**Suggested flow:**

1. Read the passage together

2. Facilitator read the sermon summary

3. Ask the broad questions and insert specific questions as they fit with the flow of discussion

4. Close with prayer for one another

**I- Sermon Summary (Mark 1:1; 2 Samuel 7:12-14b; Pslam 2)**

**Context:** The Book of Mark is written to Gentiles to help them believe that Jesus is the Christ the Son of God. Mark makes a big deal about how amazed and astonished people were by Jesus. He was not the Messiah they were expecting.

**Big Idea:** Believing the Gospel is more than believing in correct truth statements, it’s being swept up in the story of God’s King.

**Bridge:** Deep down, all of us want to be a part of a great story. The Gospel of Mark teaches how we already are a part of the greatest story ever told, but that story is not finished.

**Main Point #1 – The Gospel is a story**

Mark starts off his Gospel with a clarion statement about the person of Jesus: *“The beginning of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God”*

This statement is full of loaded words that add important context to understanding the Gospel of Mark and the person of Christ.

**The Gospel** is good news of victory on the battlefield. It is good news of the defeat of enemies. This tells us that Mark is not writing primarily to give advice, or even primarily to give good moral teaching. The Gospel is about something that has happened. It less “come learn how to have a better life” and more like a newspaper that says “read all about it.” Mark is inviting us to come and believe good new. But what is the good news? What victory has been won? Against who? And for whom?

Mark also says it’s the **beginning of the Gospel.** This means it is more than just a single event or more than set of propositions. It is a story. It has a beginning, implying a middle and an end.

This changes the way we need to understand faith. Faith in the Gospel isn’t like believing a mathematical equation or scientific equation. Faith in the Gospel is seeing yourself as part of a story, the way a child gets swept in the story of Santa Clause, we are to get swept up in the true story of Jesus Christ. So what is the story of Jesus Christ?

**Main Point #2 The Gospel is the story of a King**

The word Christ and the phrase Son of God have clear and rich meaning from the Old Testament.

We learn from the beginning of the God’s creation, that God is a ruler and intended man to rule earth under God’s loving rule. But we rebelled against God, leaving us alienated from God. Sin then is fundamentally not doing bad things or not believing in God, it is hostility to God’s rule.

But in 2 Samuel 7 we learn that God still intends to have earth be ruled by a faithful human king. But this King’s throne will be forever.

In Pslam 2 we learn that mankind is not happy with this plan. They hate God’s rule over their life. They want earth to themselves and reject God’s “Messiah”. God does not try to find a middle ground and instead doubles down, saying he has set up his King and He will give this King the ends of the earth.

So instead of rebelling we have a chance to come this King’s side or else we will be destroyed by him.

**Main Point #3 Our Response to the King**

Mark is introducing us to that King. The Gospel is that this King is coming to faithfully rule over all of earth, and he will defeat all of God’s enemies.

The problem is we are God’s enemies. So the message of the Gospel is repent and believe. This means we have a chance to make peace with this king. We can come and receive forgiveness and find refuge in this merciful King. God has won a victory for his enemies, a victory of forgiveness and peace with God.

So Jesus will call us to his kingdom not our own. He will have tough and tender conversations with us that shock, amaze, and sometimes confound us. The point is that we would begin to believe in the story of this King and live out his Kingdom culture. Some of who believe, need help with our unbelief and hard heartedness. Jesus will also challenge us to stay red hot against the slip into legalism. Jesus will tell us to “beware the leaven of the Pharisees” . Finally, this King welcomes the sinners, the outcasts, the broken and marginalized. We will need to identify with all three of these categories of people, to have hears to hear, so we can live out Jesus’ Kingdom.

**II- Questions for discussion**

Broad questions (these are questions you can ask every week)

1. [Light bulb] What stuck out to you about the passage or sermon? What shined?
2. [Question mark?] What confused you or raised questions?
3. [Christ connection] Where do you see Christ in this passage?
4. [Application] What is something the Spirit is leading you to identify and commit to this week in response to this passage and message?
5. [Tell] Who is someone you think would benefit from hearing what you learned in the Bible? (it can be someone inside or outside the church)

Specific questions

1. How does seeing the Gospel as a story change our concept of faith? What does that look like in a believers life?
2. According to Genesis, 2 Samuel and Psalm 2, how would you summarize the story of the Gospel leading up to the appearing of Jesus. What is the central conflict of the story? Who are the good guys? Who are the villains?
3. How does knowing this backstory change the way we understand the person of Christ? How does it inform our understanding of words like “repent” and “believe the Gospel.”? Why is repentance a necessary part of believing the Gospel?
4. Jesus is going to have tough words to say hard heartedness and legalism. He is going to have tender words to say to the broken, marginalized, and sinners. How can we each prepare to hear from Jesus as he speaks to these different groups in Mark? How do we need to see ourselves as part of the Gospel story?

Announcements:

1. Oct 14th is new member Sunday. If you are interested in membership, talk with LG leader.
2. Sunday Oct 21st 12-2, the TSM youth group invites all seniors 60+ to lunch provided by TSM and a mixer in the fellowship hall.
3. October 27th is Fall Festival. Please sign up to help volunteer on the Serve button on home page of website. Also on 21st, please decorate your car after service to be a roaming advertisement.