

MESSAGE DISCUSSION GUIDE

The Desert

December 1-3, 2018



ICEBREAKER

When did something unexpected happen to you, what was it and how did it make you feel?

KEY SCRIPTURE

Mark 1

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

God Speaks From Unexpected Places

- What are some ways that God speaks to us?
- Are there certain things that you do that enable you to hear God more easily?
- Discuss sometimes when God has clearly laid something on your heart, was it expected?
- It is often the pattern of God to shock and surprise us, knowing this, what kind of potential could this have on your day (especially when you are going through heartache, trials or pain)?
- How many instances in the Bible can you think of where God speaks to someone in an unexpected place?
- Here are just a few: Abraham in old age, Daniel in a lion's den, Gideon in a wool fleece, Hosea in an unfaithful wife, Jacob in a wrestling match, King David in the death of a child, Lazarus in his own death, Moses in a shrub, Noah in an ark.
- When things do not go right, should we have more or less expectations of God showing up in our lives?

God Speaks From Unexpected People

- Has a "word from the Lord" ever come to you totally out of the blue or through an unexpected person?
- Have you ever been God's spokesperson to bring hope to someone else?
- Do you have any examples of how God used someone that you least suspected?
- Can you give some examples of how God used Gospel haters to help spread His word?

God Calls Us To An Unexpected Purpose

- *Read Mark 1:7*
- How does Mark describe John's purpose?
- Many of you have read books like Purpose driven life etc., and if so, you may have some more insight. How do you go about finding God's purpose for your life?
- *Read Ephesians 1:3-5 and Ephesians 2:10* and discuss

PRAYER

Dear Lord and Heavenly Father, we know that you delight in surprising us and revealing to us the ways in which you are not like us. Your thoughts and ways are so much higher than ours! We take comfort Lord in knowing that you have plans to prosper us and to give us a hope and a future. We ask Lord that you would help us to put away our selfish ways and Love others and bring your joy and peace to them. In Jesus name, Amen.

CHALLENGE

Be an encouragement to someone else!