

Unexpected Grace

August 16, 2020



The Unexpected King: The Gospel of Mark

Group Discussion Guide

Begin with prayer

As you begin your gathering, designate someone to pray the Holy Spirit would lead and guide your time together. Before they do so, spend a few moments together in prayerful silence. Then, after a few seconds of quiet and centering, have the specified person pray for the group.

Read this overview

During this 13-week series, we are looking to the Book of Mark together to study the life of Jesus—The Unexpected King. During this series, we will gain a better understanding of who Jesus is and what it really means to be his disciple.

This past weekend Dan preached on Mark 2-3.

Scripture + Discussion

The goal of your discussion in this week is also twofold: (1) To see the grace of Jesus displayed in His miracles in Mark 2-3 and (2) to reflect on how we are currently relating to Jesus.

Take turns reading through all the way through **Mark 2-3** (it's okay to spend some extra time just reading the Scriptures together!). Then, use the questions below to guide your discussion to hit on the above objectives.

Here are a few questions to guide this time:

- How did this sermon/chapter deepen your faith? How did it challenge you?
- Which miracle of grace in these chapters stands out to you most? Why? In what ways have you experienced the grace of God in your own life recently?
- Re-read **Mark 2:2-5**, this time picturing yourself as the one being brought to Jesus. What goes through your mind as these friends break open the roof and lower you before Jesus? How does Jesus look at you? What do you see in his eyes and hear in his voice as he says, *Child, your sins are forgiven*? How do you respond?
- How would you describe the level of “wreck-the-roof-to-bring-people-to Jesus” kind of faith you have right now? What’s the motivation behind this kind of faith?
- In this sermon and in **Mark 2-3**, we see Jesus’ love and grace abound. Are you able to be fully known by the One who loves you? Many of us know in our minds that God loves us but may

have barriers to experiencing His love, especially when we have messed up. Are there traits you may be putting on God that distort your view of Him or hinder your openness with Him? Explain.

- In this sermon, Dan mentioned that in between each of Jesus' miracles in **Mark 2-3** there are people who experience a different relation to Jesus – some people just fellowship with him (**Mark 2:13-16**), others are followers (**Mark 3:13-19**), and still others are family (**Mark 3:31-35**). Which category do you fall into? Explain.
- In the world of the New Testament, the closest relationship was between family members, especially between siblings. It is not insignificant that in **Mark 3**, Jesus begins teaching us that relationships among God's children are to take precedence over blood family ties. **Re-read Mark 3:31-35**. If this is true, how does that challenge how you see God's family in relation to your physical blood relatives? How is your current group doing in living out that reality? (For more passages on this topic, see **Mark 1:14-20; Luke 14:26; 1 Corinthians 1:11, 26; 2:1; 3:1; 6:6; 16:20; 2 Corinthians 8-9; Galatians 3:26-4:7.**)
- What is one practical next step you are going to pursue as a result of this sermon or this discussion?

Accountability

Take some time again this week to split your group into smaller or gendered groups and share your answers to the questions below. Be sure to follow up on anything that was shared last week.

- What has your time in God's Word and prayer been like this week?
- What have you learned from Jesus this week?
- Have you consistently reflected the love of Christ to those in your life this week (such as your spouse, children, or co-workers)?
- Where have you wrestled with temptation this week?
- What sins do you need to confess right now?
- Have you been 100% honest?

Finish with prayer

You might designate someone in your group to write down everyone's prayer requests and then send them to the whole group for everyone to be praying about through the week.

- What is on your heart that you need prayer for?
- Who in your life needs prayer?

Have someone close your time together by interceding for the requests that were shared.