

Simple - Studies in Mark

Session One: Follow - Part 1

Welcome, opening prayer and worship

(5–15 minutes)

Introduction

(5 minutes)

In this series we will be looking at the teachings of Jesus through the eyes of the Gospel of Mark. In a time when religious leaders and a religious system made it increasingly complicated to connect with God, a teacher appeared whose message was profoundly... simple. To those who were considered most distant from God, Jesus offered this simple invitation, "Follow Me." People who accepted his offer found themselves captivated by an extraordinary faith leading them to adopt a lifestyle that turned the world upside down.

Bible study

(15 minutes)

Mark 1:14-20 and 2:13-14

1. In the New Testament, tax collectors are often named together with sinners. What did the general public think of tax collectors like Levi (also known as Matthew). What do you think is a modern day equivalent for a tax collector?
2. Does it surprise you that Jesus would invite a tax collector to follow Him? What does this tell us about Jesus? What does this tell us about the people who are invited to follow Jesus?

Movie Clip

(15 minutes)

Questions and discussion

(30 minutes)

1. Was there anything from the DVD that was new to you, or had an effect on you? Did you hear anything that raised more questions in your mind?
2. What images of God have you formed? How do your early images of God compare to the ones that Jesus puts forth: a perfect Heavenly Father, a vine and a branch, a shepherd and a sheep?
3. When have you felt alienated from God? What did you believe was required in order to connect with God during those times?
4. What causes people to believe that connecting with God is complex?
5. When did you first realize that God wants us to have a personal relationship with Him? How did this affect how you viewed God?
6. Levi (Matthew) got up from his chair and followed Jesus. What would it look like for you to follow Jesus?

Prayer ministry and closing prayer

(15 minutes)

From Romans 15:5 - May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give you a spirit of unity among yourselves as you follow Christ Jesus, so that with one heart and mouth you may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.