

Small Group Discussion Questions

The Time Has Come: The Gospel of Mark

These questions are designed to invite group reflection on today's Bible passage and life application of the themes introduced in today's sermon.

Week 1: Prepare the Way

Mark 1:1-8

1. Recall a time you had to prepare for something important: a test or task; a visit or a meeting. What did you do to prepare? When the important event arrived, were you prepared?
2. We're beginning a study of the Gospel of Mark. What does the term "gospel" mean? What are the New Testament Gospels? What are two things that are unique about Mark's Gospel?
3. In his opening statement, Mark says two key things about Jesus' identity. What are they? What does Mark mean by each?
4. Jesus is first received by the Jewish residents of Judea and Samaria. What do they expect Him to be and to do for them? Will Jesus meet their expectations? What is their reaction?
5. What are some ways you see others trying to get Jesus to serve their cause? What are some ways you have done that (or continue to do that) with Jesus in your own life? If Jesus didn't come to serve our agenda, what do you think He came to do?
6. Mark follows his introductory statement about Jesus with two quotes from the Old Testament. What do these passages describe? To whom does Mark insist these passages refer? If John's job is to "prepare the way for the Lord (that is, Yahweh, the one true God)", what is Mark saying about Jesus?
7. What, according to John, must the people do to prepare for the Lord? What does this mean? Why do you think the people of Judea flocked to John – what were they expecting or hoping for? What did John offer that they didn't already have?
8. If we accept John's words, what must we do to prepare the way for the Lord? Can you think of any specific parts of your life about which you need to *repent*? Can you see a general direction of your life that you need to change?
9. What does Jesus have to offer you that you can't get on your own? Can you accept Him not only as an earthly Messiah but also the Son of God, to whom you must submit your life?

Pray: For God to show you the better thing He has to offer through Jesus Christ; for Jesus to introduce you to His better life, and make your life better in the process; for Jesus to impose His perfect will on our broken world.