



MARK: A MOVEMENT OF MISFITS: A Disciple's Job Description

Pastor Sarah Burttt
November 5, 2023

Life Group Discussion

Encouragement: Share about an 'ordinary hero' who is or was an example to you of how to be with Jesus and tell His story.

Scripture: Read [Mark 3:7-19](#).

Observations:

- Picture what it was like to be in that large crowd following Jesus. What were the noises and smells? How do you think Jesus felt? What kind of relationship did Jesus have with those in the crowd?
- How do you think it was different on the mountainside when Jesus called the twelve?

Interpretation: (*The NIV Application Commentary pp. 125-129; 137-139; 142-144*)

- Read [Luke 6:12-13](#). What detail does Luke add? Why did Jesus choose these twelve even though He knew they would often fail? Read [2 Timothy 1:6-14](#) Why did Jesus call you to be His disciple?
- Read [Isaiah 43:1, 10 and Psalm 99:1-3](#) – God the Father has always created, then called those He created, then sent them to tell His story to others. How did Jesus model the Father's example?

Application:

- Read [John 9:25](#). How does your life reflect the story of the blind man? ("I once was... but now I am...")

Prayer: Sit quietly for a few minutes and picture just being with Jesus. Reflect for a moment on his Story in your life. Pray as the Lord leads you.

Next Steps:

- How can you practice being WITH Jesus this week?
- Watch for ways to tell His story in your everyday life. Be ready to share what Jesus means to you.
- Climate Changers (*new) **Coat Drive** through November 26. See [whoisgrace.com/next](http://www.whoisgrace.com/next) for details
- Remember, all the Mark series resources can be found at <http://www.whoisgrace.com/MARK>.



MARK: Dealing with Opposition

Pastor Derek Sanford

November 12, 2023

Life Group Discussion

Encouragement: Share with the group a time in your life when you've felt both opposition and Jesus's power and protection over you.

Scripture: [Mark 3:24-30](#), [Mark 3:34-35](#)

Observations:

- Jesus is beginning to face opposition in this portion of the gospel of Mark. This seems to come as his popularity grows and stories about his work spread across the area. Why do you think the perception of Jesus begins to shift? (See *NIV Application Commentary* page 134-135).
- In his sermon, Pastor Derek talks about three kinds of opposition. What are they, and how do you see them played out in these passages?

Interpretation:

- In the end, Jesus will win the victory over sin and evil. Read [Ephesians 6:12](#). How does this passage speak to the theme of Son of God/Son of Man that we see throughout Mark? What does this teach us about what we face as followers of Jesus?
- Read [Matthew 5:10-12](#). How does this passage provide encouragement in times of opposition? How does this help us to live better in the "not yet" as we wait for the restoration to come in Heaven?

Application:

- What do these passages teach us about how we are to face opposition as followers of Jesus? What is ultimately the most important thing to remember when we are facing opposition?
- In his sermon, Pastor Derek said that the church needs to do more than talk about the power of God, we need to exhibit it. How can the church of 2023 rise up and live in God's power in a tangible and evident way?

Prayer: Read [Psalm 118](#) as your prayer. Have members of the group each take a few lines to read out loud individually and finish the passage by reading verse 29 together. *"Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his love endures forever."*

Next Steps:

- Where are you facing opposition? How can you remind yourself that Jesus wins?
- Remember, all the Mark series resources can be found at <http://www.whoisgrace.com/MARK>.



Mark: Why Some People Never Get It

Pastor Derek Sanford

November 19, 2023

Life Group Discussion

Encouragement: When you think about a life being transformed by Jesus, who do you think of? Describe the turning point. How did they change? What are they doing today?

Scripture: Read [Mark 4:1-20](#)

Observations:

- What style of teaching did Jesus use?
- What was his purpose in using this style? (*The NIV Application Commentary: Mark page 159 last paragraph through page 160 second paragraph for any explanation of verses 11-12.*)

Interpretation:

- Who is the Sower? What is the seed? What does soil represent?
- What are the four soil types, and what does each one represent?
- What are the characteristics of good soil?

Application:

- How does this reading help us to understand what faith looks like?
- Based on these passages, what pitfalls do we need to be watching out for?
- How can you safeguard yourself against these pitfalls?
- If a person feels like they have fallen away or that the cares of the world have choked out the word, does that mean that they are not the good soil? Is there still hope for them? Explain.
- How can you be sure that you are the good soil? How do you know if you are fruitful?

Prayer: Go around the room and share how you are at risk of having a hard heart or of falling away because of hardships, or your fruitfulness could be choked out (by cares of the world, deceitfulness of riches, or other desires). Take time to pray for each other.

Next Steps:

- Do you need to receive the word and trust in Jesus as your Lord and Savior?
- Identify the pitfalls you are most at risk of falling into and be on the lookout for them.
- Climate Changers (*new) **Coat Drive** through November 26. See whoisgrace.com/next for details.



MARK: God's Kingdom Knows No Borders

Pastor Mike Crisman

November 26, 2023

Life Group Discussion

Encouragement: What have been some of the biggest catalysts for growth in your life (faith, work, relationships, etc.)?

Scripture: Read [Mark 4:21-34](#).

Observations:

- Read each of the parables, comparing and contrasting. Which elements to each story are the same and which are different?
- How do the parables of the seed and mustard seed complement the parable of the Sower in Mark 4:3-9?

Interpretation: (*The NIV Application Commentary pp.174-184*)

- If a parable is a story with a point, what is the key point in each of these parables?
- "The Kingdom of God is like..." is a phrase Jesus uses more than once. Why do you think He described it in so many different ways and using different parables?
- How is the Kingdom of God different than any earthly kingdom?

Application:

- Read [Hebrews 11:1-3](#). What does it mean to live by faith in your life today?
- What confidence in God, in His Kingdom, and in the gospel of Jesus do you draw from these parables?

Prayer: Be creative!

Next Steps: The Kingdom of God is here! What are you going to do with it? What steps will you take to grow?

Coming Next: ADVENT

-How do you prepare for Christmas? What do you anticipate most about the Christmas season?
-Look for the featured Advent reading plans each week on YouVersion! (Don't forget to set Grace as "my church")

*Note: The Mark series will continue in February 2024! Stay tuned and find more resources at

<http://www.whoisgrace.com/MARK>.