

IMAGINE



Big Idea: Imagine a place where people, changed by God’s grace, gather together to pursue Jesus and offer their lives for the cause of His kingdom! Imagine a place where everyone matters, hope is abundant, grace is free, and generosity overflows. Imagine a place filled with men and women who share a commitment to go out into the ordinary spaces of life to live and love like Jesus. That place would be a taste of heaven on earth.

Imagine A Place Where . . . Hope is for Everyone

Mark 2:13-17

IMAGINE : WORSHIP - Jesus’ Community offers hope to everyone.

Week 2

Capture our Attention-

- a. All people can see hope in something! Are you more likely to see the potential in ...

a rusty old car,	a tattered old house,
a scrawny football team,	an unbalanced budget,
a sketch of a dream on a napkin,	or a smattering of leftovers in the fridge?

- b. Share your Take-A-Way from last Sunday’s sermon. What insight or truth from the message did God allow to capture your attention? What are you doing to live out the implications of that truth?

Enlighten our Mind-

1. Jesus was very perceptive. The Holy Spirit helped Jesus see things that were not always obvious to others. Mark records a number of interesting situations where Jesus saw something that others missed. Look at these stories and describe what Jesus perceived that others missed.
 - Mark 1:16-20
 - Mark 2:1-12
 - Mark 3:31-35
 - Mark 5:35-43
 - Mark 6:35-44
 - Mark 9:33-37

When has your faith in Jesus helped you see hope in what others felt was a hopeless situation?

2. Divide into groups of three or four. Look closely at the story of Levi (Mark 2:13-14). Have groups answer one of these questions.
 - What elements of this story are surprising to you?
 - What current occupations might be similar to a “tax collector” or “sinner”?
 - When Jesus says, “Follow me”, what is He asking?
 - What does Levi’s response (v. 14 & 15) tell you?

3. Why do you think Mark chooses to mention the description of many of Jesus' followers (v. 15)? Read Ephesians 2:1-5 and 1 Corinthians 6:9-11 and describe the past life of some of the first century Christians.

What kind of lives can Jesus give hope for transformation to today?

4. Review the verses 13-16 and discuss what Jesus saw that the Pharisees missed?

Jesus gave an invitation to new life to Levi (one person in a crowd of people). Who is in the crowd around you to whom you can offer hope? How will you give hope to them?

5. How does Jesus' purpose (verse 17) explain His invitation to Levi? How might this explain why so many "tax collectors and disreputable sinners" were followers of Jesus?

How can we as a church be more like Jesus in noticing and inviting people who need to find the HOPE that He provides?

Vision of Transformation-

Bringing Lesson to Life.

- a. Hope thrives in a gospel-centered Worship service. How do the following elements in our weekend services fill you with hope? singing, prayer, communion, message, offering, celebration story, baptisms, and Guest Central decisions, meeting new guests, visiting with friends, and quiet meditation.
- b. Hope spreads as Jesus' followers leave weekend services to spread hope to their neighborhood, workplace, school, family. *How will you spread hope by practicing one of the five habits of Jesus' Life this week?*
1. **Bless** one person each day by showing them God's love.
 2. **Eat** with three people each week.
 - 3 & 4. **Listen** to and **Learn** from Jesus each week.
 5. **Share** the insight you learn with three people each week.
- c. Hope reaches. Ask Jesus to show you any place where you have doubted hope's ability to reach and change a person or group of people. Ask Jesus to increase your ability to spread hope to people who are far from God.
- d. Hope invites. Invite some of your friends who don't know Jesus to a meal or event with you. Invite Jesus to be there as well!

Pray an "Imagine" prayer for your group, neighborhood and city to find their way back to God.