

LIFE OF A SERVANT**The Kingdom Is Near****Mark 1:14–45***“The kingdom of God is near. Repent and believe the good news!”* Mark 1:15**Day 1: Read Mark 1:14–15.**

1. Where does Jesus start his ministry? What is the significance of this? (Look back at verse 9.)
2. Compare Jesus’ message with John’s in Mark 1:4, 7–8. What similarities and differences are there?
3. What is the “good news”? (See John 3:16.)
4. Jesus’ message demands a response. What is it? How have you responded?
5. How would your life look different if you really believed that the “kingdom of God is near”—that the King of the universe is present with you?

Day 2: Read Mark 1:16–20.

6. In this simple, stark account of the call of four disciples, Mark distills the essence of what it means to follow Jesus. Explain what Jesus’ call means for these men.
 - a. What do we know about these men? (See also Acts 4:13.)
 - b. Why didn’t Jesus call his disciples from among the wealthy or the religious leaders?
7. What does following Jesus mean for you? What excuses do you make for not following Jesus wholeheartedly? (Are there things in your life that have priority over obedience to him?)

Day 3: Read Mark 1:21–35.

8. Sketch a timeline of Jesus’ activities for this 24 hour period.
 - a. On a scale of 1 to 10 give Jesus a “busyness” rating (10 being exhausting).
 - b. How could Jesus be so busy and not be frantic? (vs. 35)

9. Jesus preached an entire sermon at the synagogue and yet Mark does not record what Jesus said. What do you think Mark wants us to pay attention to in this passage—what Jesus said, or how he said it?

10. The religious leaders of Jesus' day were experts in the development, teaching and application of Old Testament law—they taught with authority that stemmed from tradition. To the casual synagogue attendee in this passage how is Jesus different from these leaders?

11. Today, how should God's word be taught? (See 1 Peter 4:11.)

Day 4: Read Mark 1:21–45.

12. Consider the interactions between the demons and Jesus in verses 23–26 and 34:
 - a. What name does the demon call Jesus?

 - b. Why does Jesus silence them?

 - c. Is it possible for someone to recognize Jesus as the Son of God and still not be saved? Explain.

13. How are the miracles of healing in this chapter (Simon's mother-in-law and the leper) a picture of Christ's saving work in us?

14. In Jesus' activities, how does he demonstrate the truth of his message in verse 15, "The kingdom of God is near"?

Day 5: Read Mark 1:35–39.

15. Why does Jesus make prayer a priority? (See John 5:19.)

16. What might Jesus pray about? Recall Satan's temptation of Jesus earlier in this chapter. Identify other sources of temptation for Jesus in his daily life.

17. Evaluate your prayer life. Ask God to teach you how to share Jesus' sense of needing communion with him.