

Lesson Notes: Mark I

Introductory Questions

1. In what ways do you relate to John the Baptist?
2. Read 1:35. How do you find time to pray and listen to God?
3. What did you learn about Jesus this week?
4. TK draws parallels between Genesis' and Mark's creation-baptism and fall-temptation accounts. How are these accounts similar? Were these new thoughts to you? (p.13)

Isaiah's "Predecessor": John the Baptist, 1-8

Character Sketch:

- Parents: _____
- Training: _____
- Appearance: _____
- Message: _____

Jesus begins His Ministry, 9-20

His initiation: _____ (glory & grace) straight into _____ (testing & triumph). Which phase are you in?

The big lie from the father of lies: "You don't have to do it God's way. My way or your way is better...easier...and gets the same results." Avoid the cross.

His community: The Core Four: _____

Wisdom of this sequence: You begin, you are tested, you come through trial stronger with a sure identity and sure of God's power, and THEN you gather friends, have a public ministry. Stay humble! Trials prove your faith.

A Busy Day, 21-45

Spiritual Authority

Healer

That Solitary Place

"I am willing. Be clean!"

Personal Questions

What is God starting in you? What is His fresh, challenging work for you?

Who is your J the B? Who are your Core Four?

Are you willing to leave all and follow Him? What are you holding onto, clutching in fear of what He'll do if you let go? Of what or whom do you need to let go?

Jesus IS "the Holy One of God." Do you reverence Him as much or more as the demons do?

When He moves in your life, is your instinct to get up and serve Him, showing your thankfulness in actions for His Kingdom? What can you do this week to show Him that you love Him?

How are you doing in your time alone with God? Describe your ideal "solitary place," and then make a plan to make it happen.

If sin is our leprosy, of what do you need to be cleansed? Picture yourself as the leper going to Jesus.

Discussion Groups: Discuss any of the personal questions above, plus K Questions:

- Listen to this passage from King's Cross (p. 13):

... God said to Jesus "Obey me about the tree" – only this time the tree was a cross – "and you will die." And Jesus did. He has gone before you into the heart of a very real battle, to draw you into the ultimate reality of the dance. What he has enjoyed from all eternity, he has come to offer you. And sometimes, when you're in the deepest part of the battle, when you're tempted and hurt and weak, you'll hear in the depths of your being the same words Jesus heard: "This is my beloved child – you are my beloved child, whom I love; with you I'm well pleased."

If you are deep in a battleground, can you share with our group about how this passage moves you? Do you believe it, taking it personally, hearing Him speak this over you? How will it affect your life this week?

- Tim Keller says (in Chapter 2 of King's Cross) that other religions are primarily advice about how to live, but that Christianity is good news. He also says that in Christianity, we do not choose to follow advice, but we are called to follow a person. What is your response to this?
- Do you share Keller's view of Christianity vs. "religion"? (See p.20)
- On page 6, Plantinga describes the Trinity life this:
"The persons within God exalt each other, commune with each other, and defer to one another...Each divine person harbors the others at the center of His being. In constant movement of overture and acceptance, each person envelops and encircles the others...God's interior life [therefore] overflows with regard for others."

Can you picture this relationship, this relational dance between Beings? Use adjectives to describe it.

- Review page 10. What are you made for? Answer his questions in the first full paragraph.

Dismissal:

Read the short paragraph out loud on p.22 that begins with "Come, follow Me." Enjoy it! It's truth. Take it and head out the door. Love you! Suz