



THE LIGHT SHINES IN THE DARKNESS

JANUARY BIBLE STUDY | THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO MARK

*Lord Jesus, as we study your Word we ask you for the understanding to know and love you better, that we may serve you with full and faithful hearts as you send us on mission. May your light shine through us in all that we do.
Amen.*

Week of January 17: Chapter 1

- Why do you think God decided to send someone to announce that the Messiah was on his way? Why didn't he just have Jesus announce himself?
- In our present circumstances, how can we make our lives more and more pleasing to the Father?
- What can we do to help each other cultivate a deeper intimacy with Christ, a more personal and real friendship with Him, so that we will always be able to "leave our nets behind" whenever He calls us?
- What prevents us from feeling a more intense need for a deep prayer life? How can we better follow our Lord's example in this area?

Week of January 24: Chapter 2

- The men who carried the paralytic to Jesus were instrumental in his cure: Jesus forgave his sins upon seeing "their faith" – plural, not singular. How can we more effectively show that kind of concern for others in the concrete circumstances of our lives?
- For the Jews of Jesus' time, the "old wineskins" were the Old Testament practices. In our day, what are the "old wineskins" we can be tempted to use to tame Christ's demands on our lives?
- How can we make sure that the sacrifices we have taken on as a result of our commitment to Christ and his Church always flow from love for Christ and a desire to imitate and get closer to Him, and never degenerate into dry duties performed in order to foster an attitude of self-righteousness?

Week of January 31: Chapter 3

- How can we combat the threat of empty ritualism as we practice our faith?
- Is there anything more we can do to help those around us who are suffering, as Jesus helped the suffering crowds in this passage?
- What other "success formulas" are we tempted to follow, instead of the one Christ gives us: "do the will of God?"

Reflection questions are based largely on "The Better Part" by Fr. John Bartunek, LC