

### Why Follow Jesus

*14 Later on, after John was arrested, Jesus went into Galilee, where he preached God's Good News. 15 "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!"*

*16 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. 17 Jesus called out to them, "Come, follow me, and I will show you how to fish for people!" 18 And they left their nets at once and followed him. 19 A little farther up the shore Jesus saw Zebedee's sons, James and John, in a boat repairing their nets. 20 He called them at once, and they also followed him, leaving their father, Zebedee, in the boat with the hired men.*

*21 Jesus and his companions went to the town of Capernaum. When the Sabbath day came, he went into the synagogue and began to teach. 22 The people were amazed at his teaching, for he taught with real authority—quite unlike the teachers of religious law.*

*23 Suddenly, a man in the synagogue who was possessed by an evil spirit began shouting. 24 "Why are you interfering with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are—the Holy One sent from God!"*

*25 Jesus cut him short. "Be quiet! Come out of the man," he ordered. 26 At that, the evil spirit screamed, threw the man into a convulsion, and then came out of him. 27 Amazement gripped the audience, and they began to discuss what had happened. "What sort of new teaching is this?" they asked excitedly. "It has such authority! Even evil spirits obey his orders!" 28 The news about Jesus spread quickly throughout the entire region of Galilee.*

*29 After Jesus left the synagogue with James and John, they went to Simon and Andrew's home. 30 Now Simon's mother-in-law was sick in bed with a high fever. They told Jesus about her right away. 31 So he went to her bedside, took her by the hand, and helped her sit up. Then the fever left her, and she prepared a meal for them. 32 That evening after sunset, many sick and demon-possessed people were brought to Jesus. 33 The whole town gathered at the door to watch. 34 So Jesus healed many people who were sick with various diseases, and he cast out many demons. But because the demons knew who he was, he did not allow them to speak.*

*35 Before daybreak the next morning, Jesus got up and went out to an isolated place to pray. 36 Later Simon and the others went out to find him. 37 When they found him, they said, "Everyone is looking for you." 38 But Jesus replied, "We must go on to other towns as well, and I will preach to them, too. That is why I came." 39 So he traveled throughout the region of Galilee, preaching in the synagogues and casting out demons.*

Mark 1:14-39 (NLT)

---

\* As discussed in Riverside's HGLT (Home Group Leader Training), these guides are to be starting points for home group leaders to develop their own guides and approaches to leading group discussions. This is a resource tool, not a rigid "go through this guide word-for-word." There are intentionally too many questions for a single home group time. These guides rely heavily on a few different study guides; including "LifeChange Series" (ISBN 0891099107), N.T. Wright's guide (ISBN 9780830821822), James Hoover's guide (ISBN 9780830830046), and the Serendipity NT for Groups by the Young Life ministry (ISBN is N/A)

**Observation** (what does the text say?) **Interpretation** (what does it mean?) **Application** (what does it mean to me/us?)

**Discussion/Topic Starters** (Ice Breakers)

- How did you feel the first time you left home? Where did you go? (if focus is v.16-20)
- What was the best teacher you have ever had? What made them such a good teacher? (if focus is v.14-15,22)
- As a child, what was the worst sickness you ever had? (if focus is v.21-34)
- Are you a morning person or a night owl? (if focus is v.35-39)
- O: What things in the text strike you or jump out at you? Why?

**V14-15, 22** (Jesus' message)

Note: Repent means two different things/steps; first it means to turn away from something, second it means to turn towards something else.

- O: We often think of the gospel solely as a message about the forgiveness of sins.  
What is the good news as Jesus proclaims it (v.14-15)?
- I: What was the difference between Jesus' teaching and that of the "teachers of religious law" (v.22)?
- A: How have you seen the "Kingdom of God is near (here)" recently? When do you see it most clearly?

**V16-20** (Calling of the first disciples)

- O: Summarize how people respond to Jesus' ministry throughout Mark 1:16-45.
- I: Why is Jesus' call to the fishermen so urgent that they leave their nets immediately to follow Him?  
Do you feel that same urgency applies today? Why or why not?
- I: How does Jesus' command "Follow Me" summarize the essence of discipleship?
- I: What does it mean to "fish for people?"
- A: Why is it (assuming it is) so difficult for us to trust Jesus the way these early disciples did?

**V21-28** (Jesus drives out an evil spirit)

- O: According to the demon-possessed man who was Jesus and why had He come (v.23-24)?
- I: Why do you think Jesus started His public ministry in a synagogue?
- I: (Repeat from above) What was the difference between Jesus' teaching and that of the "teachers of religious law" (v.22)?
- A: What kind of authority does Jesus have on your life?

**V29-34** (Jesus heals many)

- O: How does Jesus' healing of this woman (v.29-34) compare with His exorcism of the evil spirit (v.21-28)
- I: What impression of Jesus do you get from the portrait of His visit to the home of Simon and Andrew (v.29-34)?
- I: How does Jesus' activity/actions in v.21-28 & v.29-34 relate to His announcement in v.15?  
What practical differences can knowing this make in your own response to Jesus' authority?

**V35-39** (Jesus prays in a solitary place)

- O: After preaching and healing in one town end before heading for another, what did Jesus do (v.35)?  
Why do you think He did this?
- O: What impact did prayer have on Jesus' decision (v.38) and ministry (v.39)?
- I: The quiet and solitude of v.35-39 are quite a contrast from the previous events.  
What do these verses reveal about Jesus' priorities?
- A: What steps can you and the group take to bring our priorities more closely in line with Jesus' as reflected in this passage?
- A: When do you pray most effectively? Where? When? With whom? What things are you actively praying about right now?

**Recommended Follow-up:**

- Pray: Pray that we would see and experience the kingdom message of Jesus as described and visualized in this passage, as well as that we would align our priorities to be more inline with Jesus'
- Respond: Take time (MAKE TIME) this week to spend some time with God in an "isolated place."
- Read: Next week's sermon (6/13/2010) will focus on Mark 2:1-12. Take time prior to next Sunday to read & study the passage, pray through the passage, meditate on the passage, etc.