

SCRIPTURE CARD GUIDE FOR GROUP DISCUSSION

"THE APPROACH" OCTOBER 30 & 31

SERIES OVERVIEW:

More than any other historical figure Jesus has been studied and written about and yet so many still wonder, who is Jesus, really? Cutting through the noise is the fast paced action packed Gospel of Mark. Mark presents the life of Jesus in two symmetrical acts: His IDENTITY as the King over all things and His PURPOSE in dying on the cross. As we explore the life of Jesus we will find Him to be unpredictable but reliable, meek but powerful, authoritative but humble, human but divine. As we encounter Jesus we must all consider the significance of the life of Jesus the King in our own lives.

*Follow the directions below for a guided group discussion with a friend, in a family, small group, etc.
Grab a Scripture Card (printed or electronic) and simply follow steps from 1 to 6 on this page and the next.*

1

OPENING PRAYER AND REFLECTION:

About 3 minutes

Ask a volunteer to open in prayer.

2

BIG IDEA:

About 1 minute to read

How do we approach Jesus? Religion teaches that we can only approach God through our goodness or sacrifices. Spirituality claims that access to God is available however you want it to be. A Syrophenecian woman shows us what the approach to Jesus truly looks like.

3

INTRO QUESTIONS:

About 12 minutes

How have you seen the goodness of God this week?



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Right away a woman who had heard about [Jesus] came and fell at his feet. Her little girl was possessed by an evil spirit, and she begged him to cast out the demon from her daughter.
- Mark 7:26 NLT

Reflect

Read the full passage in your Bible - Mark 7:24-37.

What word or phrase is the Holy Spirit highlighting from the scripture reading?

What might God be calling you to repent of or realign in your life?

What would acting upon this or obeying God look like? Be curious...and then do it.



DISCUSSION HELP:

Use follow-up questions to take the discussion deeper. Guide answers to be honest and real.

Can you say more about that?

How have you seen that play out in your life?

What does that stir up in you?

Has anyone else had a similar thought or experience?

What might God be inviting you to do?

4

SCRIPTURE READING + GROUP DISCUSSION

About 40-45 minutes


The woman in the passage is not asserting that she deserves anything on the basis of her own goodness or rights. Instead she is saying give me what I do not deserve on the basis of Jesus' goodness. One way grace is explained is by an acronym for "God's Riches At Christ's Expense". How would you explain grace?


5 LIVE IT OUT:

About 1 minute


Read this section aloud. Take a moment now to reflect on it.

TAKE IT DEEPER



Live It Out 

Practice approaching God with humility, desperate dependence, and gratitude this week. Create space, 10 minutes of quiet each day, to just sit with Jesus, being still, humbling yourself before him, and worshipping him.

Pray 

Invite God to show you how you approach him. Is it on the basis of what you can do or bring or on what Jesus did and brings? Share your heart and thoughts with God.

There are two ways that we fail to allow Jesus to be Lord of our lives:

- We can be too proud to accept his challenge.
- We can be too self-absorbed, believing that he could never love us.

Talk to God about which one most closely describes you.

Thank God that he has approached you with grace and mercy...and that he still does.

6

CLOSING GROUP PRAYER:

About 10 minutes

Read the prayer section on the card aloud, and take a moment of silence for each person to reflect on the prayer prompt personally.

The leader or apprentice will open in prayer leaving a time of popcorn prayer for group members to offer their prayers to God. Then the leader or apprentice will close the prayer.