

REFLECTIONS ON: Mark 1:14-28

After reading the scripture, reflect on the following questions:

- If you were to state the gospel, the heart of the Christian message, in a sentence or two, what would you say?” How has your understanding evolved over time?
- Jesus proclaims the “kingdom of God has come near.” The kingdom of God is a metaphor **and** a concrete reality. How would you define the kingdom of God, and how might our understanding today compare with that of Jesus’ time?
- The Kingdom of God calls for transformation of life in this world. What is our role in this transformation, and how have *you* been transformed by your life in Christ?
- God’s Kingdom is a Kingdom of peace and justice. What can we, as individuals and the Church as a whole, do to bring about peace and justice in our world?
- What do you think compelled Simon, Andrew, James, and John to leave their families and livelihood as fishermen to follow Jesus?
 - What does the metaphor of fishing for people suggest?
- Jesus and His followers go to Capernaum on the north shore of the Sea of Galilee, He walks into a synagogue and IMMEDIATELY begins preaching – why do you think the people were amazed?
- What were some of the results of Jesus’ teaching?
- Why was Jesus able to heal the sick? What does His willingness to help people tell us about Him?
- Why did Jesus tell the man not to say anything about being healed? What happened?
- Later in Mark 1 Jesus says, “*Let us go on to the neighboring towns, so that I may proclaim the message there also; for that is what I came out to do.*” What does this tell us about what Jesus understood as the focus of his ministry?
- The importance of prayer in the life of Jesus is noted in verse 35 as Jesus went alone to a secluded place to pray. How and when do you make time in our own life for prayer?
- What is the most remarkable thing you learned about Jesus in this chapter?
- What does this chapter inspire you to do to be more like Jesus?

The sermon on 1/17 will focus on Mark 3:1-19 but please read chapter 2 also in preparation.