**2021 Bible Studies: Week 6: Mark 1:29-39**

**A Session Outline - 40 mins total, but can be longer or flexible if you wish**

**Introduction - 10 mins (longer if you’re in a group I suspect!)**

1. How are you?
2. What notable things have happened recently?
3. Is there anything distracting you from focusing on God today? If yes, think or talk about that and then pray and give it to God as you begin.

**Time With the Bible - 15-20 mins**

*What does this passage tell me about God?* To answer this question, you might want to think about whether the passage speaks about God directly or indirectly. Is there a prophecy quoted, or does the passage remind you of another part of scripture? If so, spend some time following the leads. How does the passage remind you of what you’ve known about God before? Does it make you think differently about God than you have done before?

*What does this passage tell me about myself?* To answer this question you might want to ask how you felt as you read the passage and how you feel as you reflect on it now. Do you identify with a particular character? Does it make you feel happy or sad, hopeful, excited, confused or any other emotions?

If you feel challenged, or as if something in the passage is really speaking to your or feels personal to you today, spend a few minutes thinking: what is it? What about it feels important to you?

*What is this passage inviting me to do differently?*

As Christians we are meant to live according to the truth that is in Jesus and to not be the same as before we knew him (Ephesians 4:20-24). As we learn the good news of Jesus and the truth about his love we are bound to change.

Spend time thinking about things in your life you might want to be or to do differently as a result of today’s study and pray about those things.

For each session, we will also provide a few questions to pick out the key elements of the passage and try and help you to be guided through the study.

**Time in Prayer - 10 mins**

Each time you meet or spend time reflecting alone, make sure you leave plenty of time to pray. You could pray about:

The Church and its leaders, both ours, Churches nearby and the worldwide Church

Situations locally or in the world around us

Things shared by people during your time together

Those who are afraid, sick or those who are bereaved

Committing to God that you will follow through on what you’ve been invited to do by today’s study.

Your neighbours and the street you live in.

Those who govern us locally, nationally and internationally.

**Study Questions**

1. **As is the way with Mark’s Gospel, this week’s 11 verses are full of action. What do you think led Simon and Andrew to tell Jesus about Simon’s Mother-in-law being sick? Do you think they expected him to be sympathetic or to do something?**
2. **When we hear about someone being sick, what is our instinct? Is it to be sympathetic or to act? Particularly in the times we are living in today with Covid-19 what, if anything, holds you back from offering prayer along with sympathy when you hear tough news about someone?**
3. **In vv32-34 Jesus’s reputation seems to have spread and many people brought those who were sick to him. How does what happen in these verses make you feel? We see later in the Bible that others did what Jesus did here (Luke 10, for instance) and we are told by Jesus that we will do what he did and even greater things besides. What do you think this means for your own life? What about for the life of our Church family?**
4. **How important do you think what happens in vv35-37 is?**
5. **In v38 it is clear that Jesus wants to spread the message God has given him widely and back it up with action and signs of the kingdom of God. What kind of template do you think this gives for us?**

**Something To Do This Week**

**Plan your week and make time to spend with God in a solitary place. See if you can make this a regular part of your diary. If it is hard, ask God to show you some other way that you can carve out time to prioritise spending time with him.**