

Growth Group Curriculum

WINTER SEMESTER 2021

Mark Week 3 Mark 1:14-20

For information on Growth Groups email info@cbclife.org

REVIEW

1. Was there anything from this past Sunday's message that challenged or confused you?
2. Can you think of one thing from Sunday's sermon that you are likely to remember two weeks from now?

GETTING TO KNOW YOU

1. This past Sunday Pastor Jeff taught that the disciples had previous interactions with Jesus which prepared them to respond to this life-changing invitation to "follow me." Can you think of one or two significant encounters you had with Jesus or a Christian that influenced your decision to follow Jesus?

DIGGING DEEPER

1. Read Mark 1:1-20 and consider the following questions:

Based on this text , why did Jesus come? (Hint: 1:4, 1:13, 1:15)

How should we respond to Jesus? (Hint: 1:14, 3:6, 1:15, 2:5)

2. Jesus' call can seem intimidating at times or even impossible. We may be tempted to think der, "How can we expect to be able to obey Jesus when we live in a fallen world and we have a sin nature?" What insights and encouragement do you find in John 15:1-8 as to why following Jesus is possible and not something we have to accomplish by sheer determination alone?

John 15:1-8 (NIV)

"I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. 2 He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful. 3 You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. 4 Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me. 5 "I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. 6 If you do not remain in me, you are like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned. 7 If you remain in me

*and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you.
8 This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be
my disciples."*

- 3. Based on this passage, what assurances do we have about the feasibility of following Jesus?**

- 4. What are some challenges for you to consistently remain obedient to Jesus calling on your life?**

LIFE APPLICATION

Read the following excerpt written by Rebecca Pippert and consider the following questions in light of Jesus calling on your life.

"What does it mean, then, to allow Jesus to be Lord of our lives?... Just this: whatever controls us is our lord. The person who seeks power is controlled by power. The person who seeks acceptance is controlled by the people he or she wants to please. We do not control ourselves. We are controlled by the lord of our life. If Jesus is our Lord, then he is the one who controls, he has the ultimate power. There are no bargains. We cannot manipulate him by playing 'let's make a

deal'. If he is Lord, the only option open to us is to do his will, to let him have control. [Of course] Jesus remains Lord whether we accept him or not. His lordship, his essence, is not affected by what we choose. But our lives are drastically changed by our choice." –Rebecca M. Pippert

- 1. If you ever say, "I'll obey Christ if..." whatever the condition is, is your real god. That condition is preeminent in your life above Jesus. Are there any if's in your life?**

- 2. Choose one or two areas of your life that you most need to acknowledge Jesus as your King. What can you do to give Christ the Lordship in these areas?**

- 3. Make a brief plan for each which may consist of the following elements:**
 - 1) Repentance,**
 - 2) Prayer program,**
 - 3) Attitude/thought change**
 - 4) Behavior change**
 - 5) Accountability**

Prayer Requests:
