

Family Discussion Guide

Class Session 5 – 2018

Jesus’ Ministry – Miracles & Parables

During this fifth month of Confirmation Instruction you will be learning about the ministry of Jesus - how he called his disciples, the miracles he performed and the parables he used to teach his followers.

Prayer Time

As you involve yourself with the Word of God this month by reading selected portions of the Gospel of Mark, begin your time of reading and reflection with the following prayer, or one of your own:

Gracious God, at times it’s difficult to understand the depth of your grace and forgiveness. Forgive us for those times when we have wandered away from you to do our own thing or follow our own desires. Thank you for your unconditional love and forgiveness that welcome us back with open arms. Help us, Lord, to understand that you love everybody, not because of what we have or have not done, but because we are your creation, created in your image. In your name we pray. Amen.

Bible Readings

The Gospel of Mark is a fast-paced gospel which emphasizes the works of Jesus more than the teachings of Jesus. There is a lot of movement in the Gospel which serves as ideal reading for background into the earthly ministry of Jesus. Mark regularly uses the word “immediately” or “suddenly” to take the reader from one event in the life of Jesus to another.

Please note all of the movement that occurs in the gospel. Jesus didn’t stay in one place to do his ministry. He was always on the move.

As you read Chapters 1-9 and get a taste of Jesus’ ministry activity, make a list below of all the towns, regions, or areas that Jesus visited. Using the map attached to this guide, mark out all the cities and locations. You will be surprised at all the travel. Remember this was before bikes, cars and buses!

Towns, Regions and Areas Visited by Jesus recorded in the book of Mark		

READING ASSIGNMENT WEEK ONE:

(Use the questions below to prompt a discussion with your family about what you are reading. You do not need to write out your answers and turn them in, just discuss them with your family members who are reading through the book of Mark with you.)

Mark Chapter 1

1. With what event does the “Gospel about Jesus Christ” begin?
2. According to Jesus, what time “has come”? (v.15)
3. What are things the disciples left behind to follow Jesus?
4. The evil spirit knows who Jesus is - what does the evil spirit call Jesus? How does this miracle prove who Jesus is?

Mark Chapter 2

1. What did Jesus do first for the paralytic man? How did that possibly surprise the paralytic man and those who brought him to Jesus? What were they expecting?
2. Why were the teachers so upset?
3. By saying “your sins are forgiven” who was Jesus claiming to be?
4. What is causing opposition toward Jesus to grow? (v.18-28)

Mark Chapter 3

1. Jesus challenged the Sabbath regulations of the Pharisees. How did they respond to the challenges and to Jesus? (v. 6)
2. Write down a list of the twelve disciples (apostles). (v. 13-19)
3. How do you know that even Jesus’ family didn’t fully understand who he was? (v. 21) What did the teachers of the law claim about Jesus? (v. 22)
4. Not everyone loved Jesus. He challenged many and spoke the truth. What has surprised you most reading about Jesus’ ministry to this point?

READING ASSIGNMENT TWO:

(Use the questions below to prompt a discussion with your family about what you are reading. You do not need to write out your answers and turn them in, just discuss them with your family members who are reading through the book of Mark with you.)

Mark Chapter 4

1. Name the three parables in this chapter. Tell, in your own words, an explanation of one of them.
2. What emotions did the disciples feel as the storm raged all around them? (v. 35-41) where was Jesus during the storm? What did Jesus show about himself through all of this?
3. What have you learned about Jesus in your reading that you didn't know about him before?

Mark Chapter 5

1. What miracles does Jesus perform in this chapter? Which one impresses you the most and why?
2. What new things did the disciples learn about the power of Jesus?

Mark Chapter 6

1. What amazed Jesus about the people? (v. 6) Where was Jesus at this time?
2. In Verse 34 it says, "when Jesus landed and saw a large crowd, he had compassion on them." What does it mean to have "compassion"?
3. What did the disciples want Jesus to do with the crowd? What did Jesus want the disciples to do? Do you think they were surprised by his request? How can you tell?
4. Does Jesus just give them a snack? How do you know?
5. How can you tell that Jesus' popularity is growing? (v. 53-56) How do the crowds view Jesus?

READING ASSIGNMENT THREE:

(Use the questions below to prompt a discussion with your family about what you are reading. You do not need to write out your answers and turn them in, just discuss them with your family members who are reading through the book of Mark with you.)

Mark Chapter 7

1. In your reading of this chapter, what things impress you most about Jesus? What new things have you learned that you didn't know before?

Mark Chapter 8

1. The Pharisee's questioned Jesus and asked for a sign from heaven. Why does Jesus seem frustrated by their request?
2. In your reading to this point, name some signs that Jesus gave to show he is the Messiah.
3. What major events does Jesus predict? (v. 31) Do you think Jesus knows why he came to earth? How do you know?

Mark Chapter 9

1. Jesus reveals himself in all his glory. (v. 1-8) Why is this important for Jesus? Why is this important for the disciples who are with him?
2. How does Jesus' idea of greatness go against the world's idea of greatness? (v. 33-36)

Memory Assignment (Optional)

- Commandment 6: You shall have not commit adultery.
(read explanation in *Luther's Small Catechism*, page 12)
- Commandment 7: You shall not steal.
(read explanation in *Luther's Small Catechism*, page 13)
- Commandment 8: You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor.
(read explanation in *Luther's Small Catechism*, page 13)
- Commandment 9: You shall not covet your neighbor's house.
(read explanation in *Luther's Small Catechism*, page 13)
- Commandment 10: You shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or his manservant or maidservant, his ox or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.
(read explanation in *Luther's Small Catechism*, page 13-14)



Parent Report Form

Class Session 5 - 2018

Jesus' Ministry - Miracles & Parables

Student's Name:

	Assignments	Check as items are completed
	List of Towns, Places & Regions in Mark	
Week 1		
	Mark Chapter 1	
	Mark Chapter 2	
	Mark Chapter 3	
Week 2		
	Mark Chapter 4	
	Mark Chapter 5	
	Mark Chapter 6	
Week 3		
	Mark Chapter 7	
	Mark Chapter 8	
	Mark Chapter 9	
Memory Assignments		
	Commandment 6	
	Commandment 7	
	Commandment 8	
	Commandment 9	
	Commandment 10	

NEXT CLASS SESSION IS SCHEDULED FOR FEBRUARY 17, 2018, 10 AM - 2 PM

Return this form at the next class session.

Parent's Signature _____ Date: _____