

The Greek word for rebuke, epitimyo, means “the implication of a threat.”

Jesus wasn’t asking about Bartimaeus’ symptoms; He was giving him the gift of connection.

When Bartimaeus engages with Jesus, he goes from sitting on the curb to joining the cause.

Because of the compassion of Christ, it’s worth following Him to the passion of Christ!
Discussion Questions:

How would you explain the compassion of Christ discovered in the first chapters of Mark with an unbeliever?

How would you describe the passion of Jesus that is described in the last eight chapters of Mark and displayed on the cross?

Discuss the story of Bartimaeus with your group. What did you learn and how does his story compare with yours as you connect in a relationship with Jesus and follow Him?
The point Jesus is making in Mark 13:1-13 is, “Don’t worry. I’m still in control.”

Eschatology is about the doctrine of end times—the return of Christ.

Jesus didn’t just pardon us. He took our place.

The highlight of Jesus’ lesson on the fig tree is that there will be no more evil and darkness when He returns.

In Mark 13:32 Jesus said that even He does not know when He will return.

Satan knows his time is short.
Discussion Questions:

How often do you worry about the future or end times?

What peace and assurance do you know and experience because of your relationship with Jesus?

In the time that each of us is given, how can we share Jesus with others and help them understand the truth of the gospel?
Reflect on 1 Corinthians 1:26-31:

For consider your calling, brothers: not many of you were wise according to worldly standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; God chose what is low and despised in the world, even things that are not, to bring to nothing things that are, so that no human being might boast in the presence of God. And because of him you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, righteousness and sanctification and redemption, so that, as it is written, “Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord.”

1 CORINTHIANS 1:26-3

How will you proclaim that you love the Lord Jesus with all your heart to the aching world around you?
Discussion Questions:

Do you think Jesus is better off with you as one of His followers?

What are examples of the seasons in your life when you felt you were “less than” and how did the Lord help you to get out of those seasons?

How have you “seen” the Lord and His work in your life and in the lives of others?

How will you proclaim the hope of the gospel to those around you after this Bible study?