

# DISCUSSION NOTES

**SEPTEMBER 4, 2016**

Remember to pray as you open your discussion. Ask God to show you more of Himself and more of the grace of Jesus. Ask God for faith to trust Him and for strength to live out the things you learn.

## GETTING STARTED

1. In some sports like boxing and baseball, players get to select their own entrance music to get them fired up for what's ahead. You may not be a sports star, but if you were selecting your own entrance music, what song would you choose?

## DIGGING IN

2. In Mark 1:1-15, we saw the announcement that Jesus had arrived announcing a new kingdom in fulfillment of Old Testament prophecy. Given the enormous build up and excitement for Jesus' arrival, what kind of entrance would you expect Jesus to make into the world?
3. Read Mark 1:16-20 aloud. How does Jesus' first action surprise you? How is it different from what you might have expected him to do after verses 1-15? What do you think this says about Jesus' focus as he begins his ministry?
4. Brainstorm the number of ways that Jesus' call would bring changes to the lives of these four men. How many areas of their life would be altered by following Jesus? Can you think of ten or more? How quickly would these changes take place?

## LIVING IT OUT

5. Robert Coleman wrote:  
*"By any standard of sophisticated culture then and now they would surely be considered as a rather ragged aggregation of souls. One might wonder how Jesus could ever use them. They were impulsive, temperamental, easily offended, and had all the prejudices of their environment. In short, these men selected by the Lord to be His assistants represented as average cross section of the lot of society in their day. Not the kind of group one would expect to win the world for Christ."*  
What stood out about these men? Does this seem encouraging or discouraging to you? How does this make you feel about your own usefulness to Jesus?
6. Our church mission statement is: "To make authentic followers of Jesus who live for the glory of God and the good of our world." How is this statement related to Mark 1:16-20? How do you see this being lived out in our church? How might we grow in living this out?
7. Jesus said he would make us "fishers of men." Who are the people that you are engaging with the good news of Jesus? Where is the "fishing hole" (neighborhood, gym, school, work, sports teams) where you are intentionally investing in missional relationships?

# PERSONAL BIBLE STUDY PLAN

## THE REAP METHOD OF BIBLE STUDY

**REAP (Read, Examine, Apply, Pray)** is a straightforward way to process what you're reading, either on your own or with a small group of people. This is a flexible plan—you could use it quickly in a 20 minute time span, or you could spend hours digging into the Word with it. Our hope is that you will experience how to study the Bible during your group time, and then try it on your own during the remainder of the week. It may be a little messy, and that's OK. It will get easier with practice. This isn't the only way to study the Bible, but we believe it is a helpful tool to have in your toolbox.

The goal of this kind of Bible study is primarily to grow in faith and obedience, not mere knowledge. Keep that in mind and be attentive each step of the REAP process. Remember to pray as you open the Bible, asking God to encourage, teach, correct, and train you (2 Timothy 3:16) through your time in the Bible, as well as to show you the grace of Jesus.

### **READ**

Read the passage. If you have time, you might read it a few times, silently and out loud, with a pen in hand. Note or underline thoughts that might be significant. Answer the question, "What do I see?" As you're reading, think through these questions:

- What is happening in this passage? What things are emphasized, repeated, related?
- What do I see about God? What is God doing in this passage?
- What do I see about man? What are the people doing?

### **EXAMINE**

Examine the passage. At this point, answer some questions about the meaning of the text. Take time to reflect. Ask yourself these questions, and write down your thoughts:

- How do I think the author wants his audience to respond?
- What do I learn about God's character?
- What wrong beliefs about God and myself do I have?
- What do I like? Is there anything that I don't like?
- Is there anything I don't understand?
- What seems most significant?

### **APPLY**

Apply the passage to your own life. Answer the question, "No matter where I am spiritually, what would it look like for me to live out what I just read?" Some questions to consider might include:

- How do I need to repent or change?
- What truths do I need to believe?
- What false beliefs must I turn from?
- What can I do – empowered by the Holy Spirit – to live out this passage?

### **PRAY**

Pray through the passage and your application, asking God to change your heart and to change your life. Ask that God would be glorified as you seek to apply the passage this week. Ask God to make his love and his grace real to you.

After you finish, share what God taught you with at least one person—your roommate, your spouse, your kids, your friends, or your coworkers. Don't keep what God taught you to yourself.

If you would like help finding a Bible reading plan, ask your group leader or pastor; Or, visit <http://www.esv.org/resources/reading-plans-devotions/>.

*The above plan is modified from The Austin Stone and is available at [austinstone.org](http://austinstone.org).*