



Mark 1:35-39

INTRODUCTION

After a long day of ministry, we find Jesus the next day alone in prayer. When invited to return to the waiting crowds of Capernaum, Jesus declares he must go elsewhere to preach the Gospel of the Kingdom of God.

INSTRUCTIONS

This guide is meant to facilitate discussion which will lead to a response to God's word. Therefore please use it as tool that best fits the needs of your small group.

OPENING DISCUSSION

- Read **Mark 1:35-39**
- What do you find interesting/compelling/confusing about this passage?
- What do you learn about Jesus from this passage?

REVIEW

- Why do you think Jesus was praying? What does this tell us about our Lord?
- Why doesn't Jesus return to the needy crowd of Capernaum? What does this tell us about our Lord?
- Why does Jesus heal? What does that have to do with his mission?
- What is our Lord's mission?

APPLICATION

- What are some reasons private prayer is important for the Christian?
- Discuss your commitment to prayer?
- Does prayer get squeezed out when busy? How does prayer impact your heart, especially when life is hectic?
- What is the best time for you to spend time in private prayer: early in the morning, during the day, or in the evening?
- Do you seek God's blessings apart from God's mission? Are you tempted to use Jesus to make your life easier?
- Are you ever troubled by the fact that the masses oppose what we believe?
- What is your mission?
- What constitutes "preaching" besides what a pastor does on Sunday mornings? Is there a kind of "preaching" that any Christian man or woman can and should do?

PRAYER (divide the group based on gender if desired)

- What action/repentance does God want you to take according to the truths of this text?
- Are there any other prayer needs?