

NOTES

Sunday, October 25th, 2026

1. Read Mark 1:14–15 together. Jesus' first recorded words are an announcement, not advice. What did it mean for Jesus to say “the kingdom of God has come near” in Galilee, where Herod ruled because Caesar allowed it? Why might that have sounded bold, or even dangerous, to the people who first heard it?
2. Many people hoped for a Messiah who would take power by force. Read Mark 10:43–45. How does Jesus fulfill Israel's hopes, and how does he overturn them? What does it say about his kingdom that the only time Mark calls him “King” is on the sign above the cross?
3. Pastor Aaron said it's easy to treat Jesus like a consultant we bring in to improve the life we've already designed. Where do you see that in your own faith? Think about how you pray, or when you tend to turn to God.
4. Repentance was described as “a transfer of allegiance,” turning away from the stories we trust about what makes us safe, significant, or okay. Which rival kingdom pulls at you most right now: control, achievement, approval, comfort, or something else? How does it shape what you fear or chase?
5. Read Mark 1:16–20. The disciples left good things (their nets, their boat, their father) to follow Jesus. What good thing in your life has quietly become the thing Jesus isn't allowed to interrupt? What would it look like to put it under his rule this week?
6. Jesus said, “I will make you fishers of people.” Following him reshapes us, and it also sends us out. What is one concrete step you'll take this week to get off the throne and follow him? It could be at home, at work, or in a friendship. Who in this group can check in with you about it?

