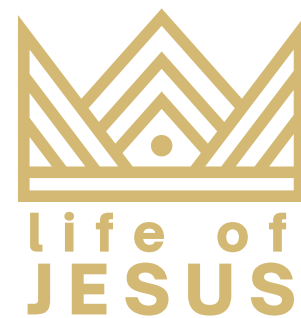




Part IV: Small Group Discussion Questions:

1. Review Question: After centuries of domination, what were the Jewish people of Jesus' day expecting/hoping for? In other words, what did they expect the "kingdom of God" would look like?

- Before this morning's session, how would you have summarized Jesus' MAIN message in one sentence?
 1. What is Jesus' one-sentence message as recorded in Mark 1:14-15?
- Everyone expected the Messiah (king) to fight against Rome. Instead, Jesus goes around waging a different sort of war...who are some of His enemies? In other words, in Mark 1-5, who/what is Jesus "fighting?"
 2. What kinds of things respond to His authority?
- Christians often think of going to heaven after death as "God's Kingdom," yet in The Gospel of Mark, when Jesus announced the kingdom of God, he proceeded to: cast out demons, heal the sick and disabled, confront hypocritical religious leaders, hang around outcasts, miraculously provide food, raise the dead, and then die and rise!
 3. What does all this activity have to do with His message about God's kingdom come?
 4. In one sentence, how would you describe the "Kingdom of God?"
 5. What are you left wondering/thinking about/pondering?

Part V: Gospel Reading:

- Read Matthew 4-8

Jesus TELLS about the Kingdom in Matthew 5-7 and SHOWS folks the kingdom through his miracles in chapters 4 and 8.

6. What sort of kingdom is this??

Bonus Challenge: Read the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5-7) more than once.

Closing Prayer: "Father God, please show us Jesus's Kingdom—this message He was so passionate about. Though He has been often misunderstood, may we see clearly what He meant when He told us to 'repent and believe' because the 'kingdom is at hand.' Amen."