

WEsources:



A Resource FOR ALL OF US

WRITTEN BY THE Discipleship Ministry Team OF THE Cumberland Presbyterian Church



There are two videos you could show. Video #1 is about 10 minutes and Video #2 is about 6 minutes. Or you may want to show one, week 1 and show the other week 2. For the first video search youtube for "Overview: Mark" by BibleProject. For the second video search youtube for "Mark" by BibleProject.

JESUS CALLS PEOPLE

Lesson 1

RESOURCES

- Device to show youtube video (computer, tablet, projector)
- Bible
- Pen/pencil/marker

GATHERING

After everyone has entered and gotten settled say, "Today begins our Lenten lessons on the Gospel of Mark."

You may want to go into some sort of explanation of Lent. There is lots of info online. Here are two helpful videos to choose from. Search for a video called "Lent in 3 Minutes (NEW!)" by BustedHalo OR search for "Ash Wednesday & Lent in Two Minutes" by BustedHalo. Several of our lessons have youtube clips be sure to have them ready before your session begins.

After you've had a moment to share about Lent say, "This season of Lent, we will be reading from the Gospel of Mark. For more information on the book of Mark we are going to watch a video from The Bible Project."

What did you learn about the Gospel of Mark from the video? Was there some sort of fact about the writer, or the story he told that stood out to you?

How is the story of Mark different from the other Gospels?

SCRIPTURE

The gospel begins with the way of Jesus being formed by the ministry of John the Baptist. We jump right into the life of Jesus where he is baptized and tested in the wilderness. Then Jesus begins his work of calling people to follow him.

We are going to start our study of the Gospel of Mark here, in chapter 1, beginning with verse 16.

Read Mark 1:16-20

QUESTIONS

What is something that would make you drop everything (leave your nets)? Can you think of a person or item that you would be willing to leave everything for?

What do you think Jesus saw that would make him choose them? Or maybe what he didn't see that made him call them?

SEEKING UNDERSTANDING

Say, "When we read this story from our 21st century eyes it sometimes doesn't carry the same weight as it did back in the 1st century hearer of this story. For one, there are lots of reasons we might decide to stop fishing as really for us it is recreational activity. But for Simon/Andrew/James/John this was their livelihood. People in the 1st century didn't just stop doing their trade to pick up another one, so if you were a fisherman, that's all you will ever be. So for Jesus to speak to them and for them to leave their way of life to follow him is so much more incredible than just putting down a fishing pole. It was putting down their way of life. It was a call to live a "totally different way."

ACTIVITY: A DIFFERENT WAY

For this activity you will choose several actions that each person in the room has to do in a different way.

#1- Write their name (so if a person is right handed, they will now have to write their name left handed or if a person is left and right handed, they will have to use their foot or mouth to write out their name.

#2- Spell their name (everyone will have to spell their name backwards)

#3- Read their name (everyone will have to read their name out loud starting with the last letter in their name)

(Other options for doing something a different way; winking, shooting a basketball, walking/running (backwards), tie your shoe (opposite hands), fix your hair, eat, open door (not with your hands), read a story from right to left)

Once you are done with the activity, say, "It's difficult to do things differently than you have always done them. One of the things many people do during Lent is give up something/fast from something.

Ask if anyone is planning to give up something this year? Or if they have in the past?

Say, "Lots of people will give up social media, or not eat meat or chocolate, or not drink soda for Lent."

Share if you plan to give up something or if you have in the past?

Say, "It reminds us that there is always something we have to give up in order to follow Christ. But this Lent let's remember the call of Christ. One that may call us to give up more than just chocolate to follow him, this Lent remember that Christ calls us to a different life not just to change the way we might do an activity but the way we see and live in our world. Over the course the next 40 days, as move towards Easter, let's be reminded that Lent is an opportunity every year to reevaluate our commitment to the calling of Christ. Are we on the right path? Is there something we need to leave behind or something we need to add to our lives to better be Christ's disciple?"

Close your time in prayer

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- **Jesus Calls People**
 - o Calls first disciples 1:16
 - o Calls Levi 2:13
 - **Jesus Speaks to Large Crowds/ Teaching/Feeding**
 - o Teaches by the Seaside 3:7
 - o Feeding of Five Thousand 6:30
 - o Feeding the Four Thousand 8
 - **Jesus Teaches with Stories**
 - o Parables Chapter 4 & 12
 - **Jesus Heals & Cares for People**
 - o Healing stories throughout
 - o Jesus Bless the Children 10:13
 - **First Commandment & Other Important Teachings**
 - o The First Commandment 12:28
 - o Who is the Greatest 9:33
 - **Jesus telling about Resurrection**
 - o 8:31, 9:30, 10:32
 - **The Last Week**
 - o Chapter 11 - 16

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JESUS SPEAKS

Lesson 2

RESOURCES

- Device to show youtube video (computer, tablet, projector)
- Bible
- Pen/pencil/marker
- Newsprint/Dry Erase Board

GATHERING

We continue our Lenten lessons in the Gospel of Mark looking at one of the major events in the gospel—Jesus feeding the five thousand. You may choose to review the one of the videos from last week or show the second video if you only showed the first.

What's the biggest group of people you have ever had over for dinner? What about the most you've ever eaten in the same room with? What do you think is the most difficult part of feeding a large group of people?

SCRIPTURE

Our scripture for today is a well-known story of Jesus' ministry. Many times in the Gospel of Mark we read about large crowds gathering anytime Jesus is around. Mark 6:30-44 is the story of Jesus feeding the 5,000.

Read Mark 6:30-44

QUESTIONS

Can you think of a time when you were hungry? What was happening around you? What was it like when you finally got to eat?

In the gospel story, it says Jesus had compassion on the crowd. Have you ever been in a situation where what you see around you has caused you to act in compassion? What happened? What did you do? (Might be helpful to offer a personal story to help them share)

SEEKING UNDERSTANDING

After answering questions say, "But he answered, 'You give them something to eat.'"

Say, "Our inclination at times is to wait for someone else to do something for us. When the apostles approach Jesus it is with the

understanding that he can do something for the hungry people. Now they think what he should do is dismiss them into the surrounding towns so they will go get something to eat. But Jesus doesn't do that...instead he empowers his disciples to do something.

There are many times we witness a need, pain, a problem and we look around to find someone else to help, heal, change the circumstances. But this story invites us to see how we need to be people who are willing to help others, we need to look around at our home, town, city, world and act in compassion.

Our God desires our partnership in making this world better. Jesus doesn't leave and let the apostles figure it out but he does invite them to be a part of the answer.

Shane Claiborne is an author, speaker and is well known for his activism in the world. One of the books he has coauthored is entitled *Becoming the Answer to our Prayers*. The premise is that our pretention to God to act in the world is a call to action for us. Or as the intro to the book says, "Prayer is not so much about convincing God to do what we want God to do as it is about convincing ourselves to do what God wants us to do."

In last week's lesson, we spoke about this different way Jesus calls us to live. Here is marker for that different life—a call to active compassion for others."

ACTIVITY- A CALL TO COMPASSION

Have your group together come up with people who might need an act of compassion. Have them put it up on the wall with newsprint or on a dry erase board in your room. Then have them brainstorm ways they could help them. Help students be more specific on how they can help to dig deeper than generic ideas.

Once they put those on the board, have them commit to one or two of these acts for the season of Lent. As a group set goals for accomplishing this together.

After you've come up with you goals close your time in prayer.

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JESUS TEACHES WITH STORIES

Lesson 3

RESOURCES

- Bible
- Pen/pencil/marker
- Newsprint/Dry Erase Board
- Sticky notes for the Activity

GATHERING

How many of you know what a parable is? If they do, have someone explain. If they don't say, "a parable is a story used to share a moral or spiritual lesson. It's like an analogy. And it's the preferred teaching method of Jesus."

Our lesson today will focus on one of the many parables found in the Gospel of Mark.

SCRIPTURE

Before reading today's scripture ask students if anyone can name one of Jesus' parables? (Most familiar is probably the Prodigal son).

Our parable comes from the gospel of Mark chapter 4. It is called the Parable of the Mustard Seed.

Read Mark 4:30-32

QUESTIONS

Have you heard this parable before? Do you remember what explanation you were given for this parable? What does it mean?

Have you ever planted anything? What steps are involved? What will ensure it will grow?

SEEKING UNDERSTANDING

Say, "In the opening of this chapter of Mark, Jesus shares another parable we call the parable of the sower. He shares how the sower went out and scattered seed. Then he explains to his disciples that the seed is the word. The chapter continues with Jesus sharing more parables with one being about growing seed.

Many times this parable is talked about like how we only need faith like a mustard seed and it can grow and blossom. Or how God's kingdom was shared with a few and then it grew like a mustard seed to become what it is today.

But scholars are now pointing out that a mustard seed was quite invasive and many in the ancient world didn't like mustard seeds because the plant would take over your garden. In fact, it was known as a nuisance and commonly referred to as a weed.

So the Kingdom of God then is like a mustard seed. As John Dominic Crossan says, "The point, in other words, is not just that the mustard plant starts as a proverbially small seed and grows into a shrub of three or four feet, or even higher, it is that it tends to take over where it is not wanted, that it tends to get out of control..."

ACTIVITY: OUT OF CONTROL

Choose one person in the room and have them sit on their knees and then bend over into a ball in the middle of the room. Give all the other participants note cards or sticky notes. In teams of three (or you can do it without teams) have them write on the note cards/sticky notes adjectives, nouns, and/or verbs that describe the world God desires (or what does the Kingdom of God look like); examples being loving, compassionate, joyful, etc.

Give them 1 minute to write as many of these down on the cards and stick them on the person in the middle's back. The team (or individual) with the most of their color stuck on the person in the middle wins.

After playing (or after playing a couple times) say, "The Kingdom of God is like a mustard seed. It takes over where it is planted."

Take the note cards/sticky notes off the person and put on a wall in your room. Read off some of the responses and try to get them to talk about those words on the wall. After discussing for a moment share that each of these words can be a mustard seed. Say, "God in Christ through the Spirit has called us to a new way of life. These aren't just words on the wall but these are the very mustard seeds God wants us to plant and let them take over where we are." Brainstorm ways folks can plant a mustard seed in their school, home, or community this week. Keep these on the wall and refer to them the remainder of your Lenten study of Mark. Encourage them to write on the words on the wall examples of how they have planted those seeds.

Close in prayer.

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JESUS HEALS AND CARES FOR PEOPLE

Lesson 4

RESOURCES

- Anointing Oil for blessing prayer service
- Bible
- Pen/pencil/marker

GATHERING

After everyone gets settled, ask, "What is a favorite memory from your childhood?" Share a personal story to get things started. Maybe it was a gift you received, or perhaps a trip you took as a kid. After allowing everyone to share, say "have you ever met a celebrity?" If so, what were your emotions? What did you do when you met them?

The lesson for today centers on children's encounter with a famous rabbi named Jesus.

Scripture

Break your group into groups of 5 and have them get together and then read Mark 10:13-16. After reading the passage tell each group that they will be telling the story to one another by recreating scenes from the scripture through silent portraits.

ACTIVITY: PORTRAITS

- Each group will have up to five portraits to tell the story from scripture
- 3 of the 5 portraits will need to include each person from the group
- When the groups are ready to perform their portraits have one group come forward.
- Ask the others in the groups to close their eyes by saying "lights off"
- When the presenting group is set with their first portrait one person from that group with say "lights on" and everyone can open their eyes.
- Once everyone has seen the portrait the presenting group will say "lights off" and everyone will close their eyes while the presenting group resets for the next portrait.
- Repeat until each group has presented their portraits.

QUESTIONS

What part of Mark 10:13-16 stands out to you? Why?

Why do you think people were bringing children to Jesus? Why do you think the disciples rebuked them?

In the NIV translation, it reads that Jesus became indignant. What does that mean? Why would Jesus be angry?

SEEKING UNDERSTANDING

Say, "It's hard for us to understand why the disciples would rebuke children seeking a blessing from Jesus. In our society, children are precious, innocent, and generally people are happy to have children around. But children were seen differently in the time Jesus lived. They didn't have much worth or value at all. It wouldn't have been out of the ordinary for children not to be welcomed around religious settings and leaders until they were much older.

But also we think of this scene as if the parents were in a single file line with children like they would be at a shopping mall waiting for Santa Claus. Most likely no one was waiting their turn to try and get close to Jesus so the disciples might have been practically trying to protect Jesus from mobs of people trying to get close to him.

Time and time again in the Gospels we see Jesus caring for people who were overlooked and marginalized. In this story, we see him disregarding the general beliefs on children and inviting others not to grow up and become adult like but to be childlike.

Jesus expressed care and concern for all people but was particularly careful to bless and take care of those who were cast aside by his culture.

Widows, children, people who were homeless, people who were sick...these were the very people Jesus sought out and taught were blessed by God."

BLESSED TO BE A BLESSING

Say, "There is a saying that's been used often to describe our relationship to Christ and to the world. We are blessed to be a blessing. Basically it's a way to say God, in Christ, through the Holy Spirit has blessed us through life-giving salvation to live a life free to be a blessing to those around us.

Today, we are going to do a short service of blessing to remind us how Christ cared and continues to care for us and our call to be a blessing for others."

BLESSING SERVICE LITURGY

*(adapted from Book of Common Worship
pg. 1005-1015)*

Opening

Leader: Those who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint. (Isaiah 40:31)

Prayer of Intercession

Leader: Let us pray,

God, our creator,
your will for us and for all your people
is health and salvation:
have mercy on us.

Jesus Christ, Son of God,
you came that we might have life
and have it in abundance:
have mercy on us.

Holy Spirit,
dwelling within us,
you make us temples of your presence:
have mercy on us.

To the triune God,
the source of all love and all life,
let us offer our prayers.

*(Pause between each line below to offer space for
silent prayer)*

For all who are in need of healing,

For all who are disabled by injury or illness,

For all who are troubled by confusion or
pain,

For all who are filled with worry and anxiety,

Into your hands, O God,
we commend all for whom we pray,
trusting in your mercy;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

ANOINTING OF OIL/BLESSING

Talk to your pastor or associate pastor to either help participate or to offer a prayer of blessing here and anoint each person with oil.

If you haven't done that, you can just have your group either circle up and have each individual come to middle of the circle and everyone place their hands on that person and say a short blessing prayer or just have them circle up and say a prayer for the group.

Here is a short blessing you can share during this time:

Leader: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord be kind and gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.

Closing Charge

Leader: Those who are blessed are called to be a blessing. We are blessed by God, in Christ, through the Holy Spirit. May we go from this place seeking to care as Jesus cares. May what breaks his heart break ours. May what Christ loves, we love. May we seek justice and mercy for all.

Amen.

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information from the video. Once you have had a few minutes to discuss have them read the scripture from Mark.

Read Mark 12:28-34.

THE FIRST COMMANDMENT AND OTHER IMPORTANT TEACHINGS

Lesson 5

- Device to show youtube video (computer, tablet, projector)
- Bible
- Pen/pencil/marker
- Paper/Notes for Activity

GATHERING

We continue our study of Mark by looking at the First Commandment. To start your gathering we have a video from The Bible Project. It's about the Law, the story of the Israelites and their failure to follow the Law. Use the link below to watch the video. This will give you a walk-through of the Torah and the books of the Prophets that make up the old Law so we can then think about the First Commandment Jesus introduced in the book of Mark.

Video https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3BGO9Mmd_cU

SCRIPTURE

After watching the video, have students discuss any new ideas or thoughts that came from the

QUESTIONS

- What does it mean to love God with all of your heart? Soul? Mind? Strength?
- Is this type of love different than our love for a type of food or musician? How so?
- Why do you think the people were afraid to ask Jesus anymore questions?

SEEKING UNDERSTANDING

Say, "Before moving forward there is an important point to be made...Jesus was Jewish. I know it is not earth shattering but to understand what Jesus meant it is vital for us to keep this in mind. The earliest manuscripts of the Gospels were written in Greek. Jesus was not Greek nor did he speak Greek. Jesus was Jewish and spoke Aramaic. So what? Greeks and Jews saw the world differently. Which means Jesus saw the world as a Jew not a Greek. To understand what Jesus meant we need to understand Judaism, not Greek philosophy. Many attribute the First Commandment to Jesus but it is not an original thought of Jesus. Jesus quotes passages from the Old Testament. Specifically they are quotes by Jesus from Moses.

Have students look up the scriptures below to read to themselves and/or out loud to the group.

Deuteronomy 6:4-5 reads, "Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength."

Leviticus 19:18, "Do not seek revenge or bear a grudge against anyone among your people, but love your neighbor as yourself. I am the LORD."

Sound familiar? To understand what Jesus said we have to first travel back to the words of Moses and understand what he said. The words of the Old Testament are not written in Greek, but Hebrew." *This section comes from an e-book called Making Love: An Exploration of the Greatest Commandment by Nathan Wheeler*

Say, "For one, to the Hebrew people, they believed your heart was where your thoughts originated. To the Jewish people of that day, the heart was where thoughts and emotions came from. Your soul was not a disembodied part of you but rather the soul was you. Loving God with your mind and strength was about empowerment. So these words help us see that to love God with your heart, soul, mind, and strength was about the whole person loving God, self, and neighbor.

Each of us struggle in some way with this commandment. We struggle to love God, or ourselves, or our neighbors or some combination of all three. It's so easy to say, but not so easy to live out.

There is a word we use to speak about Christ being God in the flesh, the word is incarnation. This word can help us understand more about this command and how to live."

Before students arrive have this video ready to go. Search youtube for "The Incarnation and Jesus Chris (in 90 seconds)" by Ryan Reeves.

Jesus was God in the flesh. God could have chosen another way to show us how to live but instead became flesh and actually lived as human being to show us how we should live as human beings.

We who follow Jesus Christ are called to incarnational ministry. Or another way to say it, we are called to be like Christ.

ACTIVITY: WWJD

Back in the 90's, there was a popular phrase WWJD. It means What Would Jesus Do; you may have heard that before. Many Christians would buy a bracelet and wear it with WWJD on it. Do you have one of those? Or have you even seen one?

The idea of WWJD was whenever a situation or circumstance happened you would look and see WWJD to remind you to choose to do as Christ would. We are going to play a game now where there will be a different scenario and you have to decide WWJD?

In advance print out or photo copy the "WWJD Scenarios" on the following page and cut each number out to have ready to hand out. After handing out one or more to every student, you can either have them act out the phrase or just have them read it. Then follow up and ask, "What Would Jesus Do?"

After the activity, say, "Now this is a nice way to think about what Jesus would do, but honestly it's not like Jesus would do one thing or that we can definitely say 100% in every situation what Jesus would do.

Living like Christ, incarnational ministry, is about being faithful to commands of Christ. We know for a fact, we can't always be the person God has called us to. The point is to remember the command to love God, self and neighbor and try live in love. We don't always succeed but Christ forgives. May we remember that God sent Christ to show us a way of life and his command to love."

WWJD SCENARIOS

1. A person has fallen on the ground in front of you and has dropped all their papers, WWJD?
2. You witness a car wreck, WWJD?
3. A bully at school is bothering a kid you don't know, WWJD?
4. You come across a \$100 bill on the ground, WWJD?
5. Someone flips your lunch tray out of your hands, WWJD?
6. A person cuts off the car you are driving/riding in, WWJD?
7. Your friend leaves your message unread on Snapchat, WWJD?
8. Someone "spilled the tea"/gossip to you about a girl in your class, WWJD?
9. Your service was bad at a restaurant, WWJD?
10. A rumor spreads around school about you that is embarrassing, WWJD?
11. A friend of yours is making a bad decision, WWJD?
12. A person at your school is diagnosed with cancer, WWJD?

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JESUS TEACHES ABOUT DEATH AND RESURRECTION

Lesson 6

RESOURCES

- Device to show youtube video (computer, tablet, projector)
- Bible
- Pen/pencil/marker
- Paper or Copies for Activity

GATHERING

We are in week 6 of Lent and looking at the stories in the Gospel of Mark. This week we take a look at three similar stories about Jesus alluding to his upcoming death and impending resurrection. Be sure to have searched for the two youtube videos in advance.

Talking about death is a difficult undertaking, but also an important one to discuss. Most youth unfortunately have experienced a death in their families or peer group. It's something many times young people have experienced, but have not been given the space to discuss in a religious setting.

After students gather, say, "We are reading scriptures in Mark where Jesus alludes to his death and resurrection. There are two videos for this week that talk about the differences Jesus had with his disciples when he told them about his being Messiah and what exactly that meant. Watch these two videos below, both from The Bible Project on YouTube.

Video #1 - Search youtube for "Overview: Mark" by BibleProject. Skip to the 3:50 time mark through the 5:50 time mark.

Video #2 - Search youtube for "Mark" by BibleProject. Skip to the 2:02 time mark through the 3:03 time mark.

After watching the two videos have the group read Isaiah 53.

SCRIPTURE

As the video points out, Jesus saw himself as the fulfilment of Isaiah 53 and three different times in the Gospel of Mark we read Jesus trying to explain what was about to happen to him. Each time the disciples have a difficult time understanding what he means.

Read Mark 8:31-9:1, Mark 9:30-32 and Mark 10:32-34.

QUESTIONS

Jesus saw where this was all headed. Why do you think his closest friends didn't get it?

In the Mark 9 passage, it says they did not understand and were afraid to ask him about it? Why?

Have you ever explained something to someone and they didn't understand what you meant? What was it? Did they ever get it?

SEEKING UNDERSTANDING

Activity-Do you understand?

Split your group into pairs. Each pair will get a word or phrase that they will need to try and get their partner to guess. They will have to explain what that word or phrase is without using the word or the associated words given to them. Similar to the game "Taboo". Below is a sample list of words and phrases. Feel free to use these and come up with more of your own to fit the needs of your group. Below the **bold** words are what the student must try to describe, while the *italized* are words they can not use in their description.

Big Mac (*hamburger, McDonalds, sesame seed bun, special sauce*)

Marathon (*running, race, course*)

Circus (*Lion, Tiger, Elephant, Trapeze, Ringmaster, Barnum & Bailey*)

Church (*Christian, Jesus, Bible, Communion, Baptism, God, Cross, Worship*)

Pumpkin (*Halloween, jack-o-lantern, fruit*)

Phone (*Apple, android, google pexel, call, text, camera, snapchat, facebook, instagram, tictok*)

Rain Jacket (*Clothing, storm, yellow*)

Pasta (*food, eat, Italian, spaghetti, lasanga, noodles, alfredo, pizza*)

Pew (*seat, church, sanctuary*)

Zebra (*black, white, horse, zoo, stripes*)

Say, "It's easy to explain somethings and not others. If you could say whatever you wanted it might be easier as well. But in our passages Jesus is clear with his follower and they still don't understand. Maybe it's not that they don't understand but rather they don't want it to be true.

Following Jesus at times calls us to say and do things we don't want to say and do. For the most part, we do an okay job but there always comes a time in our walk with Christ that we must choose a difficult path. For instance, if we keep reading in the Gospel of Mark chapter 8, Jesus says, "Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me and for the gospel will save it."

It's not that we don't understand what Jesus is saying, it's just that we don't want to do it. So many misunderstandings come down to us not wanting to get it. Hopefully none of you have experienced this but there are times when someone we know is given terrible news and when they share it with the people they love many times the first reaction is to deny that it is true.

As we talked about, in week 1, Jesus calls us to a new way of life. It's not just about beliefs but it is also our actions that Jesus calls us to examine and many times change.

Jesus is telling his friends he is going to die. That's not easy to take and so yes they didn't get it but we people of the resurrection must hear and heed the words of Christ. These teachings are not just for us to know and share but they are for us to know and be.

So the question for today is, do you understand, truly understand the call of Christ? What does it look like for you to deny yourself, take up your cross and follow him today?"

Close in prayer.

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One of the interesting nuances of the Book of Mark is its abrupt ending with the women running from the tomb.

THE PASSION OF CHRIST

Lesson 7

RESOURCES

- Device to show youtube video (computer, tablet, projector)
- Bible
- Pen/pencil/marker

GATHERING

We have come to the end of our Lenten study of the Gospel of Mark. Each week we've looked at different sections of the Gospel of Mark and the stories, themes, and challenges that are presented on the pages. This week we come to what is called the Passion of Christ.

The following videos might be helpful in your study. Be sure to have them ready to go before the session. Take note there is a third video in this lesson at the very end as well.

Video #1 - Search youtube for "Overview: Mark" by BibleProject. Skip to the 5:50 time mark through the end.

Video #2 - Search youtube for "Mark" by BibleProject. Skip to the 3:03 and continue to the end.

SCRIPTURE

In preparation for this study, you may want to suggest that your group read one chapter a day leading up to the lesson:

Day 1- Mark 11

Day 2- Mark 12

Day 3- Mark 13

Day 4- Mark 14

Day 5- Mark 15

Day 6- Mark 16

For our lesson today we are going to read and discuss Mark 16:1-8. In some translations chapter 16 includes additional verses that scholars believed were added much later, so our focus will be on the original ending of Mark 16.

Read Mark 16:1-8.

QUESTIONS

Why do you think the three women, Mary Magdalene, Mary mother of Jesus, and Salome were going to Jesus' tomb to anoint his body? Why was this so important?

Who do you think the young man dressed in the white robe was?

Have you ever been so scared you ran away? Why?

SEEKING UNDERSTANDING

Say, "Fear is a real thing and it can cause us to be paralyzed rather than doing what we know needs to be done. Fear can keep us from being in relationship with others. It is interesting to note that whenever the angels appear the first thing they say is "Don't be afraid! I have good news." The women who came to care for Jesus' body may have been scared to death when they ran from the tomb. But they did eventually tell the good news. Holy Week is a perfect time to tell the good news, to share it with our children, and to celebrate the best news ever—Jesus Christ is Risen! Hallelujah!" (This section comes from Wesource Personal Devotion available online at cpcmc.org/wesource)

Say, "Following Jesus can be scary. But like the women that first Easter morning, eventually we have to do what we are called to do."

What about the Christian life scares you? What would help you to live as Christ calls you to live? What have you learned this Lenten season that will help you in living for Christ?

Say, "The Easter story not only calls us to believe in the risen Lord but to live the resurrection life. Yes, there are things God wants us to think/believe, but as we read in the Gospel of Mark these new ways of thinking and believing are to help us live differently."

DENY THE RESURRECTION

To close out this Lenten study, I invite you to show this video, which is part of a message given by philosopher and theologian Peter Rollins. I think it draws out the point that belief must be tied to actions. After watching the video, take time to discuss it or close the lesson with prayer.

Search youtube for, "I Deny the Resurrection Peter Rollins" by Broad View United - Arbutus