



LIFEGROUPS STUDY GUIDE

"They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer." Acts 2:42

SERIES:

Mark

MESSAGE TITLE:

Jesus the Long-Awaited King

MESSAGE DATE:

03/09/2025

MESSAGE SUMMARY:

Pastor Matt Ousdahl begins a new sermon series on the Book of Mark, emphasizing the long-awaited arrival of King Jesus and the importance of preparing our hearts for His coming. He highlights John the Baptist's role as the messenger announcing Jesus, who, after being baptized and affirmed by God, begins His ministry of servant leadership. The message encourages listeners to recognize Jesus as the fulfillment of their longings and urges them to respond to His call by following Him without hesitation. Ultimately, Pastor Matt invites everyone to engage with the church community and consider their own spiritual journey.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1.) What does it mean that Jesus is described as the 'long-awaited king' in Sunday's message, and why is this concept important for understanding His role in the Gospel of Mark?

The message emphasizes that Jesus' arrival was prophesied and that people had been waiting for a long time for a savior. Mark introduces this idea right at the beginning when he talks about the good news of Jesus.

In what ways do you personally feel a sense of longing or waiting for something significant in your life, and how does that relate to the anticipation people had for Jesus?

2.) How does Mark's account of Jesus' baptism affirm His identity as the Son of God, and why is this moment significant in the context of the sermon?

Sunday's message discusses that during Jesus' baptism, a voice from heaven declared Jesus as God's dear son, affirming His identity and mission.

How do moments of affirmation in your life, whether it's from friends, family, or faith, shape your understanding of your own identity?

3.) What role did John the Baptist play in preparing the way for Jesus, and how did his actions contribute to the overall message of hope?

John the Baptist was described as a messenger who announced the coming of Jesus and encouraged people to repent, preparing their hearts for the king.

How can you act as a 'messenger' in your own life, sharing hope or encouragement with others who might be waiting for something?



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4.) What is the significance of the phrase 'the kingdom of God is near' as mentioned in the sermon, and how does it challenge us in today's context?

The message highlights that Jesus proclaimed the approaching kingdom of God and called people to repentance, which is a central theme in His message.

In what ways can you actively pursue a deeper understanding of what the 'kingdom of God' looks like in your everyday life?

5.) Reflecting on the call of the first disciples, what can we learn about the importance of responding quickly to God's invitations in our lives?

The message illustrates how the first disciples immediately left their nets to follow Jesus, demonstrating trust and commitment.

What are some 'nets' or distractions in your life that may be preventing you from fully committing to following God's call?