



WEEK FOUR | STORIES ABOUT THE KINGDOM

We reach a shift this week in Jesus' journey as told by Mark. So far, he's spent much of his time revealing who he is by performing miracles that show the power of God as only he can possess. Now, Jesus seems to be working more on his close followers, the ones who will carry the torch someday. What Jesus knows that others do not is that his closest circle thinks they know who he is and why he is here but prove again and again that they aren't there yet. The pressure is on because Jesus' time is getting short.

When it comes to consumerism, what is your weakness and greatest temptation?

TALK ABOUT IT

Refresh a little about what is happening in chapter 4. This one parable is indicative of the very familiar ones before it.

Read Mark 4:30–34 (Parable of the mustard seed)

What do you think has most contributed to the lack of community in secular life?

How has individualism effected the Church and people's desire for Jesus?

APPLY IT

Read Mark 4:35–41 (Jesus calms the storm)

We are tempted to think this story is simply about a miracle and the power of God. Not really, the disciples' reaction at the end (vs. 41) is the real point.

Let's talk about the meaning/reality of the Kingdom of God. How do we get it? How do we not get it today?

Clarity is a highly valuable commodity. When someone wants you to do something, don't you just want to say, "Just tell me what you really want"? Take out all the noise and gobbled gook and just tell me what you want. Well, that's not what Jesus did, at least not at first. He spent the first three chapters showing who he was and now he's being cryptic to conceal it except to his followers. Confused?

What is something you were not ready to hear? How did you handle it?

What evidence do you have of peoples' misunderstanding of God's Kingdom (including Christians)?

What is one prominent way the Kingdom of God has changed your life?

PRAY

It's always beneficial to close your time together by simply checking in on one another. We may never know what's going on in one another's lives unless we open a door and ask.