

Question MARK

Session 2 By What Authority?
week starting February 28, 2021

The beginning of Mark's gospel tells the story of God's people waiting for a Messiah and His redemption of Israel. Jesus is introduced and we learn about God's stamp of approval. Mark focuses on helping readers discover more of *who* Jesus is and *what* He came to do. Some are amazed at His authority while others are opposed to it. Mark challenges his readers to consider how they might respond to Jesus of Nazareth. Read Mark 1:21–2:28.

GETTING STARTED

- If you could do *anything* knowing you would *not* fail, what would you do and why?
- Describe your favorite teacher and the impression she or he made on you.

DISCUSSION

1. How do you determine whether or not someone is trustworthy?
2. In Mark 1:21–22 & 27, what do you think it was about Jesus that caused people to recognize His authority? To trust Him?
3. N.T. Wright believes the home the paralytic was brought to might have been Jesus' home! Discuss the scene where this event takes place (Mark 2:1–12). Describe some sights, sounds, smells or responses that might bring this story to life. Feel free to be creative!
4. Why did the paralytic's friends do what they did? Why do you think Jesus forgave the man's sins before he healed his body? Which is more difficult to do?
5. The religious men opposed Jesus' authority but the crowd was amazed by Him. What factors make it hard to believe in or trust God? Trust Jesus? What has helped you in this area?
6. Jesus invited Levi, a tax collector, to follow Him (Mark 2:13–17). How does this reinforce that Jesus came for the *least*, the *last*, the *lost*? Do you relate to being one of the least, last or lost? To whom might you be called to reach out? What's your next move?

LIVE IT OUT

Think about someone in your life who does not have a relationship with Jesus. Commit to praying for them every day this week. Pray that they would come to know and follow Jesus so they can live in the fullness that God intends. How will you show them the love of Jesus this week?

MEMORIZATION CHALLENGE

On hearing this, Jesus said to them, "It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners." Mark 2:17

PRAY

Jesus, as we become aware of Your authority, we have the choice to accept or oppose You. Help us to be open to the life changes You want us to make. We pray that Your mission will become our mission. Help us to say "yes" when You send us out to love the least, the last, and the lost. Remind us of Your example. Amen.