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**Chapter 1:**

**vs 1-8: The Proclamation of John the Baptist**

- What do you think is the difference between John's baptism of repentance and Jesus' baptism with the Holy Spirit?
- How would you verbalize what repenting means to you?

**vs 9-11: The Baptism of Jesus.**

- What do you think the descending dove and the voice from heaven meant and did for Jesus?
- Our baptism bestows unto us the same promises of God's kinship and love. How so? Can you verbalize how important your baptism is to you?

**vs 12-14: The Temptation of Jesus and Beginning of the Galilean Ministry**

- What spiritual strength do you receive from only Mark's short account of the Temptation of Jesus?
  - a) temptations abound and we are on our own.
  - b) the Holy Spirit is with us?
  - c) the angels protect us?
  - d) Other?
- How do you experience that the Kingdom of God is near you?

**vs 16-20: Jesus Calls the First Disciples**

- Why do you think it is important to know that Jesus calls hardworking workers into discipleship?
- What do you think Jesus meant by "I will make you fish for people?" Does he mean you and me?

**vs 21-34: The Man with the Unclean Spirit, and Jesus heals many**

- Unclean spirits or 'demons' are forces of evil and are frequently encountered in Mark. Do you think such 'demons' are still at work today? Why? Why not?
- Is faith in Jesus, and invoking Jesus' name a positive power for healing also today?

**vs 35-39: Preaching tour in Galilee.**

- Jesus and the disciples went into neighboring towns to proclaim (announce, spread) the message. Is there still a need today to spread the word person to person? Why or why not?

**vs 40-45: Jesus cleanses a Leper.**

- The leper believed that Jesus had the power to make him well. Do you believe that our faith in Christ and our conviction that God wants us to be well is a factor in our healings? Why or why not?

## **Chapter 2**

### **vs 1-8: Jesus Heals a Paralytic**

- Do you think that there is a connection between receiving forgiveness of sin and healing? If so, in what ways?

### **vs 13-17: Jesus Calls Levi**

- Might this passage be direction for us to gather our friends and neighbors for the purpose of sharing our joy of knowing Jesus?
- Sitting at table together indicates acceptance, even friendship. Why are our churches so void of social outcasts? Would you welcome groups of them to join us in worship and fellowship? Why or why not?

### **vs 18-22: The Question about Fasting**

- If fasting is a sign of repentance and repentance is necessary before receiving forgiveness, should there be a greater emphasis on fasting before worship, confession, and absolution? Why or why not?

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### **vs 23-28: About the Sabbath**

- What do you think Jesus is saying to us in his pronouncement about the Sabbath?
- If the Sabbath is a gift from God to us, what would that imply to our society where people are connected to their work 24/7?

## **Chapter 3**

### **vs 13-19: Jesus Appoints the Twelve**

- The twelve were appointed to be 'apostles' meaning chosen to do a certain job. As members of St. Luke's, is there a sense of being chosen laid upon us? If so, what is it? How is it expressed?
- If our baptism, confirmation, and membership means that we are chosen, what is the job we are to do?

### **vs 31-35: The True Kindred's of Jesus**

- Jesus expands meaning of family kinship to those who listen to him and gather around him. Can our relationship as members in Christ's body, St. Luke's, be compared to such close kinship? Why or why not?

## **Chapter 4**

### **vs 1-9: The Parable of the Sower**

- If the seed is the Word, what does it mean to be the well-trodden path, the rocky ground with little soil, or thorns, or good soil? Where do you fit in there? Why?

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### **vs 21-25: A Lamp under Bushel Basket.**

- If the lamp is the Word of God to be radiated into the world, then what is the lampstand or the Bushel Basket?
- Can you detect any parallels in this with the parable of the Sower?

### **vs 35-41: Jesus Stills a Storm**

- Jesus relates fear with lack of faith. Have you ever experienced fear of death or unbearable pain? Do you agree that to give in to such fear is akin to lack of faith? Why or why not?