

INTRODUCTION

SCRIPTURE

Mark 1:1-21-45

1. Life-Changing _____ (Mark 1:21-28)

2. Life-Changing _____ (Mark 1:29-34)

3. Life-Changing _____ (Mark 1:35-45)

Bottom Line:

Application:

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Application:

Community Group Curriculum
For the week of January 19, 2014
"News of the Kingdom Will Change Your Life"
Mark 1:21-45

BIG PICTURE

The people flocked to Jesus because they recognized in him someone *who could do things*. There were plenty of "wannabes" who could talk and expound and lecture and preach; but here was one who dealt not only in words but also in action. However, unlike the crowd in Capernaum, we need to understand who Jesus is and not miss the true purpose of his mission to share the Good News with the world.

LET'S DIG IN!

1. Read Mark 1:21-28.

Why were the people in the synagogue so amazed at what Jesus was saying? Why was this so different from what they had heard before from the scribes and rabbis? Where did Jesus' authority come from (Matthew 28:18)?

2. Read Mark 1:24-26.

Even the demons recognized who Jesus was and His authority. What was Jesus able to do with just the authority of his words? Why is the following statement true: "Our Lord's words and works must always go together" (John 3:2)?

3. Read Mark 1:30-31.

With just a touch Jesus healed the mother-in-law of Simon and she responded immediately by serving Jesus and His disciples. What do the following passages state about what our attitude should be in view of what He has done for us (Psalm 116:12-14, Luke 17:10, 2 Corinthians 5:14-15)?

4. Read Mark 1:35-39.

Mark 1:35 uses four verbs in describing Jesus' action one day – rising, departing, going, praying. What does this tell us about Jesus' priorities in His ministry? What can we learn from this for our own walk with God? When is your "quiet time" with God?

Throughout scripture Jesus often sought solitude for prayer. Look at the examples in Mark 1:35, Matthew 14:22-23 and Luke 5:15-16. Why did Jesus take time away from His ministry to pray? How do you currently take time away from day-to-day life to pray? Share with your group.

A healthy prayer life is vital in the life of a believer. Take a look at the following passages and identify what is involved in a healthy prayer life (Psalm 27:8, 119:97, Matthew 6:6, John 10:27). Discuss in your group the "health" of your prayer life. If it is lacking, what changes do you need to commit to?

5. Read Mark 1:40-45.

In first-century Palestine, a leper was someone who was not only physically unclean but also ceremonially unclean. To touch such uncleanness would make oneself unclean. In Mark 1:40-45 Jesus heals a leper not simply by speaking to him but by touching him (v. 41). Doing so did not make Jesus unclean; it made the leper clean. What does this teach us about who Jesus is and what he came to do? Why do you think Jesus urged the leper to tell no one how he was cured?

40 DAYS OF PRAYER!

We desire to align ourselves with what God has planned for RiverLakes Community Church (RCC). For 40 days we are calling RCC to pray together as a church. During this season, we will be seeking the Lord's face and asking Him for wisdom and guidance and blessing for the following key areas:

KNOW (John 17:3)

- Pray for our senior pastor process.
- Pray for us to continue to reach people for Christ and for them to follow in baptism.
- Pray for our Easter service at the Park at River Walk on April 20 where the gospel will be presented. Pray for decisions for Christ and baptisms to occur and for lives to be changed forever.

GROW (Ephesians 4:15)

- Pray as we go through the book of Mark each Sunday this winter/spring. May it prompt us to commit to be a fully devoted disciple of Christ.
- Pray that everyone will connect in a small group (e.g. community groups, men's groups, women's groups, student ministry groups) where scripture will be discussed, people cared for, prayers given and relationships nurtured.
- Pray that people will commit to a Life Transformation Class.
- Pray that we as a church will embrace transformational prayer.

GO (Matthew 28:19-20)

- Pray for our missionaries, specifically the upcoming Fellowship of Christian Athletes (FCA) banquet and our short-term Tanzania trip to celebrate the opening of their seminary.
- Pray that people will rise up to volunteer (who have not already) and serve in one of the many available areas of service on campus.
- Pray for Sunday School teachers and helpers for our children.

Directions: It's simple! Each day select at least one area and pray this area before the Lord. May God be glorified!

KEY DEFINITIONS

Holy Spirit – One of the persons of the Trinity, and thus fully God. The Bible mentions several roles of the Holy Spirit, including convicting people of sin, bringing them to conversion, indwelling them and empowering them to live in Christ-like righteousness and service, supporting them in times of trial, and enabling them to understand the Scriptures. The Holy Spirit was poured out at Pentecost in Acts 2 in fulfillment of Old Testament prophecy (e.g. Ezekiel 36:26-27). The Spirit was vitally active in Jesus' life and ministry on earth (e.g. Luke 3:22).

Sabbath – For Jews the Sabbath is Saturday, the seventh day of the week, a day of worship and rest (Genesis 2:2-3, Exodus 31:13-17). Christians meet for worship on Sunday, the day of Christ's resurrection (Acts 20:7), and regard Sunday, rather than Saturday, as their weekly day of rest. Believers also look forward to an eternal Sabbath rest, won for them by Jesus (Hebrews 4:1-16).