



# THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO MARK

*Week 10: Jesus Plants a Church*

Church is not about drawing a crowd, it's about making disciples. This week we are looking at how Jesus began to draw away from the crowds to focus on intentionally discipling the 12 men he had called to follow him. As a church we have the opportunity to look at the way in which we disciple people and to realign and refocus our efforts on discipling like Jesus did.

## 1. Jesus Calls, Disciples Answer

- Read Mark 3:7-13

This passage is a strong reminder that God calls us before we are able to respond. As a community of disciple-makers, this should give us great enthusiasm in our endeavours to preach the gospel as we know God has already gone ahead of us to call people.

- ❖ Q: What is your biggest struggle in telling people about the gospel? What can you do to overcome that?
- ❖ Q: Whose job is it to call people – ours or God's? What role are we to play in the process?
- ❖ Q: Why should it bring us a sense of freedom in our evangelism to know that God is the one who calls people to follow him?
- ❖ Q: If God is the one who calls people to follow him, why do we need to bother with evangelism (preaching the gospel)?

## 2. Jesus Communes, Disciples Dwell In Community

- Read Mark 3:14

Jesus could have done his mission on his own but he chose 12 men to be with him. If we are going to be a community of disciples we are going to need to learn how to do life with each other in an unguarded way; sharing 'the good, the bad and the ugly' sides of our lives.

- ❖ Q: Why do we find it so difficult to let people into the really difficult moments in our lives?
- ❖ Q: Why do you think it is important for us as disciples of Christ to do life together? What are the benefits and difficulties in choosing to share it all with each other?
- ❖ Q: What do you think it should look like on a practical level to do 'life-on-life' discipleship with each other? What do you think that could look like within this gospel community? How guarded/transparent are we as a group? Would people look in and see a radical, gospel-centered community?
- ❖ Q: What do you need to change in this area of your own life so that you are being disciplined here but also discipling others?

## 3. Jesus Sends, Disciples Go And Send Others

- Read Mark 3:14

Jesus included untrained, regular men to sustain and further his mission. He did not choose the successful types, but rather grew his disciples to be more than they could ever have been on their own and he then multiplied their work. Jesus calls all of us to the same mission. As we are saved, we are also sent to make disciples. Every one of us needs to be doing that now and not putting it off to a later season in life. As a church we need to keep assessing if we are just excessively busy "doing church" or if we are making genuine disciples.

- ❖ Q: Why does Jesus choose regular, untrained men with which to start his mission?
- ❖ Q: How does this help those of us who feel ill-equipped to be disciple-makers?

## 4. Jesus Equips, Disciples Serve

- Read Mark 3:15

Jesus gifted the apostles to do the work of disciple-making. He gifts us to do the same today. We have different gifts to build up the church, and it is when we get busy serving and doing what needs to be done that we discover what our gifts are.

- ❖ Q: Are you actively involved in disciple-making at the moment? What does that look like for you?
- ❖ Q: If not, what is your response to this call to mission? In what ways can you start making disciples?
- ❖ Q: If you have not discovered how you are gifted for the mission, will you serve anyway and let God show you where you are gifted along the way?



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## 5. Jesus Makes Us Family, Disciples Submit And Obey

- Read Mark 3:16-21 & 3:31-35

Jesus redefines what it means to be family. We are united with those who are part of God's family. As a church that makes us all family. It requires the same amount of effort, grace, mercy, kindness, sacrifice, love and submission that any family needs in order to flourish. There are people in this family that we would not necessarily choose, but Jesus chose them for us and he requires us to love, serve and submit to this family. As we start planting churches, we want to be careful not to just call people to a great church service, but rather to a family that is called, equipped and sent by Jesus.

- ❖ Q: Why is it important that we realise that Jesus has called us to be a family?
- ❖ Q: Do you genuinely see this community as your own family?
- ❖ Q: In what ways do you think we fall short of being family?
- ❖ Q: What do you think it means for us to submit to this family?
- ❖ Q: Are you personally and intentionally pouring your effort, grace, mercy, kindness, sacrifice and love into this family so that it flourishes or is it just a group you attend and enjoy on a week-by-week basis?