

the gospel Jesus' good news for all

noun | Greek εὐαγγέλιον (euangelion)

We'll be kicking off a new sermon series this Sunday where we'll be looking at Jesus' understanding of the good news and consider how that might still be good news for us today. This would be a great series to invite friends to since we'll be diving into a couple early stories about Jesus and inviting folks to encounter and experience this good news in practical ways.

FAMILY TIME

Take some time to share prayer requests and praise reports with each other and encourage folks to keep praying for each other's prayer requests throughout the week and to believe that these will become future praise reports.

BIBLE DISCUSSION: Mark 1.14-20

¹⁴After John was put in prison, Jesus went into Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God. ¹⁵"The time has come," he said. "The kingdom of God has come near. Repent and believe the good news!" ¹⁶As Jesus walked beside the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the lake, for they were fishermen. ¹⁷"Come, follow me," Jesus said, "and I will send you out to fish for people." ¹⁸At once they left their nets and followed him. ¹⁹When he had gone a little farther, he saw James son of Zebedee and his brother John in a boat, preparing their nets. ²⁰Without delay he called them, and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men and followed him.

Introduction Question: What is your understanding of the gospel? (In addition to sharing this with the group, have everyone write it down, as we'll be seeing how people's understanding of the gospel changes through this series.)

Notes:

- The opening line of Jesus' ministry seems to be his ministry/life statement: "The time has come. The kingdom of God has come near. Repent and believe the good news!"
- Jesus' understanding of the good news is that the kingdom of God has come near and he is the physical manifestation/representation of that new reality.
- The appropriate response to the kingdom of God coming near is to repent and believe—in other words, to turn away from the beliefs or idols that keep us away from God and to turn towards accepting that the kingdom of God has indeed come near and to step into experiencing the fullness of that good news.
- Without repenting and believing, it seems highly unlikely that anyone could experience much of the kingdom of God.
- The brothers leaving their jobs and even families behind is an example of turning away from something that might keep them from experiencing the fullness of the kingdom of God. In this way, they demonstrate for us what it would look like to "repent and believe the good news."
- One of the keys of this passage, then, is that we must choose to truly follow God in order to step into the new reality that the kingdom of God is near. Only in turning from the things of this world and turning towards God's truths will we be able to step into his kingdom.

Key Discussion Questions:

- What is the good news of God, according to this text?
- What does it mean when Jesus declares, "The kingdom of God has come near"?

- Why might Jesus call us to “repent and believe”?
- What do you learn about Jesus’ mission/purpose on earth?
- Why would the brothers leave everything to follow Jesus?
- What would have happened if the brothers didn’t want to leave everything and follow Jesus?
- In what ways have the brothers responded to Jesus’ opening declaration and call: “The kingdom of God has come near. Repent and believe the good news!” (v. 15).

Reflection Question:

- 1) What do you learn about the good news?
- 2) Are there things that are hindering you from being able to follow Jesus and to experience his good news?

Small Group: Break up into groups of 3-4 to share about the things that might be hindering us from being able to follow Jesus and to experience his good news. Then pray for us to be freed from those things so that we can turn to Jesus and experience the fullness of the kingdom of God.

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the lake, for they were fishermen. **17** “Come, follow me,” Jesus said, “and I will send you out to fish for

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