

Jan 4, 2026 – Questions to Discuss and Consider at Home or in Small Group

"The Mountain, the Master, and the New Israel" – Mark 3:13-19

1. (v. 13) Mark notes that Jesus called those "whom he desired." How does it change your perspective of your faith to realize that your relationship with God started with His desire for you, rather than your decision for Him? Also see John 15:16 and Exodus 19:3-6
2. (v. 14) Before the disciples were given a job to do (preach/cast out demons), they were called "to be with him." Why do you think Jesus made "being with Him" the first priority? What happens to our service for God when we skip this step? Acts 4:13 and Luke 10:38-42
3. Consider the illustration of the "phantom brake pedal," where we try to control the situation even when we aren't driving. Where in your life right now are you most tempted to "press the floor mat" because you don't fully trust Jesus' speed or direction? Matthew 16:21-23 and Isaiah 53:6
4. (v. 16) Jesus called Simon "Peter" (the Rock) long before Simon acted like one. Is there a "label" or "name" you've given yourself (e.g., failure, unworthy, angry) that conflicts with the identity Jesus wants to give you by His grace? Genesis 32:28 and 2 Corinthians 5:17
5. (v. 15) The disciples were given authority to cast out demons, but only as they remained under Jesus' leadership. In what ways do we try to exercise "spiritual power" or influence in our own strength rather than in submission to Him? Matthew 28:18-19 and 2 Corinthians 12:9
6. (v. 17) James and John were known for their volatile tempers. When you feel "thunderous" (angry, impatient, or wanting to call down fire on those who disagree with you), how does the Gospel of Jesus' patience toward you help redirect that energy?
7. (v. 19) It is unsettling that Jesus called Judas, knowing he would betray Him to fulfill the Scriptures as the "son of perdition." The other disciples were unstable followers as well for different reasons. How does this show us that Jesus isn't looking for a "perfect" team, but is willing to labor with messy, broken, and even rebellious people to accomplish His redemptive plan?
8. If you were to thankfully and joyfully "demote" yourself this week and let Jesus truly lead one specific area of your life (your finances, future after high school, a strained relationship, or your career anxiety), what is the first practical step you would need to take?