



Mark – Dig Deeper Summer Study

A co-ed fellowship group focused on digging in and discussing deeper the passages that we're teaching through Mark.

Meeting Dates/Times – Every other Tuesday, 6-8pm

- June 7
- June 21
- July 5
- July 19

The mission of La Mirada Church is to Know the Word, Love like Jesus, and transform our communities. So, our goal through this 4 session study is to...

1. Knowing the Word making connections to synoptic gospels (if applicable) and the epistles
2. Loving like Jesus – seeing how Jesus loved with His teaching, compassion, healing, and calling into account
3. Transforming our Community – how that passage impacts our life: inner thought life, relationships, and reaching others in Jesus' name

Each Session we will have...

- Fellowship
- Read the Word - Mark 3:20-35 and Mark 4:1-20
- Grace Group Discussion
 - Guidelines –
 - God's Word is our standard. We'll use the Bible - not personal opinion, popular teachers, or church tradition - as our guide for everything.
 - Charity. We come from varying religious & political backgrounds. Remember: 'In essentials, unity; in non-essentials, liberty; in all things, charity.'
 - Grace. We're all learning. Be gracious and patient with yourself and with others. No one has it all figured out.
 - Grow & Share. We all benefit from one another's thoughts and questions. I bet you have something great to share!
- Teaching/Reflection – Q & R (AKA: "Stump the Pastor!")
- Prayer

Grace Group discussion questions are on the back...



Grace Group Discussion Questions

1. Hi, my name is _____ - Answer one of these:
Something fun I've done this year is...
If I could travel anywhere, I'd go to...
I bet that you didn't know that I...
I started attending La Mirada Church because...
2. What miracles of Jesus has Mark recorded in chapters 1-3? Use your Bibles to refresh your memory – Mark 1:23-27; 1:29-34; 1:40-45; 2:1-12; 3:1-6. How do the different groups respond? Disciples? Crowd? Demons? Religious leaders? How do you account for the difference in their responses?
3. How does Jesus refer to His true family? (3:31-35) How do you think this encounter impacted Jesus' mother and his brothers? Why do you think Jesus doesn't mention "father" in the list of family members? What is Jesus teaching us about the nature of family?
4. In what way did the blasphemy that was spoken against Jesus impact His family? Do you think blasphemy in our world today affects the Church? You personally? Why or why not?
5. In Mark 4:1-20, Jesus teaches not just *a parable* but also says to His disciples, "Don't you understand this parable? How then will you understand any parable?" What does this tell you about the significance of this particular parable? Why do you think Jesus considers it so important?
6. What do each of these represent in this parable: The Sower. The Seed. The Soils.
7. Describe the fate of the seed that lands on the path? Rocky soil? What kind of person is typical of a "path" or "rocky soil?" Has that ever been you?
8. Give examples in life of the three "thorns" Jesus names in Mark 4:19. If someone eliminated those three from their life, do you think that would be adequate to get the "good soil" result? Why or why not?
9. What happens to the seed that lands on "good soil?" How does soil become "good" in the first place? Is that something you can make happen by yourself? Why or why not?
10. If you had been with Jesus and the disciples while He was teaching in these accounts, what would you have wanted Jesus to explain more about?
11. Thinking back to the sermon through this passage, what point helped you understand better? Got you thinking differently? Left you with another question?



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Mark 4:21-35 and Luke 15:11-32 **From the June 12 & June 19 Sunday Messages**

Upcoming Meeting Dates/Times – Every other Tuesday, 6-8pm

- July 5
- July 19

Did you Know? -- This handout is available before each session on the church website, the app (for group members), and will also be shared in the Zoom meeting with online members.

Session Outline -

- Fellowship
- Read the Word - Mark 4:21-35 and Luke 15:11-32
- Grace Group Discussion
 - Guidelines –
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Grace Group Discussion Questions

1. Hi, my name is _____ - My favorite appetizer is...
2. Mark 4:21 – 22. What are some ways that unbelievers – as well as those who claim to be believers – hide the light of Jesus? And while Jesus says it's a pointless activity, why are they so determined to keep going? What makes them think they are succeeding?



3. Mark 4:23 (The Message) "Are you listening to this? Really listening?" Hearing is simply the act of perceiving sound by the ear. Listening, however, is something you choose to do – it requires concentration and action. According to Jesus, the more we listen, the more shine we will be provided (Mark 4:24). Why do you think that is? Why wouldn't God just provide all believers as much shine as possible in order to advance his Kingdom even further?
4. Mark 4:26 – 29. Read 1 Corinthians 3:1 – 9 How does the parable of the seeds emphasize God's sovereignty? Why is it reassuring to know that God intends the kingdom to grow under his sovereignty & not under our own might?
5. Mark 4:30 – 32. Why does Jesus compare the Kingdom of God to a scruffy, unkempt mustard bush instead of the majestic Lebanon Cedar of the Old Testament? What does the parable of the mustard seed reveal about the Kingdom of God? How is the parable of the mustard seed encouraging for those who are working towards and praying for the advancement of the Kingdom?
6. To whom does your testimony relate to more? Did you wander around on your own before running to the Father like the younger son? Or – despite it not always being perfect – have you always been with the Father like the older son? Explain.
7. How can a 'younger son' testimony be used to reach out to non-believers and advance the Kingdom of God? How about an 'older son' testimony? What was the younger son's rock bottom? Why was it rock bottom for him? What is it about rock bottom that causes us to come to our senses?
8. Luke 15:29. The older son likened his relationship with his father to slavery. Why? What caused him to become so ungrateful? How can we as believers avoid becoming ungrateful?
9. Luke 15:32 "But we HAD to celebrate..." Why do you believe it's a command of God to celebrate & throw a party for those who repent? And even though we DO rejoice when anyone comes to repentance, why should we be grateful if we have never been thrown a party ourselves?
10. While Mark 4:21 – 34 and Luke 15:11 – 32 are two separate accounts written by two different Bible authors – both accounts were parables spoken by Jesus to advance his Kingdom & further his glory. With that in mind, what is one combined takeaway point we can take from both passages?
11. If you had been with Jesus and the disciples while He was teaching in these accounts, what would you have wanted Jesus to explain more?
12. Thinking back to the sermon through this passage, what point helped you understand better? Got you thinking differently? Left you with another question?



Mark – Dig Deeper Summer Study

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Mark 4:35-5:43

From the June 26 and July 3 Sunday Messages

Upcoming Meeting Dates/Times – Every other Tuesday, 6-8pm

- July 19

Did you Know? -- This handout is available before each session on the church website, the app (for group members), and will also be shared in the Zoom meeting with online members.

Session Outline -

- Fellowship
- Read the Word - Mark 4:35-5:43
- Grace Group Discussion
 - Guidelines –
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Grace Group Discussion Questions

1. Coffee or Tea? Dark or Milk chocolate? Coke or Pepsi? Dodgers or Angels?
2. Mark 4:35 – 38a. Jesus was on his way to hostile, unfamiliar Gentile territory in a small fishing boat caught in the middle of a hurricane at night. However, verse 38a tells us he was sound asleep. Why is sleep a sign of faith and trust among believers?



3. Mark 4:38b. While Jesus was asleep, the disciples were terrified. Was their fear warranted? Is it possible to have faith and be afraid? Explain why or why not.
4. Mark 5:1 – 5. In the middle of the night, Jesus and his disciples encountered a violent, demon possessed man who exhibited super-human strength. In the name of advancing the Kingdom, where do we draw the line between risky and foolish? Is there a line at all? Is there such a thing as doing something too risky or dangerous for God?
5. Mark 5:9. How did Jesus teach the disciples a lesson by asking the demon its name?
6. Mark 5:10 – 13. How did Jesus use the pigs to teach the disciples a lesson?
7. Mark 5:15 – 17. Why was the community upset that Jesus healed one of their own? Read 2 Corinthians 4:4 to help answer your question. How do we see 2 Corinthians 4:4 playing out today – in and outside of the Church?
8. Mark 5:21. Just as soon as Jesus entered unreached, hostile territory – he left. Why? Where do we draw the line between being ashamed of sharing our faith and being too forceful? Just as importantly, where do we draw the line between standing up for our convictions & shoving them down people's throats?
9. Mark 5:22 – 23. Just like the other religious leaders, Jairus spread rumors that Jesus was demon possessed and was a part of the meetings that were plotting to kill Him. But when his daughter was dying – he bowed down at Jesus' feet. Why is it that those who do not believe in Jesus eventually fall at His feet & have faith that He can perform miracles?
10. Mark 5:25 – 29. Jesus taught Jairus three lessons through His healing of the woman. 1) He might take longer than we'd like to act. 2) He might help someone before us even though they asked for help after us. 3) He will help those who we do not like – and we must rejoice when that happens. Which of these three lessons do you think was the most difficult for Jairus to learn? Which of these 3 lessons can you relate to? Need to learn the most? Helped you with your relationship with God?
11. If you had been with Jesus and the disciples while He was teaching in these accounts, what would you have wanted Jesus to explain more?
12. Thinking back to the sermon through this passage, what point helped you understand better? Got you thinking differently? Left you with another question?



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Mark 6:1-13 & 6:14-52 From the July 10 and 17 Sunday Messages

Session Outline -

- Fellowship
- Read the Word – Mark 6:1-52
- Grace Group Discussion
 - Guidelines –
 - **God's Word is our standard.** We'll use the Bible - not personal opinion, popular teachers, or church tradition - as our guide for everything.
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- Teaching/Reflection – Q & R (AKA: "Stump the Pastor!")
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Grace Group Discussion Questions

1. Mark 6:1 – 6, Matthew 8:5 – 13. What do you think caused the community of Nazareth to be spiritually apathetic? What do you think caused the Roman Centurion to be so full of faith? What causes those who have known Jesus the longest to struggle with having a passionate faith?
2. Mark 6:5. When Jesus witnessed the lack of faith in his hometown, he couldn't do any miracles there. Why does a lack of faith limit Him from performing mighty works?
3. Mark 6:6, Matthew 8:10. Across the four gospels, Jesus was amazed only twice – once at a great lack of faith, and once at a great amount of faith. Why do you think the subject of faith was the reason behind the only times Jesus was amazed?



4. Mark 6:11. What do you think Jesus meant when he told his disciples to leave and shake the dust off their feet if anyone doesn't welcome or listen to them? Do you think this is a biblical principle that we can apply to our lives today? Why or why not?
5. Mark 6:1-13. If you could give this passage a title what would it be? Why?
6. Mark 6:30-34. What kinds of things do you imagine the apostles reported to Jesus? What does Jesus do at the sight of the crowds the first time? The second time? What does this tell you about the nature of Jesus?
7. Mark 6:35-38. What are the facts of the situation with the crowds? Compare the disciples' solution to Jesus'. What does the disciples' solution and then response to Jesus tell you about their faith or spiritual maturity? How can the church equip Christians to respond with spiritual maturity in the face of situations like this today?
8. Mark 6:39-42. How does knowing the time of year this miracle took place impact your understanding of the event and especially Jesus' actions? What "common grace" of God was experienced in this miracle? How have you experienced the common grace of God?
9. Deuteronomy 18:15, John 6:14, Mark 6:43-44. What is the best commentary on the New Testament? How does the Deuteronomy passage find its fulfillment in this event? What does this show you about who Jesus is?
10. Mark 6:45-52. What was the importance of the loaves? What was the issue with the disciples? Why do you think this was an issue? Is it possible to follow Jesus closely, do miracles in His name, serve the community, etc. and still have a hard heart? What would remedy that?
11. Mark 6:14-52. If you were to teach this passage to a group of junior high or high school kids, what would you most want them to know and understand. How would grasping the point of this passage help them deal with the real life issues they are facing in the world today?
12. If you had been with Jesus and the disciples while He was teaching in these accounts, what would you have wanted Jesus to explain more?
13. Thinking back to the sermons through these passages, what point helped you understand better? Got you thinking differently? Left you with another question?