

# LIFE GROUP STUDY GUIDE

January 22, 2012

**Series: Jesus 101**

**“Your Kingdom Come” Mark 1:16-34**

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## **Sermon Summary:**

Jesus has just announced that “the kingdom of God is near” (1:15). There are a couple of key questions that need to be answered: “Who is this King?” and “What is the nature of His Kingdom?”. The first 8 chapters of Mark focus on answering these questions. This section of scripture will begin to help us understand the power and authority of the King and what happens when His Kingdom comes in power. There are three areas where we see Jesus’ authority on display: 1. Teaching with authority (1:21-22) 2. Spiritual Authority (1:23-28) 3. Physical Authority (1:29-34). In fact after the resurrection, Jesus says to His disciples, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me” (Matt. 28:18). Jesus has authority over every area of our lives. Living in the Kingdom of God means to come under the authority of Jesus.

## **Group Discussion Questions:**

- I. Where have you seen God at work in the past week? Have you seen answered prayers? What is God teaching you in your times in His Word and prayer? (This would be a good time to encourage people in the Jesus 101 Challenges)
- II. Read Mark 1:14-34
- III. What stands out to you in this passage? Was there something that stood out to you on Sunday? What questions does it raise?
- IV. 1:16-20 How do these first disciples’ response to Jesus demonstrate their understanding of who Jesus is? Jesus’ call to them is “Come follow me” in contemporary terms what do you think that means? (ie. if Jesus call to us is still “follow me” what does that look like?)

**Quote:** “Jesus streaks into people’s lives like lightning, and ruptures the status quo. He calls for change and decisive action. He breaks in and makes people choose. All of this shows that entering the kingdom of God takes a decisive act of radical, exclusive commitment to Jesus as the King.” ~Tim Keller

- V. What do you think it means when Jesus says “I will make you fishers of men”?

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VI. What was “amazing” about Jesus’ teaching? (v.22) What are the implications of the authority of Jesus in this area? If we treat Jesus commands as “suggestions” what are we saying about our relationship to Him? (cf. Matt. 28:20)

VII. How do you feel about Jesus’ demonstration of power and authority over the demon in 1:23-27? In our North American culture, even in the church, we struggle with understanding and relating to things like this. Why do you think that is?

**Quote:** *“Our contemporary culture is still rather skeptical of the existence of demons. If a person is an atheist, it is consistent to then deny the existence of evil spirits. But it is not consistent to believe in God and in a good personal supernatural being and then refuse to believe that there are evil personal supernatural beings.” ~ Tim Keller*

**Quote:** *“The demons had their final shriek at him as he hung on the cross, challenging and mocking for the last time the validity of his authority. On the cross he completed the healing work he began that day in the synagogue. When the church learns again how to speak and act with the same authority, we will find both the saving power of God unleashed once more and a similar heightened opposition from the forces of darkness. Similar but not the same. The demons knew Jesus, and knew he had come to defeat them once and for all. They can still shriek, but since Calvary they no longer have authority. To believe this is the key to Christian testimony and saving action in the world that .... has already been claimed by the loving authority of God in Jesus.” ~ NT Wright. Mark for Everyone.*

VIII. Jesus’ authority over sickness (1:29-34). What do Jesus’ miracles of healing teach us about Him? What are the implications of this for how we minister to peoples’ spiritual, emotional and physical needs? Do you believe Jesus still heals today?

**Working it Out:** Encourage your group to take part in the Jesus 101 Challenge. If you need extra cards with the challenges you can pick some up at the office or contact Pastor Ken to email you a copy. Take time each week to share as a group or in smaller groups of 2 or 3 what God is showing you. Make sure to reserve time to pray together. If there are needs for healing or someone feels under attack spiritually, pray for them in the name and authority of Jesus.

**May God richly bless your time together as a group!**