

Stronger Discussion Questions 02.11.18

Leader Prep Section

Take time before your small group meeting to prepare by reading through the questions and scripture passage so that you can select 4-5 questions that are best suited to your group.

Try to work through at least one question from each of the sections - Hook, Book, Look, Took in order to move from observation to application.

When possible spend time in prayer for each member of your group.

Please encourage your group to participate in reading through the book of Mark.

Hook - Ice breaker type questions to help make the transition into the study time.

1. Share a story of a time when a triumph was followed by a trial.
2. How does it feel to go from being on the top of the world to being challenged at every turn?
3. Have you been baptized before? If so, what was it like?
4. How has reading through the Mark going for everyone?

Background

The book of Mark was most likely a telling of Peter's experience with Jesus. The story is mainly focused on the actions of Jesus and his disciples rather than Jesus's teaching. Often the stories will be strung together with "and next..." At the start of the book there is no time for retelling about Jesus's birth Mark jumps right into the story at the point where Jesus is an adult and about to start his public ministry. The first character we meet in the book is John the Baptist out in the wilderness preaching baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins.

Read Mark 1:9-13

Questions

Book - These questions are designed to get you into the text itself.

1. Who baptized Jesus and where were they?
2. What do we know about John the Baptist at this point in the story?
3. What are the two things Jesus is given before his temptation?
4. Where did the Spirit send Jesus after his baptism?
5. How does this story point to Jesus as the new Adam and the new Israel?

Look - These questions will take you on a deeper look at what the passage means for us today.

6. How is Jesus' reception of the Spirit and his identity from the Father the different and how is it similar to what every follower of Jesus is offered?
7. What does God's proclamation tells us about his relationship with his heavenly Father?
8. How is Jesus's temptation in the wilderness Good News for us today?

Took - These questions are focused on applying the big idea from the text to our lives.

1. What are some of the things that draw you away from God and the life he has for you?
2. What steps can you take to build a relationship with the Father that mirrors the closeness of Jesus and the Father?
3. What do you think it would take for you to hear God say, "This is my son/daughter, whom I love; with you I am well pleased"?
4. Where do you want to invite Jesus to come in and be the Stronger One for you?

Closing

Finish your time together praying for one another - that we might all be in the process of becoming the like Jesus. Pray also, for the discouragement that can arise while wresting within ourselves when things get really hard during the process of being more like Jesus.

Reminder: The Good News is Jesus is stronger. He is stronger than temptation, he is stronger than sin, and he is stronger than death. Nothing stands between Jesus and his Father! Jesus has made a way for that to be true for us as well.