

## ABOUT HOME GROUPS

In the hustle and pressures of life, we hope that Home Groups are a step aside to be with friends. God designed us to be and share life with each other. In recent days, friends have experienced highs and lows, success and failure, and we had the opportunity to encourage and support each other. Let's keep being there to share, learn, pray, and enjoy the goodness of God as we love each other and live out God's purposes.

## WALKING THROUGH "MARK" TOGETHER

**Last week**, we read through the first two chapters of "Mark" and a few themes rolled out:

- Jesus is unlike any other person in history: He fulfills predictions /prophecies made hundreds of years prior, His teaching is with authority and power, He is affirmed by God from heaven, and His miracles authenticate His identity and authority.
- He is on a mission to bring the "good news" of "the kingdom of God."
- He called people to "repent and believe" and invited them to "follow" Him.

**This week**, we will discuss Mark 3:7-35. Jesus now has a following of many people and continues to walk and serve the peoples in the region of Galilee. This was a multi-cultural area of Jewish, Greek, and Roman peoples who were mostly lower income. Many were barely subsistence living and hoping to live peacefully under the rule of the Roman authorities.

**Read Mark 3:7-35 and consider the following questions together.**

In the previous chapters, Jesus and His new followers have traveled for days, teaching, healing, and solving problems. What happens in this chapter?

The crowds named in the first story (v. 8) came from multiple other regions that were many miles and days away. Why were they coming?

There were many different groups / entities named. What were their reactions to Jesus? What are the contrasts?

When Jesus appointed the twelve (vs. 14-19), there were many other disciples with Him. What were these twelve men appointed to be/do?

Whom were Jesus' primary audience? Why?

What do we learn about the identity and authority of Jesus?

### **DISCUSS TOGETHER**

This passage has some surprising responses to Jesus. Some, whom one might think to be insiders, are outsiders, and some, whom one might think to be outsiders are insiders. According to Jesus, who were and are the insiders? Who is family to Jesus?

Jesus appointing of the twelve (vs. 14-19) was a nested narrative within Jesus' traveling ministry. Was this a secondary or primary story? Why?

What do we learn about what it means to be a disciple? What do we learn about the roles of disciples? In what ways are we, today, to continue the same roles and duties?

### **APPLY IT THIS WEEK**

In these stories, people flocked to, ran after, and went to Jesus. They recognized that there is no one like Him and suffered days and many miles to see and know Him. That was because they recognized Him and knew that He was the source of healing, truth, and life. As we walk through our week, will we go after Him? Will I put sitting at His feet and following Him above all else?