

MARK: SMALL GROUP LEADERS GUIDE

With one out of four living in servitude in the Roman Empire, it's fitting that Mark presents Jesus as the ultimate servant. Beyond His teaching ministry, Jesus came to do the will of His Father. He came, "not to be served, but to serve, and give His life as a ransom for many." In addition to living a life of humility, Jesus lived a life of constant activity. Focusing more on what Jesus did rather than what Jesus said, Mark presents Jesus as the model of true servitude. Ultimately, this servant's attitude displayed itself in the greatest manifestation of selflessness when Jesus willingly died on the cross paying the lasting penalty of sin on our behalf.

THINKING POINTS FROM STUDY

1 At the core of Mark's record was Jesus the Servant. The God of the universe - the King of Kings willingly laid aside all of His heavenly glory to serve humanity. Not only did Jesus spend His time ministering to the needs of fellow man, but His true mission was to save mankind from his sins.

QUESTIONS: *In what way was Jesus the ultimate servant? What ramifications should His example have on the way we live our lives? Shouldn't Jesus' life manifest itself in and through your life in a similar manner? Have you been a servant to those around you? What effect should a servant's mentality have on your attitude?*

2 Mark is an interesting character study of a man who possessed great potential, but encountered a difficult set back when he bailed out on Paul's first missionary endeavour. Cast aside and humiliated by his failure, Mark humbled himself - learned from his lessons - and in the end, not only earned the respect of the Apostle Paul, but was used in a mighty way in writing one of the four Gospels.

QUESTIONS: *In what way should Mark's life be an encouragement to you? Have you failed in some way recently that has dealt a difficult set back in your spiritual development? What was the key to the process of Mark's restoration? How should humility continually display itself in your life? If Mark had become bitter towards Paul, do you think God would have used him in such a powerful way?*

3 In our modern, Christian church culture we very rarely associate spirituality with activity. As the ultimate servant, Jesus' life stands in stark contrast with this notion. A truly spiritual life, brought under the saving power of God's Spirit, should manifest itself in a real, tangible, outward way.

QUESTIONS: *In what way are you practically living out your faith? Though "works" aren't essential for salvation, why are they important? What are some of the ways your spiritual life can manifest itself through your physical life? Why is this ultimately important?*

DEVOTIONS

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