



Gospel of Mark, Week 1 – Week of Sunday, January 15, 2012

Life Group Questions:

Tell about a time someone verbally affirmed you? How did it impact you? Why are words powerful?

Read Mark 1:1-13 out loud. Focus on verses 9-13 by re-reading them silently.

Put these words of affirmation into your own words, as if you are speaking them to your own child, spouse, friend or parent?

Read Mark 9:1-8 out loud.

How are these two accounts similar and how do they differ? (Clue question if needed: Who are the words intended for in each case?)

Return the group's attention to Mark 1 again:

How do you think these words, apparently from God the Father, would have impacted Jesus, both at that moment and later in his life and ministry?

Is there some sort of connection between this affirmation and what happens immediately afterwards (v. 12-13)?

Have there been times when you felt deeply loved by (even affirmed by) God? What happened that brought about this feeling? If it is hard for you to feel that God loves you and is happy with you, feel free to express that as well.

How about times when you may have sensed that God was sending you into a wilderness experience? In retrospect, what does it seem that God was doing? Do you feel like you are currently in a 'wilderness'?

Are there words of affirmation that you are sensing God would have you share with someone this week?