

LIFE GROUP

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

SEASON 1

Fresh Start: Baptism & Early Teachings

January 7, 2024

Summary

Pastor Dale began a new series in Mark, entitled *Follow Me: Jesus' Invitation to a Transformed Life*. This message emphasizes the importance of maturing in faith, stating that our understanding of Jesus Christ expands as we grow. The sermon challenges preconceptions about Jesus influenced by politics, race or materialistic ideologies.

Scripture

Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight. Do not be wise in your own eyes; fear the Lord and shun evil. Proverbs 3:5-7 (NIV)

Later on, after John was arrested, Jesus went into Galilee, where he preached God's Good News. "The time promised by God has come at last!" he announced. "The Kingdom of God is near! Repent of your sins and believe the Good News!" One day as Jesus was walking along the shore of the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew throwing a net into the water, for they fished for a living. Jesus called out to them, "Come, follow me, and I will show you how to fish for people!" And they left their nets at once and followed him. A little farther up the shore Jesus saw Zebedee's sons, James and John, in a boat repairing their nets. He called them at once, and they also followed him, leaving their father, Zebedee, in the boat with the hired men. Mark 1:14-20 (NLT)

A large crowd was following Jesus. He turned around and said to them, "If you want to be my disciple, you must, by comparison, hate everyone else—your father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters—yes, even your own life. Otherwise, you cannot be my disciple." Luke 14:25-26 (NLT)

Let's Start

This week begins a new series on the book of Mark. Have you studied this Gospel before? If so, what do you remember about it?

Gratitude and Prayer

How has God worked in your life since we were together?

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Let's Talk

1. What are the significant sacrifices or priorities Jesus asks of His followers? How do you grapple with these demands in your life?
2. Reflecting on the call to spread the good news, what barriers or challenges do you face in sharing your faith or demonstrating God's love to others?
3. In what ways do you perceive the distinction between being a fanatic and a radical in following Jesus? How can you apply this distinction in your life?
4. Pastor Dale said, "... *self-absorption is the cause of all the misery we see in our lives and in this world. It is the cause of violence, abuse, wars, racism, jealousy, corruption, etc.*" How does the concept of self-absorption affecting our world resonate with you? How might recognizing and combating self-centeredness align with Jesus' teachings?
5. Pastor Dale talked about three aspects to Christ's call upon a person and His church that we must accept and submit to. Discuss each aspect.
 - Jesus' Call on Your Life and His Church Is Unique.
 - Jesus' Call on Your Life and His Church Is Radical.
 - Jesus' Call on Your Life and Our Church Is a Process of Maturing.

Let's Act

What would it look like if you prioritized Jesus above all else this week? What steps can you take to do that?

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