

## Blue Collar Jesus - the Gospel of Mark

We are sometimes tempted to picture Jesus as a man disinterested in the details of our lives, distant from the realities of our circumstances, and disengaged from the pain in our world. Nothing could be further from the truth.

As we will see throughout the Gospel of Mark, Jesus is hard at work, on a mission and with a purpose, and He loves people!

The Gospel of Mark is about the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God (Mark 1:1). And it tells about all kinds of people encountering Jesus. They encountered His authority . . . His deity . . . His compassion . . . His grace and truth. And they encountered His mission - His death and resurrection. In every encounter people made real life choices - to reject Him, or to keep their distance, or maybe to follow Him more closely.

As we immerse ourselves into Mark's gospel over the next few months, let's encounter Jesus in new and fresh, deeper, and maybe even simpler ways, and to encourage one another to follow His call to be fully devoted disciples of Jesus.

## Background to the Gospel of Mark

- The apostle Peter was a friend and mentor to John Mark. Peter passed on reports of the words and deeds of Jesus to John Mark, who wrote this Gospel for the wider church as the record of Peter's apostolic testimony.
- The book was likely written from Rome during the mid-to-late 50s A.D.
- The theme of Mark's Gospel is stated in Mark 1:1 - "the gospel concerning Jesus Christ, the Son of God." To Peter and Mark, "the gospel" involves a call to discipleship, and there is much emphasis in Mark on how people respond when they encounter Jesus.
- The gospel of Mark can be divided into 3 sections.
  - The Real Jesus (Mark 1:1 - 6:6a)
  - The Real Mission of Jesus (Mark 6:6b - 10:52)
  - The Real Purpose of Jesus (Mark 11:1 - 16:20)

## Rockbridge Church Small Group Schedule - Section 1 - (Mark 1:1-6:6a)

Mark 1 - Jan 6-12  
Mark 2 - Jan 13-19  
Mark 3 - Jan 20-26  
Mark 4 - Jan 27-Feb 2  
Mark 5 - Feb 3-9

## Lesson 1 - Mark 1

# Jesus - Our Fisherman

### Mark 1 - Real Jesus

1. What do you see in Mark 1 that helps you know what Jesus is like?
2. How does what Jesus says, and what He does, help you know what He is like?
3. What seems important to Jesus?
4. What one thing about Jesus stands out to you in this chapter?

### Mark 1 - Real People Encountering Jesus

5. In Mark 1, who encounters Jesus, and in what ways do they respond to Him?
6. How are you responding to the Jesus you see in Mark 1?

### Sunday at RbC

7. What was most instructive, and what did you appreciate most from the sermon on Sunday?

### Looking Ahead - Read Mark 2