

How to Begin a Relationship with God

To begin a personal relationship with God, please consider these four fundamental truths from the Bible:

- (1) God loves you and wants you to enjoy a forever relationship with Him. (John 3:16)
- (2) Failure to live up to God's standard of holy perfection (sin) has resulted in separation from God that will last forever for everyone who does not believe. (Romans 3:23, 6:23)
- (3) To solve the problem of sin that separates you from God, God sent His Son, Jesus Christ, to pay the penalty for your sin by dying on the cross. (1 Peter 3:18)
- (4) Everyone who makes a personal decision to trust in Jesus Christ alone as their Savior from sin receives forgiveness from sin and enters God's forever family. (John 1:12)

If you want to make the decision today to begin a relationship with God, you can express your faith in Christ by personally praying the following:

"Father, thank You for loving me and wanting a relationship with me. I admit that I have sinned and that I need a Savior. I believe that Your Son, Jesus, died on the cross to pay for my sins. I trust Jesus alone as my Savior. Thank You for making me part of your family."

If you made a decision today to trust in Jesus as your Savior, let us know by indicating on the communication card OR by telling a pastor or elder. We want the opportunity to rejoice with you and help you take your first steps in this new relationship.



Jesus' Authority: Mark 1:21-45

Mark 1:21-28; Jesus in the synagogue

Authority over _____

Authority over _____

Mark 1:29-34; Jesus in Simon's home

Authority over _____

Mark 1:35-38; Jesus in solitary place

Authority from _____

Authority over _____

Mark 1:39-45; Jesus on the road

Authority over _____

Authority over _____

Principle: *Jesus has _____ authority and uses His authority to _____ others.*

Four groups respond to Jesus' authority in Mark 1:21-45

- 1) The Demons - _____
- 2) The Religious Leaders - _____
- 3) The Disciples - _____
- 4) The Crowd (the people) - _____

So What?

- 1) _____ before Jesus today
- 2) Use authority as a _____ would – to serve others

Personal Study

(1) Read Mark 1:21-28 (along with Psalm 71:22-24 & Isaiah 41:14-20). What is significant about the demon calling Jesus the “Holy One of Israel?” _____

(2) Read Mark 1:29-34. What is different about the way that Jesus heals Simon’s mother-in-law than the way that he casts out the demon in vs. 25? Why is that important? _____

(3) Read Mark 1:35 (along with 6:45-46 & 14:32-36). Make three observations from these verses that let you know that prayer was very important to the life and ministry of Jesus. _____

(4) Read Mark 1:36-39. How does Jesus’ response let you know that He had different priorities than the disciples? _____

(5) Read Mark 1:40-45. What details in Mark’s narrative are supposed to surprise the reader? What should we learn from those surprising details? _____

(6) Read Mark 1:21-45 as a whole. Write down all the verses that speak of demonic activity and Jesus’ response to evil: _____

(7) In Mark 1:21-45, Mark introduces the secrecy motif. Why do you think Jesus orders others *not* to share His identity? _____

Personal Application

(1) What experiences have positively shaped your view of authority in your life? _____

(2) What experiences have negatively shaped your view of authority in your life? _____

(3) Why is important for the Christ-follower to believe that He has ultimate authority over heaven and earth, the spiritual and the physical? _____

(4) Of the four responses to Jesus’ authority mentioned in this week’s sermon, which one do you most identify with? _____

(5) What authority has God given you to steward and how are you currently using it? _____

(6) Which is harder for you, submitting to authority or using your authority to serve others? Explain your answer: _____

(7) What is God saying to you through your study of this passage this week? What does He want you to learn and to change? _____

