**Session 1: Intro/ Review Mark I**

* Welcome – get to know one another
* Review Mark I - Group read aloud…?
* Q: What are the high notes for you?
* Note to leader – What do you want to highlight...? What has traction in the group/where is the HS moving…?
* How does Mark I prepare their hearts & souls for Mark II? How have the experiences of the last year prepared them for this?
* Mark I goes to Peter’s great confession at the crossroads of the World, “You are the Christ!” – the first half of Mark is about the King and His Kingdom, and literally reaches it’s apex halfway through in Chapter 8. What is the King like? How does his Kingdom work? What does Jesus have authority over?
* Mark II is about the Way of the Cross. At Caesarea Philippi, Jesus sets his face towards Jerusalem and Golgotha. What does it mean for him to be not only King, but the Messiah. What does it mean for those who would follow him…?

**Session 2: Suffer-Die-Rise**

**Section: 20:1 – 20:24 (…power.)**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Background:* Dan. 7:13-14 - Son of Man
* Cross = condemned to death
* Is. 53:1-12 – OT Messiah
 | Flow of the Passage:* Caesarea Philippi: “You are the Christ”
* Christ? Suffer🡪Die🡪Rise
* Two rebukes: No way, Lord 🡪 Get behind me Satan!
* The cost of discipleship
 |
| Key Questions and Themes:* The Way of the Cross: Suffer, Die, Rise
* Lose your life to gain it
* Ashamed of Jesus?
* What’s going on with Peter?
* What is it to be a disciple/Christian?
 | Possible Applications:* What does it mean to follow Jesus, be a Christian…?
* What does it mean to “deny yourself”?
* What does the way of the cross look like this week at camp…?
* Where are you in the Suffer-Die-Rise cycle? (reflect on the year)
 |
| Places for Preaching and Stories:* Where has discipleship been costly, and worth it?
* Where are we in this cycle…?
 | Ideas for Experiential Learning and Creative Response: |
| Staff Leader Needs to: | Materials and Props:* Movie clip: end of Fellowship of the Ring – Sam willing to go with Frodo, no matter the cost. What will you choose? Is it worth it?
 |

**Session 3: The Transfiguration**

**Section: 20:24 – 22:19 (…prayer.)**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Background:* Mtns in OT = place to meet God
* Encounters with the Glory of the Lord – Ex. 24:15-16, Ex. 34:29-30, 1 Ki. 19:8-12
* Booths – Lev. 23:41-43, Neh. 8:14-17
* Elijah – Mal. 4:4-6, 2 Ki. 2:11-12
* The Prophet – Deut. 18:15
* Moses & Elijah: Law & the Prophets
* Faithless generation – Ps. 78:5-8, 95:10
* Only by prayer? See Don English: Mark (BST-IVP)
 | Flow of the Passage:* Transfiguration – Wow!
* Peter – let’s just stay here…!
* “Shut up and listen”
* Down the mountain – healing – help my unbelief!
 |
| Key Questions and Themes:* What are you looking for in a Messiah?
* Fear vs. Faith
* “I believe; help my unbelief”
* Why the secrecy: “Tell no one.”?
 | Possible Applications:* Moving along/forward in belief… ourselves and others.
* “Listen to him”: What has Jesus been saying? (in Mark, or to you specifically)
* Faith anchors – what do you go back to when it’s hard…? - “This I know…”
* The power of prayer
 |
| Places for Preaching and Stories: | Ideas for Experiential Learning and Creative Response:* Create your ideal Messiah – collage or other artistic expression.
 |
| Staff Leader Needs to: | Materials and Props:* Magazines to cut out for collages…
 |

**Session 4: The Upside-Down Kingdom**

**Section: 22:19 – 23:27 (…one another.)**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Background:* What are children like in Jesus’ day?
* Salt losing it’s saltiness = worthless!
* Judgement – Is. 66:22-24
 | Flow of the Passage:* Road to Galilee…
* Suffer-Die-Rise again…
* Argument: Who’s the Greatest?
* Their concern: Who’s right, who’s in…
* Jesus: watch out for the temptation to judgement! Judge sin!
 |
| Key Questions and Themes:* What it means for him to be Messiah
* Greatest OK 🡪 last, servant
* Hand causes you to sin? Cut it off?!?
* Salt analogy – judgement
* Sin is bad, serious, either for/against God
 | Possible Applications:* Have salt in yourselves: humility, judgement of sin
* Childlike posture
* How does you eye/hand cause you to sin?
* What would it look like to take sin seriously?
 |
| Places for Preaching and Stories:* Aron Ralston (127 Hours) caught in a canyon in Utah – cut off arm to save his life!
 | Ideas for Experiential Learning and Creative Response:* Picture of the body
* Confess your sins to one another (James)
 |
| Staff Leader Needs to: | Materials and Props:* Movie clip: *127 Hours*
 |

**Session 5: Where is your Heart?**

**Section: 23:27 – 25:21 (…first.)**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Background:* Low status of women/wives/children
* Certificate of Divorce – Deut. 24:1-4
* One flesh, male/female – Gen 1:27, 2:24
* Sue’s notes on divorce
* Mal. 2:15-16 – God hates divorce (why?)
* Ps. 95:8, Ex. 17:1-7 – don’t harden heart
* Ex. 20:2-17 – 10 Commandments
* Ps. 52:7 – trust in great wealth
 | Flow of the Passage:* Pharisees’ test: Divorce?
* Let the children come…
* Rich Young Ruler
* 3 sad stories… Jesus grieved
 |
| Key Questions and Themes:* Why the “children” sandwhich…?
* Wealth is dangerous – beware!
* What “one thing” does he lack? – God!
* Hardness of heart… maybe the problem is you
* God’s heart = life for women, children, prisoners
 | Possible Applications:* $ deceives us with the promise of independence
* What is your “one thing”?
* Some people walk away…
* How can we be serious about relationships?
 |
| Places for Preaching and Stories:* How Christians/church most often deal with divorce…
 | Ideas for Experiential Learning and Creative Response: |
| Staff Leader Needs to:* Tricky: impossible vs. possible
* There was no gate in Jerusalem called “Eye of the Needle”, contrary to popular belief!
 | Materials and Props:* SNL clip: *The Heyward Foundation (Oct. 1996)*
* Other passages on divorce (Sue’s notes)
* Nickki Toyama testimony from Urbana
* $ articles
 |

**Session 6: Servanthood**

**Section: 25:22 – 27:8 (…way.)**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Background:* Cup - Jer. 25:15-18, Is. 51:17-23
* Baptism – Rom. 3:4, Is. 4:4
* Son of David – Ps. 132:11, Is. 9:6-7, Is. 11:1-3, Jer. 23:5-6
 | Flow of the Passage:* Road to Jerusalem… increasing crowds!
* Two requests: James & John, Bartimaeus
* Compare/contrast
* What’s powerful in the Kingdom is servanthood
 |
| Key Questions and Themes:* Greatness in the World vs. Greatness in the Kingdom (upside down)
* What do James & John understand/recognize

/want?* Son of Man came to serve
* Who sees Jesus clearly here?
* Bold faith = belief in Jesus’ power & goodness
* Is it OK to seek greatness?
 | Possible Applications:* Opportunities to serve: this week, this spring/summer
* Downward mobility
* How do we shush people?
* What do you want Jesus to do for you?
 |
| Places for Preaching and Stories: | Ideas for Experiential Learning and Creative Response:* Two pictures of success… how to image?
 |
| Staff Leader Needs to: | Materials and Props:* Bringing things to serve others
 |

**Session 7: Hypocrisy**

**Section: 27:8 – 28:27 (…trespasses.)**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Background:* Zech. 9:9-10, 2 Ki. 9:13 – Hail the King
* Figs: Hos. 9:10, Jer. 29:17, Micah 7:1-5
* House of Prayer – Is. 56:6-7, 1 Ki. 8:41-43
* Moving the moneychangers into the Court of the Gentiles happened in Jesus’ generation
* Is. 11:1-4 – judgement
* Hypocrisy – Jer. 7:1-11, 8:13-14
 | Flow of the Passage:* “Triumphal Entry” – on a donkey?!
* Fig Tree/ Temple sandwhich
* He’s the King who doesn’t look like one
* The Fig Tree looks right, but isn’t
* The Temple
 |
| Key Questions and Themes:* Beware hypocrisy – in all its forms!
* Again… the wrong Messiah
* Lots of emotion here: their fervor/excitement vs. what he cares/is passionate about
* What does Jesus curse…? Hypocrisy, no faith in God
* Conditional forgiveness?
* The danger of hypocrisy vs. the power of forgiveness
 | Possible Applications:* Is there a “Court of the Gentiles” in your fellowship?
* Where is there hypocrisy in my life? … warning signs?
* Instructions on prayer – the antidote to hypocrisy
* Power of prayer
* What robs your life of prayer?
* Unforgiveness?
 |
| Places for Preaching and Stories: | Ideas for Experiential Learning and Creative Response: |
| Staff Leader Needs to:* Remember that Jesus cursing anything makes some people uncomfortable.
 | Materials and Props:* Movie clips on hypocrisy? – *Training Day, Mean Girls*
 |

**Session 8: Render to Caesar**

**Section: 29:1 – 30:19 (…him.)**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Background:* Is. 5:1-7, 3:14-15 – Israel is God’s vineyard
* Ps. 118:22-23 – the Cornerstone
 | Flow of the Passage:* The question of Authority
* Parable of the Tenants
* Ownership
 |
| Key Questions and Themes:* What authority does Jesus have?
* What rightly belongs to God?
* What is the owner/God really like?
* The reality of Judgment is uncomfortable
* Side of God vs. Men… they will conflict; you cannot have both
 | Possible Applications:* Soil check… what kind of fruit is He looking for?
* What’s it like to be a renter/tenant…?
* What of ours belongs to God? Do we really believe what we say?
* Steps we can take: pray, risk, resist rationalizations,
* What if we tried this for 24 hours, 1 week..?
 |
| Places for Preaching and Stories: | Ideas for Experiential Learning and Creative Response: |
| Staff Leader Needs to: | Materials and Props: |

**Session 9: True Religion**

**Section: 30:19 – 32:15 (…living.)**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Background:* Sadducees? Herodians?
* Deut. 25:5-6 – levirate marriage – meant to protect widows economically
* Quotes – Ex. 3:5-6, Deut. 6:5, Lev. 19:18, Ps. 110:1
* Ancestors are considered greater, not descendants
 | Flow of the Passage:* Question of the Sadducees
* Question of the Scribes
* Question of Jesus
* Widow’s Mite
 |
| Key Questions and Themes:* Do we know the Scriptures and the power of God? What does that even mean…?
* The Spirit/Heart of the law
* Beware: what do these things look like now?
 | Possible Applications:* What will you give…?
* What things do we do for appearance/honor/ and power?
* What are we impressed by?
 |
| Places for Preaching and Stories: | Ideas for Experiential Learning and Creative Response: |
| Staff Leader Needs to: | Materials and Props: |

**Session 10: The Little Apocalypse**

**Section: 32:15 – 35:2 (…watch.)**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Background:* This kind of imagery/language is not strange or unusual to them.
* History: see notes from Josephus
* Siege of Jerusalem & destruction of the Temple 66-70 AD
* The Temple: what does it mean, represent, embody, do?
* Luke 21:20-24 – this happened!
* Kings sat to dispense judgment
 | Flow of the Passage:* The appearance of the Temple/City…
* Destruction/judgment coming…
* Disciples’ Q: When, what signs?
* Coming days… but the end is not yet.
* Last days… no one knows that hour.
 |
| Key Questions and Themes:* What is being born?
* Notice tenses of words
* Notice timing: “this generation” and “these things” vs. “that day or that hour”
* Notice shift in style & tone when he is talking about the end of time.
* History is linear, not cyclical
 | Possible Applications:* Handling challenging passages
* “Watch!”
* What does it mean to “stay awake” in these crazy days…?
 |
| Places for Preaching and Stories:* Encouragement: you can handle even challenging passages – the rules don’t change, just because the style of narrative does
 | Ideas for Experiential Learning and Creative Response:* Mission Impossible – clues to help sort out an unusual passage – esp. Josephus & Scripture
 |
| Staff Leader Needs to:* Help them to exposit the passage and history, not their pastor’s eschatology
* Introduction to apocalyptic language
 | Materials and Props:* History & scripture handouts
 |

**Session 11: The Beautiful Waste**

**Section: 35:2-23 (…betray him.)**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Background:* Passover – Deut. 16:1-8, Ex. 12
* 1 Sam 16:13 – anointing
* Deut. 15:4 – the poor
* Ps. 41:9, 55:12-14 – close friend
* Nard – very expensive treasure, probably for her own burial
 | Flow of the Passage:* In the house of a leper…
* Jesus anointed by a woman
* Disciples’ reproach
* Jesus’ reproach
* Judas betrays Him
 |
| Key Questions and Themes:* Why are the disciples suddenly worried about the poor?
* Why does Jesus praise her?
* Is this a waste, or a beautiful thing?
* Comp/contrast: A stranger comes & gives her most valuable thing for Jesus, while Judas gives up Jesus for some $
* What does this say about greatness in the Kingdom…
 | Possible Applications:* Are there ways we value \_\_\_\_\_ (social justice, other good things) over intimate, deep love for Jesus?
* Consider your time in IV: what have you done the world would consider a waste? Do you?
* No one wants to be Judas, but what are we doing to be like the woman…?
 |
| Places for Preaching and Stories:* Tell a story of someone “wasting” their lives for the Kingdom.
* Beautiful and tender pictures of devotion to Jesus, like Mother Teresa.
* The woman used the nard for it’s purpose – what is our purpose and will we let our lives be poured out for that purpose?
 | Ideas for Experiential Learning and Creative Response:* Judas vs. the Woman
* What could you spend right here/now? Go and do likewise!
 |
| Staff Leader Needs to:* Help students get out of their “we suck” mentality, and figure out how they can do something extravagant, prodigal, wasteful that is beautiful in the Lord’s eyes.
 | Materials and Props:* Mother Teresa: A Beautiful Thing for God, by Muggeridge.
* Clip from documentary on Ma T
* Song “A Beautiful Waste” by Chris Heifner
 |

**Session 12: Last Supper & Gethsemane**

**Section: 35:23 – 38:9 (…naked.)**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Background:* Zech. 13:7 – strike the Shepherd
* Ps. 41:9
* Ps. 22:14 – broken, poured out
* Cup of wrath – Is. 51:17-22, Jer. 25:15
* Ps. 88
* Gethsemane = “oil press”
* Is the mysterious “young man” Mark?
 | Flow of the Passage:* Preparing the Upper Room
* “One of you will betray me”
* Last Supper – broken & poured
* Mt. of Olives – Peter’s boast
* Gethsemane – Jesus prays, they sleep
* Jesus arrested
 |
| Key Questions and Themes:* Sets of 3: sleep, death, denial
* Broken & poured – like the nard
* Sleeping vs. watching
* Side of man vs. God
* Compare Gethsemane w/ Eden: 2 Gardens, 2 men, 2 choices…
* Why doesn’t Jesus fight?
* Betrayal/”falling away”
 | Possible Applications:* How easily do we fall away when our world gets rocked?
* “Watch and pray…the spirit is willing but the flesh is weak.” – this is the center of a chiasm (X) between 36:23 (all fall away, sheep scatter) and 38:6 (all forsook him, and fled)
* How have we betrayed Jesus? How have our bodies betrayed us? “If you deny me before men…”
 |
| Places for Preaching and Stories:* Even Jesus experienced “unanswered prayer”, betrayal by friends, loneliness, deep anguish & sorrow…!
 | Ideas for Experiential Learning and Creative Response: |
| Staff Leader Needs to: | Materials and Props:* Michael Card songs, *“In the Garden” & “Come to the Table”*
 |

**Session 13: Christ & King on Trial**

**Section: 38:9 – 40:14 (…to be crucified.)**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Background:* Sanhedrin – ruling council, all his enemies
* Deut. 17:6 – false witnesses
* Ex. 3:14 – I AM
* Son of Man – Dan. 7:13-14, Ps. 110:1
* John 2:19-21 – Temple quote (they misquote)
* Is. 53 – the Suffering Servant
* Pilate, laws on crucifixion
* BarAbbas = “Son of the Father”
* More 3’s: foretells death, Peter’s denial, Pilate’s attempts to stop… 3 in Jewish lit. = completeness
 | Flow of the Passage:* From the Temple to the Palace
* Trial before the Sanhedrin – Are you the Christ? (Blasphemy)
* Peter’s denial
* Jesus before Pilate – Are you the King of the Jews? (Treason)
* Two shams, with Peter in between… Why does Mark sandwich these?
 |
| Key Questions and Themes:* Lots of irony!
* Who’s in control here…?
* What do you see?
* Comp/Cont Peter & Jesus
* Comp/Cont Judas & Peter – why does Pete cry, what changes?
* Why does Jesus go meekly?
 | Possible Applications:* The more hysterical, dark, and unfair this gets, the more we see Jesus’ glory!
* What kind of Messiah are you looking for? What kind of King?
* Is Jesus Savior and King to you?
 |
| Places for Preaching and Stories:* Picture of the Gospel – the one deserving death goes free, the innocent takes his place
* Hosanna 🡪 Crucify Him!? How does that happen in us?
* Who’s side are you on?
 | Ideas for Experiential Learning and Creative Response:* Set up a scene where you accuse someone unfairly and they don’t defend themselves…what is that tension like?
* Create a “readers theater” of the trial from reading the Message aloud.
 |
| Staff Leader Needs to:* How do you make a familiar story (ho-hum) come alive again…?
* How to connect with the visceral & emotional reality of this…?
 | Materials and Props:* Scenes from *“The Passion of the Christ”?*
 |

**Session 14: They Were Afraid**

**Section: 40:14 – 42:28 (…afraid.)**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Background:* Isaiah 53 & Psalm 22 – Messianic prophecies
* Ps. 69:20-21
* Ex. 10:21-22
* Third hour = 9:00 am
* Lev. 16 – Day of Atonement
* Deut. 21:22-23 – hung on tree = curse
* Ex. 26:31-35 – the veil in the Tabernacle
 | Flow of the Passage:* From the Place of the Skull to the Tomb
* Humiliation of Jesus
* Crucifixion – a criminal’s death
* Cliffhanger ending… why?
* Note: extra verses not in the earliest manuscripts, but added later (can’t imagine why…)
 |
| Key Questions and Themes:* Why does Mark end his Gospel this way!?
* What do we see of Jesus in his suffering, humiliation, and death?
* Lose your life to save it
* Fear vs. Faith
* Notice the role of women (and other “outsiders”) in the Gospel…
* “and Peter” – what wonderful words
* How did Jesus exhibit all the things he called the 12 to…?
 | Possible Applications:* The choice is yours – how will you respond?
* Fear vs. Faith, Secret of the Kingdom, the Way of the Cross, Cost of Discipleship…
* Knowing who Jesus is and what his way is like, do you still want to follow Him?
* What does it mean for you to “go to Galillee”?
 |
| Places for Preaching and Stories:* Notice the cast of characters: Simon of Cyrene, Roman centurion, many women, Joseph… where are the disciples?
 | Ideas for Experiential Learning and Creative Response:* Write the end of the story – what would you want to be said of you?
* Read from Foxes Book of Martyrs…how did the disciples finish the story?
* Take communion together
 |
| Staff Leader Needs to:* Why do the Crucifixion and tearing of the Temple curtain matter?
* Stress the question – what will you do now? Jesus is risen – how will you respond?
 | Materials and Props: |

**Session 15: Mark II Review & Application**