

How has the gospel set you free? Give all the examples you can think. As a group, make a list of all the ways in which God has set you free.

Think about what God has taught you in today's passage. Who do you know who needs to hear this wonderful truth? How could you share this news to that person this week?

### Prayer

Thank God for His amazing gift to us in Jesus, the Messiah

Pray for each other in the light of this passage, that we might trust Him more, love Him more, and celebrate the freedom we have in Him.

Pray for others who don't know this truth.



# **The Words Messiah Works and in Mark Ways of Jesus**

**Growth Group Study Guide**

**Week 1: "Here Comes the King" (Mark 1: 14-28)**

**1 August 2021**

### **Series Overview:**

Jesus is introduced by Mark as the Messiah foretold of old but with striking contrast to the cultural assumption. He does not come with exterior power and might, but rather as a humble servant. But the reader must not mistake humility and service with lack of power and authority. For that is the great irony that Mark pronounces. The King of the universe holding ALL power and authority comes to reign through His teaching, His serving and His suffering. Mark brings us to his conclusion succinctly through the often used word "immediately". He rushes us to the end for which Jesus came - to suffer and die upon a cross. In fact his model of suffering is the realm to which his followers are called. In a world of suffering and hardship we also look forward with hope to receiving glory alongside Christ. What was achieved in those fateful days of His death and resurrection has made an eternal, spiritual and physical difference.

## Week 1: "Here Comes the King"

In the Old Testament, the Messiah was a royal figure (a king, often referred to as the Son of God) who Israel was expecting to come and defeat all of their enemies and set up a kingdom here on earth that they are a part of. From the very beginning of the book, Mark is declaring that Jesus is this Messiah that Israel has been waiting for all of these years. This is how he starts the book:

"The beginning of the gospel about Jesus Christ, the Son of God." Mark 1:1 (NIV)

Now, the word "Christ" is the Greek word for "Messiah." So, when Mark refers to Jesus as "Jesus Christ" he is actually saying, "Jesus the Messiah," the one that they have been waiting for all of these years.

### Read Mark 1: 14-28

What do you know about John Mark's life? Why was he chosen to write this account of Jesus' life?

What did Jesus tell the people they must do besides believe in his good news?

What does it mean to become "fishers of men" (...and women)?

We learn from the disciples to respond to Jesus' call. Like them we need to come to a place of knowing that he is:

- A king we can trust,
- He is worthy of our love and
- He is the only one who can set us free.

As we live in this place of "not yet-ness", how can we lean into those things above?

We see that this points us to being in need of the gospel. How DOES the gospel truly set us free?