

# Conversations With Jesus



Faith and fellowship  
Small Group Ministry  
Holy Trinity Church  
San Francisco

## Prayer Before Study

Illumine our hearts, loving Master, with the pure light of Your divine knowledge, and open our minds that we may comprehend the message of Your Gospel. Instill in us also respect for Your blessed Commandments, so that conquering sinful desires we may pursue a more spiritual life, thinking and doing all those things that are pleasing to you. For You are the light of our souls and bodies and to You we send up glory, together with Your Father who is without beginning and Your All-Holy and Live-giving now and forever and to the ages of ages. Amen

## Prayer After Study

Christ our God, You are the fulfillment of the Law and the Prophets. You have completed the divine plan of the Father. Fill our hearts with joy and gladness now and forever and to the ages of ages. Amen.



## Members of Our Group

**Name**

**Email**

**Phone**

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## **Meeting One: Come, Follow Me    Mark 1**

1. List a few of the activities Jesus is involved with in just this one chapter.
2. Jesus is immediately tempted after he is baptized. Is there a correlation between those two events?
3. How is the fact that “the kingdom of God is near” good news -vs. 14, 15? How do you find that to be true?
4. Why do you think the fishermen seemed to follow Jesus without much information or persuasion? What causes you to want to follow Jesus?
5. Where does Jesus get his authority? (Note carefully vss. 21-35)
6. Why do you think that Jesus, at this stage of his life and ministry, is reluctant to (and discourages others from) revealing his true identity?
7. Review the events of this chapter. Which one caught your attention? Did you notice anything for the “first time”?

## **Meeting Two: Your Sins Are Forgiven     Mark 2:1-12**

1. Imagine yourself owning the house described in vss. 1-5. How does this chaotic scene fit with God as a God of order?
2. What do you think the paralytic man thought of Jesus' response in vs. 5?
3. Why do the religious leaders react as they do in vs. 6, 7? Do you think they have reasons to feel justified in their position? Explain.
4. Why does Jesus ask that particular question in vs. 9? What kind of answer would be appropriate?
5. Do you think Jesus was going to heal the man anyway, or did he plan to simply assure him his sins were forgiven (9-11)?
6. What were the reactions to Jesus in Mark 1:18, 22, and 27. What are the reactions of most people today when they hear of Jesus?
7. Be honest: Which would thrill you more: To be instantly healed of paralysis, or to be assured your sins are forgiven?

## Meeting Three: Follow Me Mark 2:13-28

1. Why do you think Levi (Matthew) is singled out (vs. 14) from the other followers (vs. 15)?
2. Who or what do you think is meant by “sinners” in verse 15?
3. What reason does Jesus give for associating with the sinners (vs. 17)? How does that compare with your associations with non-Christians?
4. In vs. 16, the Pharisees complain to the disciples about Jesus. What do they accuse Jesus of doing?
5. What is their complaint in vss. 23 and 24?
6. What is the principle Jesus is explaining in vs. 27?
7. How does that principle apply to us today?

## Meeting Four: For She Loved Much Luke 7:36-50

1. At this dinner the lowest and highest of society gather. Who are the two classes listed in vs. 36, 37?
2. What assumptions does the Pharisee make about Jesus and the woman?
3. What term does Luke use to refer to the host (vss. 36, 37, 39)? What term does Jesus use (vs. 40)? What does that tell us?
4. Why do you think Jesus responds to Simon with a story rather than a direct statement?
5. What conclusion do you think Jesus hopes Simon will reach?
6. On what basis is the woman forgiven (vs. 47)?
7. How would vs. 47 apply to us today?

## Meeting Five: Consider Carefully What You Hear Mark 4:1-25

1. Why do you think Jesus so often taught by parables?
  
2. Jesus often used examples from nature. In the parable vs. 3-8, give the meaning of these things: (see vs. 13-20)
  - a. seed -
  - b. soil -
  - c. birds -
  - d. sun -
  - e. thorns -
  
3. The seed was always the same, but do we have a choice in what kind of soil we are?
  
4. Note vs. 10 and 11. How are “the Twelve” different from “the others”? Is there a parallel in our world and lives today?
  
5. What does “He who has ears to hear, let him hear” mean (vs. 9)? (The seed was always the same, but do we have a choice in what kind of soil we are?)

## **Meeting Six: Listen to Me and Understand    Mark 7:1-23**

1. List the groups in this discussion (vs. 1 and 2).
2. Why is Jesus so harsh in his reply--vss. 6, 9?
3. What illustration does Jesus use to show the hypocrisy of the Pharisees (vs. 8)?
4. What illustration might he use if he were addressing our culture today?
5. What principle is Jesus illustrating (vs. 14, 15)?
6. Why do the disciples have such a difficult time understanding his lesson in vss. 17-23?
7. Jesus seems to make no distinction in the sins listed in vss. 21-22. We tend to see sins as "big" or "small" sins. Do such distinctions exist?

## **Meeting Seven: Where is Your Faith?    Luke 8:22-39**

1. Can you share a fear? Have you ever been immobilized by fear? How did you deal with it?
2. What question does Jesus use to confront the disciples' fear? What is their question in response?
3. Do you know of people crippled and bound emotionally or spiritually like the man in vss. 26-29? Can you think of some way to reach out to them?
4. Why do you think Jesus agreed to the pleas of the demons (vs 32)?
5. Why do you think the people wanted Jesus to leave the area (vs. 37)?
6. What does Jesus tell the man to do in vss. 38, 39? How well are you doing the same thing?
7. Do you have an underlying fear in your life? How do you think Jesus might want to deal with it?

## **Meeting Eight: Who Is My Neighbor?    Luke 10:25-37**

1. What answer do you think the expert in law was expecting in vs. 1?
2. What do you learn about the lawyer in vss. 25, 27, and 29?
3. How would you answer Jesus if he told you that eternal life depended on you keeping the commandments of loving God and loving your neighbor?
4. Why does Jesus often use an “enemy” or despised person as a “hero” of his stories? Can you give a contemporary parallel?
5. What would be contemporary counterparts of the priest and the Levite?
6. From this story can you deduce to what extent God would have us go in helping others (vss. 33-35)?
7. Who are your neighbors? How far should your reach extend? Give examples.

## **Meeting Nine: Who Do You Say I Am?    Mark 8:22-38**

1. What steps did Jesus take in healing the blind man (vs. 23)?
2. What steps did Jesus take in healing the blind man recorded in Mark 10:46-52?
3. This man was healed gradually; other blind men were healed instantly. Do you have an explanation for why this might be the case?
4. Note vs 27-30. How would the people you work/associate with describe Jesus?
5. Why was Peter told not to tell about Jesus? Is there a counterpart to that command for us today, or was that a one-time occurrence?
6. Compare Peter's growing awareness of Christ (vs 27-33) to the way the blind man came to sight (vs 24,25).
7. Note vs 34-38. Does this indicate it will be costly to follow Jesus? What has it "cost" you?

