

OPENING QUESTIONS

1. When you think of Jesus, what images come to your mind?
2. Have the images of Jesus that you have held changed over time? What were they when you did not know Him? When you were a new believer? How have they changed over time, or have they?

BIG IDEA

Jesus is the long awaited Son of God who has come into the world to bring the great news that the kingdom of God has come.

READ TOGETHER

John 1:1-18 - Colossians 1:11-23 - Mark 1:1-15

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. As we come to the Book of Mark you will notice that there is no genealogy or birth account at the beginning like the gospels of Matthew and Luke contain. Why do you think that Mark does not? Is Mark's introduction adequate to get us to the point of understanding who Jesus is? Why do you think so?
2. The image of a kaleidoscope was used in the message to talk about the many images we have of Jesus. What images of Jesus do you see in the passage that you read? How does that mesh with your images of Jesus you just discussed?
3. John came baptizing and preparing the way for Jesus. Read Luke 7:29-30 and discuss what impact you think John's baptism had on people's response and why it was so.
4. Read Mark 1:9-15 again.
 - a. How do you think Jesus took this affirmation? What did it produce in Him? How does this speak to you about the nature of Jesus and who He is?
 - b. Verses 12 and 13 describe his temptation and testing in the desert - why do you think that the affirmation of Jesus and the suffering of Jesus are so closely tied together? Do you agree with Pastor Geoff that this in many ways speaks to the nature of this world?
 - c. Jesus comes preaching the Kingdom of God in Mark 1:14-15. What is your understanding of the kingdom of God? Read Isaiah 61 together and discuss the nature of the kingdom of God. How does Jesus become the fulfillment of this prophecy?
 - d. In Mark 1:15, the second part of Jesus' preaching is about our response to His message. How has repentance been a part of your life?

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5. We read in our passage that Jesus is divine, but also suffered. Read Hebrews 4:14-16 (you could also go into chapter 5 if you wanted to) and ask how the divine sufferer is able to offer comfort in your time of suffering?
 - a. Have you gone through something where Jesus brought comfort? What did that look like for you? What makes you attribute that comfort to Jesus?
6. It was also mentioned in Geoff's message that belief is much more than just intellectual assent – in fact it more reflects Jesus quotation of the greatest commandment – see Matthew 22:36-40. How has belief overtaken your life?
7. Read Colossians 1:6 and talk about how this Good News has changed your life.

CHALLENGE

“No great advances have been made by the kingdom of God without people who are unwilling to give up their life.” – Oscar Muriu, Kenyan Pastor

Would you be willing to give up your life completely to a Saviour like this?

- a. What have you given up, or surrendered to Jesus? What did that process look like, or feel like? What was the result?
- b. What do you think you still need to yield and give to God?

PRAYER

Pray for one another based on this topic and what was discussed/shared.