



Gospel of Mark, Week 2 – Week of Sunday, January 22, 2012

Questions for Life Groups and Personal Reflection:

Read Mark 1:14-28

- ✓ What does John's arrest suggest about Jesus' can expect as he launches out into his ministry? Does it suggest anything about what we can expect as we continue in Jesus' (and John's) footsteps?
- ✓ Discuss the different ways in which Jesus' authority is made manifest in this section.

Read Mark 1:29-39

- ✓ Why do you think this story of the healing of Simon Peter's mother-in-law is included in Mark's account? What purpose might it serve in what Mark wants us to learn?
- ✓ Have you personally ever observed or experienced the sorts of things we see occurring in Capernaum (vv. 32-34)? If so, how did it impact your faith? If not, can you imagine how it might impact your faith?
- ✓ Put yourself in Simon Peter's sandals for a moment. Look at verses 36 and 37. What do you think he was imagining would happen to Jesus, and his followers, after that amazing day in Capernaum? How do you think Simon Peter felt about Jesus' decision to "head in the other direction, to the nearby villages"?

Read Mark 2:1-12

- ✓ What does 2:5 tells us prompted Jesus' action? Does anything surprise you about this statement?
- ✓ How could Jesus 'see' their faith? Does this give you any insights into what 'faith' is or is not?
- ✓ When has someone had faith on your behalf? Did it seem to make a difference in your life or in how God worked?
- ✓ Is there someone in your life who needs you to have faith for him/her in a present crisis? (Note: Be respectful of anyone you may reference and be careful not to share details that might embarrass or harm her/him.) What might it look like for you to demonstrate faith on her/his behalf?