

## Marked

### *Scripture and Background Information for August 13-19.*

To prepare for your group discussion each week, group members should use the **Community Group Discussion Guide** to complete the **GOD'S WORDS** and **MY WORDS** columns using the scripture below.

Some of Jesus' last words, what we know as the great commission, provides us with a glimpse at His vision for what the life of a Christian disciple is meant to look like. Those who follow Jesus are supposed to be marked by certain qualities that are central to who we are as believers. As we reflect on Jesus commission to us, let us take steps to live out these "MARCS" by being missional, accountable, reproducible, communal, and spiritual.

#### **Background for Mark 1:1-8, 14-18:**

As we set out to make disciples, one of the most important parts of our work is being reproducible. We want to spread the gospel to others in a way that multiplies the impact we can make for the kingdom of God. Therefore, we must be people who make disciples of Jesus who, in turn, make more disciples. We can do this by being people who prepare the way for people to know Jesus, proclaim the good news of the gospel to those who need it, and pursue those around us purposefully.

The best examples of these disciple-making actions are John the Baptist and Jesus. John showed us what it looks like to prepare the way for people to know Jesus. Before Jesus met his own disciples and began His public ministry, John was getting people prepared to meet Him by doing the work that was prophesied about in the Old Testament (Malachi 3:1, Isaiah 40:3). He preached that people needed to repent to have their sins forgiven (Mark 1:4) and foretold of one who was to come that would be greater than him (Mark 1:7-8).

The person that John was alluding to was Jesus and He becomes the exhibit to us of what it looks like to make disciples by proclaiming good news and pursuing others purposefully. He proclaims the good news of the gospel like John, telling people to repent and believe in the gospel (Mark 1:15). But Jesus knows that He won't always be around to conduct His ministry so He pursues others who will be able to continue the work after Him. He reaches out to his first disciples, and they decide to follow Him. Then those disciples decided to multiply their disciples and, because this type of commitment to reproducing disciples, Jesus is still worshipped 2000 years later.

#### Insights and questions to engage with the text:

1. *What stands out to you about the ways Jesus goes about making disciples?*
2. *This story shows us that we must prepare the way, proclaim good news, and pursue others to reproduce disciples. How can you accomplish each of these steps as you make disciples?*
3. *Why is being reproducible important to making disciples? What steps can you take to follow Jesus' example of reproducing disciples in your life?*