

FURTHER STUDY GUIDE

Follow Me | Mark 1:14-20

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Mark places the beginning of Jesus' public ministry immediately after the arrest of John the Baptist, highlighting both continuity and contrast. John prepared the way; Jesus fulfills it. Jesus ministers in Galilee, a region often overlooked and even dismissed by religious elites, yet strategically significant due to its population and trade routes. His message centers on "the kingdom of God"—not a political uprising, but God's reign breaking into history through Jesus Himself. In this passage, proclamation and invitation are inseparable: Jesus announces the kingdom and then calls ordinary people to follow Him. Discipleship in Mark is not gradual or abstract; it is urgent, relational, and costly.

ICEBREAKER QUESTION

Have you ever had to make a quick decision that significantly changed the direction of your life? What made that decision difficult—or clear?

GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Jesus begins His ministry with a message, not a miracle (vv.14–15).

Why do you think Mark highlights proclamation first? What does this tell us about the nature of the gospel?

Jesus says, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand.”

What does it mean that God’s kingdom is near—not just future? How should this shape how we live today?

Repentance and belief are presented together (v.15).

Why is it important that these two responses remain connected? What happens when one is emphasized without the other?

Jesus calls fishermen while they are working (vv.16–17).

What does this reveal about who Jesus calls and where discipleship begins? How does this challenge common assumptions about spiritual readiness?

The disciples leave their nets “immediately” (v.18).

What might the “nets” represent in our lives today? What makes leaving them difficult?

James and John leave both their livelihood and their family (vv.19–20).

How does following Jesus reshape priorities and relationships? What does this passage teach about the cost—and value—of discipleship?

PERSONAL DEVOTION

This week, slowly read **Mark 1:14–20** each day. As you reflect, consider these prompts in prayer:

- **Kingdom Awareness:** Where do I see God's reign already at work in my life? Where am I resisting His authority?
- **Repentance and Faith:** What attitudes, habits, or attachments might Jesus be calling me to turn from in order to trust Him more fully?
- **Following Jesus:** If Jesus said "Follow me" to me today, what would immediate obedience look like?

End your time by thanking God that the call to follow Jesus is rooted in good news, not fear—an invitation into life under His gracious rule. Ask the Holy Spirit to give you both the courage to leave what hinders and the faith to follow where Jesus leads.

QUESTIONS | REFLECTIONS | OBSERVATIONS