

Small Group Study: Week 1

Welcome to week one of the "Jesus Said" Small Group study. Over the next six weeks, we pray this study will help you and your group further grasp the words of Jesus and what they mean for your lives today. This study will build on each weekend's sermon, so please make it a priority to listen to the sermon before meeting with your group each week. If you were unable to catch the sermon this weekend, check it out at firstdecatour.org/sermons. Also, if you need an online Bible, please download the YouVersion Bible App from the App Store or Google Play.



Getting Started

- ▶ Words can be incredibly powerful, in both a good and bad way. What are some of the most potent positive words that have been spoken to you? Why have those words stuck with you?
- ▶ How have you used words to speak life into others?



Read Mark 1:14-20

As Pastor Wayne discussed this past weekend, there are probably some matters here that the author fails to mention. We have five men in the scene plus Jesus. There are two sets of brothers: Andrew and Peter, James and John. Four of them walk away from their boats, leaving the older man, Zebedee, in charge of their employees. It would seem reasonable these four men had met Jesus in the past; they already knew him.

John's record of Jesus' early ministry days has Andrew meeting Jesus before Peter. Interestingly, Andrew isn't mentioned very often in the New Testament, but John tells us that he was the one who introduced his brother to Jesus. I love it. A seemingly insignificant introduction between Jesus and Peter had a world-wide, history-long impact. We can follow Jesus today because Peter met Jesus and became the lead pastor of the first church.



Talk About It

- ▶ The encounter these men had with Jesus changed their lives and their trajectories. They dropped everything and followed him. How has your encounter with Jesus changed your life? What have you had to leave behind for his sake?
- ▶ I am sure these men had many questions, but despite their questions, they got up and followed. Put yourself in their situation. What questions would have been on your mind? As you follow Jesus today, what questions do you have about following him?
- ▶ Jesus transformed Peter into the dynamic leader of the first church, but that all started because Andrew introduced his brother to Jesus. Take a minute to think about who God might be asking you to introduce to him? What would keep you from doing that?
- ▶ As we discussed above, Andrew, in many ways, served in the background of Jesus' ministry. How are you or can you serve in the background right now?
- ▶ The best way we can allow God to use is to ask, "How can I minister here?" in every setting we are in. What context do you believe God is calling you to be more intentional about ministering in right now?



Jesus Said



Watch

- ▶ Watch the "Jesus Said Small Group Video Week 1" video as a group. This video is available on the leader blog here: <https://fccgrowtogether.org> or at <https://vimeo.com/394304585>. If you are able to stream videos to your TV, that would most likely be the best method. If not, consider showing the video on a laptop or tablet. Please let Pastor Jonathan know if you have any difficulties.



Talk About It

- ▶ Jesus ate with sinners and tax collectors. What would be the modern equivalent of a "tax collector" in our culture? Why is it significant that Jesus ate with tax collectors and sinners?
- ▶ The religious leaders criticized Jesus for spending time with these people. Are there ways we are guilty of being like the religious leaders today?
- ▶ What would it mean for you to "eat with tax collectors and sinners" in your day to day life?
- ▶ As you read Mark 1 and 2 this week, what was your biggest take-away?



Pray

As you close your group time this week, pray for one another as you commit to grow and learn together from God's word over the next 6 weeks. Pray that this will be a season where each person can be transformed by Jesus' words. Consider having your group break off into smaller groups of three or four and pray specifically by name for each other.



Bible Reading Plan

It is our desire that each person in your group would read the book of Mark over the next six weeks. As you prepare for next week, please read Chapters three and four and jot down some notes to bring with you to small group.