



Island Groups

Abide • Connect • Share

Week of July 6, 2025

BOOK OF MARK – WEEK 33

WHAT KIND OF KING?

(MARK 11:1-11)

OPENING PRAYER TIME

As we continue our "The Book of Mark" series, exploring Jesus as our King, let's make sure we are anchoring everything in prayer. You might guide the group through prayer by offering these prompts, pausing for 30-60 seconds between each one to allow time for silent or spoken prayer:

- Thank God that Jesus is our King of peace, bringing reconciliation between us and God
- Praise Jesus for being the prophetic King who fulfills every promise and knows exactly what lies ahead
- Confess any areas where you've been trying to be king of your own life instead of submitting to His authority
- Ask the Holy Spirit to help you represent your King well through serving, loving, and building others up
- Pray for humility to surrender completely to Jesus' lordship over every area of your life
- Invite Jesus to rule over your heart, mind, relationships, time, and resources as the one true King

You may want to incorporate a time of silence for personal reflection and listening, or to encourage members to voice simple one-word prayers of praise and gratitude.

Remember, **PRAYER IS THE WORK** that empowers everything else! So let's commit to pursuing Him wholeheartedly as we gather.



DISCUSSION

Begin by asking, "**Have you ever represented someone else - whether through your job, as part of a team, or in another role? What did it feel like to know that your actions reflected on someone else?**"

Ask one person to read **Mark 11:1-6** and someone else to read **Mark 11:7-11**. What stands out to you most from this passage about Jesus' entry into Jerusalem?

Pastor Paul emphasized that Jesus chose to ride a donkey rather than a warhorse or stallion. What message was Jesus sending by this choice? How does this contrast with how Roman generals and kings typically entered cities?

Have someone read **Zechariah 9:9**. How does Jesus' triumphal entry fulfill this Old Testament prophecy? What does this reveal about Jesus as a prophetic king who knows exactly what's coming?

Pastor Paul pointed out that "***you now represent your king***" as followers of Christ. What does it mean to represent Jesus in your daily life? How should this reality change the way you live?

Jesus as a Peaceful King: According to **1 Timothy 2:5**, Jesus came as a mediator to bring peace between God and humanity. Pastor Paul also referenced **Romans 12:18**: "**If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone.**" Why is it sometimes difficult to be a peacemaker? Share about a time when you had to choose between stirring up conflict or pursuing peace.

Pastor Paul said, "***God wants you to be a peacemaker. He doesn't want you to be a troublemaker.***" He also noted that "***there are people in your lives who are easily offended***" and mentioned the importance of being "***kind, humble, and loving.***" How can we practically apply this in our most challenging relationships?

Jesus as a Prophetic King: Jesus demonstrated His omniscience by knowing exactly where the donkey would be and what would happen. He also showed His omnipotence - His all-powerful nature. Pastor Paul said, "***God can make a way where there is no way.***" How have you experienced God's power in seemingly impossible situations?

Jesus as a Servant King: Have someone read **Mark 10:45**. How does Jesus model servant leadership? According to **1 Peter 4:10**, "**As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace.**" What spiritual gifts has God given you, and how are you using them to serve others?

Pastor Paul said, "***Have you ever been around somebody who just tears people down? How long were you around that person?***" Why are we naturally drawn to people who build others up rather than tear them down? How can we be more intentional about building others up?

Jesus as a Saving King: Pastor Paul used five words to describe how the donkey illustrates our salvation: **recognized, released, redeemed, ruled, and returned.** Walk through each of these. How does each word help us understand what Jesus has done for us?

Regarding being "ruled" by Jesus, Pastor Paul said, "***You might be untied because of Jesus from your sin... You may be saved, but I got news for you. We all have some growing up to do.***" What's the difference between being saved from sin and allowing Jesus to rule every area of your life?

Pastor Paul asked, "***You need to let the Lord's authority sit on your money... your time... your family... your relationships... everything that you have for his use.***" Which of these areas is most challenging for you to surrender to Jesus' authority? Why?

When we are "returned" by Jesus, Pastor Paul explained we become "***different... better... a new person***" who will "***represent the King.***" How have you seen this transformation happening in your own life or in the lives of others?

Pastor Paul challenged the common statement "God's number one in my life" by saying, "***if God is truly number one in our lives, then he will order everything else in our lives too.***" What's the difference between making God "number one" versus letting Him order your entire life?

APPLICATION

Examine which "king" your life currently represents. Pastor Paul asked, "What king does your life represent this morning? Is it Jesus?" Honestly assess whether your decisions, words, and actions reflect Jesus as your King or if you've been trying to be king of your own life.

Choose one specific area where you need to let "the Lord's authority sit" - whether it's your money, time, relationships, or another area. Make a practical plan this week to surrender that area more fully to Jesus' rule.

Practice being a peacemaker in one challenging relationship this week. As Pastor Paul said, "if it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone." Look for opportunities to be "kind, humble, and loving" rather than stirring up conflict.

Use your spiritual gifts to serve others this week. Identify at least one way you can "serve, help, build, love" someone else, remembering that "you represent a servant king."

CLOSING PRAYER TIME

Take time to share prayer requests. Write these down and distribute them so the group can be praying throughout the week. In addition to the prayer requests, include the following in your prayers:

- Thank Jesus for being our King of peace, prophecy, service, and salvation who came riding humbly on a donkey to serve us
- Confess any ways you've been trying to be king of your own life instead of submitting to Jesus' authority
- Ask for grace to represent your King well through your words, actions, and relationships this week
- Pray for wisdom to know when to be peacemakers and how to serve others with the gifts God has given you
- Ask the Holy Spirit to help you surrender every area of your life - money, time, relationships, decisions - to Jesus' lordship
- Pray for hope as we wait for our King's promised return, knowing He always keeps His promises

Close by declaring together that Jesus is the King of your lives, and commit to representing Him well until He returns to take His people home. Praise Him that when we surrender to His authority, we become "different... better" and are used for His kingdom purposes!