THE GOSPEL OF MARK

VOLUME 2 / SERMON-BASED DISCUSSION GUIDE · LEADER

FALL SEASON Sep 27 – Dec 6 / WINTER SEASON Jan 11 – Mar 14

AT A GLANCE

MAIN TEXT
Mark 6:1–29
Also: Matthew 16:24–26

MAIN IDEA
Jesus sends us to speak and serve together, trusting God through rejection and costly obedience. Because Jesus suffered to save us, we can follow Him with surrendered hearts.

LEADER GROWTH FOCUS

NOTICE, LISTEN, AND CARE
As people bring up personal struggles or painful experiences, resist the urge to immediately offer advice or solutions. Focus on listening well, showing compassion, and following up personally with anyone who may need additional encouragement or care.

ANNOUNCEMENTS / EMERGENCE.CHURCH/DIGITAL-BULLETIN

01 Student Retreat · Feb 19–21 · High Point Camp. Register before Thanksgiving for a special discount.

02 2027 Short-Term Missions. Opportunities are being planned in Colombia and the Philippines. See the bulletin for details.

03 Ringwood Campus Christmas Kick-off · Dec 5 · 9:30am-11:30am. Come celebrate the start of the Christmas season as a campus. This will be a fun time to decorate the campus, find opportunities to be generous, and even share a meal. RSVP on the digital bulletin!

04 Winter Sessions - How to Study Your Bible – Starting Dec 7. Pastor Doug will be covering everything from interpretation to application that you can use right now, to help you get the most out of God's Word. No sign up needed, just come on out!

05 Christmas Caroling · Starting the week of Dec 6. New Jersey can use a little Christmas joy in the name of Jesus! Starting December 6th, community groups will go out into their neighborhoods caroling and inviting to our Eve Eve services. More details to come!

GETTING STARTED

01 Icebreaker Pumpkin Spice or Peppermint Mocha Coffee Creamer?

02 Pray to help transition into the discussion time.

03 Community Extras (length 2:54 – question included below)

LAST WEEK'S GROWTH STEP FOLLOW-UP

LEADERS Keep this low-pressure: "If you were able to try this, how did it go?" It's always okay to pass.

OUTWARD ACTION
Ask someone this week how you can pray for them. Pray specifically, then follow up with care.

INWARD PRAYER
"Jesus, I am bringing You what I cannot fix. Help me ask boldly, trust Your grace, and remember that You call me Yours."

LEADER NOTES / FOLLOW-UPS

SERMON DISCUSSION

PRIORITIZE MEANINGFUL CONVERSATION OVER GETTING THROUGH EVERY QUESTION.

01 When Familiarity Gets in the Way

READ Mark 6:1–6a

After displaying His authority over storms, demons, sickness, and death, Jesus returns to Nazareth and is rejected by people who think they already know Him. Pastor Ryan warned that familiarity with the things of God can turn into contempt when it never leads to surrender. He also encouraged those who face resistance from family or friends to keep loving and living faithfully.

01 What keeps the people in Jesus' hometown from receiving Him? How does knowing His background actually get in their way?

NOTES

02 Have you ever been tempted to dismiss something true because of who was saying it? How does the response in Nazareth challenge that?

NOTES

03 When someone close to you dismisses your faith, what's your natural reaction? What might patient, loving faithfulness look like with them?

NOTES

02 Sent to Speak and Serve Together

READ Mark 6:6b–13

Jesus begins training the Twelve by sending them out to proclaim repentance and minister to people in need. He sends them two by two, reminding us that sharing the gospel and caring for others are not solo missions. Discipleship involves both word and deed.

01 What do the disciples actually do when Jesus sends them out (vv. 12–13)? What does that tell us about the mission of a follower of Jesus?

NOTES

02 Which comes more naturally to you: caring for someone's practical needs or talking with them about Jesus? What makes the other side challenging?

NOTES

03 Jesus sends them in pairs. Who could you intentionally partner with in prayer, hospitality, or sharing your faith instead of doing it alone?

NOTES

03 Open Doors, Open Hands

READ Mark 6:8–11

Jesus tells the disciples to travel light, receive hospitality gratefully, and move on when people refuse their message. Pastor Ryan encouraged looking for "people of peace" (those who are genuinely open to a conversation) and practicing hospitality so those relationships have room to grow.

01 Why do you think Jesus tells the disciples to travel light and stay in one home? What does that teach about trusting God and treating people well?

NOTES

02 How can we recognize when someone is genuinely open to talking about Jesus, and when it's wise to step back without giving up on them?

NOTES

03 Where could you make more room for people in everyday life, whether a meal, coffee, a game, or a conversation? Who comes to mind?

NOTES

04 The Cost of Truth, the Cost of Compromise

READ Mark 6:14–29; Matthew 16:24–26

John courageously confronts Herod's sin, and Herod enjoys listening to him, until pride and pressure lead him to order John's death. John's faithfulness is costly, while Herod's refusal to surrender is destructive. Jesus Himself suffers unjustly to forgive sinners like us, then calls us to follow Him whatever the cost.

01 Herod knows John is righteous and even enjoys hearing him (v. 20). What finally leads Herod to have him killed? What does that reveal?

NOTES

02 Where do you feel the temptation to protect a habit, a reputation, or other people's approval, even when you know what's right?

NOTES

03 Like John the Baptist, we are called to be followers, not just familiar. Following takes steps of obedience even at great personal cost. Where is God calling you to take a step of obedience, and how can we support each other? (Video)

NOTES

GROWTH STEP THIS WEEK

OUTWARD ACTION	INWARD PRAYER
Invite someone who seems open to a genuine conversation about Jesus for coffee, a meal, or a shared activity. Ask a Christian friend to pray and partner with you.	Ask Jesus, "Where am I listening without surrendering, or protecting my comfort instead of obeying? Give me courage and a willing heart."

PRAYER PROMPTS

Use these to get started, or invite someone to pray freely to close.

- Thank Jesus for pursuing us and suffering to bring us forgiveness.
- Pray for patient love toward family and friends who are resistant to Jesus.
- Pray for open doors to share God's truth and care for others together.
- Ask for courage to surrender our compromises and remain faithful when obedience is costly.

LEADER NOTES / FOLLOW-UPS

NEXT WEEK'S TEXT: Mark 6:30-52