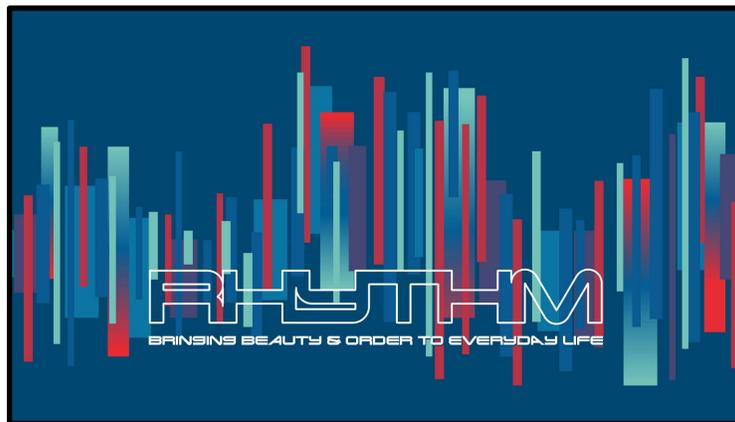




Groups

Thanks for checking out our sermon-based Study Guides! If you've never used our Study Guides before, you'll find some basic instructions beginning at the bottom of page 2.

SERMON-BASED STUDY GUIDE for the sermon preached on October 17, 2021 "To Think or To Do?" – Mark 1



Finding *balance* in all the demands of everyday life can feel impossible, as we all have so many different commitments and are pulled in so many different directions. But if we can find *rhythm*, it can bring beauty, order, and fulfillment to our lives. So far in this series, we've learned that life works best when we find a rhythm between work and rest, between our public and private lives, between gathering and scattering, and between living in the present and investing in the future. This week, we'll consider the rhythm between *thinking* and *doing*.

Group Discussion Questions

Q – [This is an icebreaker or conversation-starter question. Feel free to skip it if your group doesn't need any help getting a conversation started!] Pastor Leah started by sharing some true-or-false questions from an online quiz designed to help you determine if you are more of a thinker or a doer:

- I am addicted to being busy.
- I make decisions very fast.
- I take time to rest and recharge.
- I become anxious in traffic jams.
- I don't usually finish what I start.
- I tend to get stuck analyzing things.

Based on your responses to these questions, do you tend to be more of a thinker or more of a doer?

Q – Leah preached from all of Mark 1, but we’ll focus our discussion on a shorter segment: Mark 1:14-28. We’ll read it through twice, first listening for what Jesus and others *do*, and then a second time listening for how Jesus *thinks*. [*Invite someone to read the passage out loud.*]

- First, let’s focus on Jesus’s actions. List all the things that Jesus does in these verses. What do you notice about Jesus’s actions?
- Next, let’s look at the other people present in these scenes. Name all the things that other people do in this section. What do you notice about their actions?
- Let’s listen to the passage again, this time listening for evidence of thinking and reflection. [*Invite someone else to read the passage out loud a second time.*]
- It involves a little more digging and looking closely at the text, but where can we see evidence of Jesus’s thinking and reflection in this passage?

Q – The Common English Bible translation of Mark 1:14-15 reads: “After John was arrested, Jesus came into Galilee announcing God’s good news, saying, “Now is the time! Here comes God’s kingdom! Change your hearts and lives, and trust this good news!””

- What is “God’s good news” that Jesus began announcing?
- The phrase “God’s kingdom” or “kingdom of God” is of central importance in Jesus’s preaching. How would you describe what this phrase means?

Q – Reflecting on those verses, Leah observed, “true repentance is a willingness to allow our minds to be changed about God and by God... In other words, the invitation Jesus gives in the opening words of his ministry is a call to change our minds.”

- Why would trusting this good news require us to change our mind, our heart, and our way of life?
- Can you think of a time when you have you changed your mind about something important? Share the circumstances that led you to change your mind.
- Where do you sense the call to change most deeply right now—is it to change your mind, to change your heart, or to change your way of life? What is one way God might be calling you to change, if you are to fully trust in the good news?
- How can members of this group support you as you try to make this change?

How to Use These Study Guides:

- Consider sending out the Scripture passage to your group members ahead of time.
- Begin each meeting with a short time of checking in with one another.
- You may want to begin the discussion by reading the Scripture passage together out loud, or by summarizing the passage if everyone has read it ahead of time.
- Don’t feel like you need to discuss every question included in the Study Guide. Pick one or two to start with, and see how the conversation flows.
- If your group meets over Zoom:
 - You may need to do more overt facilitating over Zoom than you would in person. Feel free to call on people to invite them to share.
 - Try to be sensitive to attention spans over Zoom—keep the meetings shorter than they would be in person.

- Be sure to set aside time for sharing prayer requests and praying together.

Group Leader Support: Please reach out to your Campus Pastor or your Coach if you have any questions about leading your group or concerns about your group dynamic. If you have questions about or feedback on the Study Guides, please reach out to Pastor Tim or Pastor Rachel from the Group Life team.