

2. Review 1 Peter 4:12-13 (MSG) above. The NLT translates it as "Don't be surprised at the fiery trials you are going through, as if something strange were happening to you." Why should difficulty not be a surprise? What, according to these verses, is the end result of this process?

3. Review Mark 10:45. How does Jesus' conception of his mission compare to the popular conception of the Messiah in Jesus' day?

4. When Jesus called the first disciples to follow him, they "left their nets" to follow him. (See Mark 1:17-18.) What kinds of things might a current-day believer have to leave behind to follow Jesus?

5. Jesus' example included teaching, healing, and praying. What's one way you could serve others this week?

6. Pray and ask the Lord to show you what you need to *know* and what you need to *do* in response to what you've heard and read this week. Write here what comes to mind. Share your answer with your group if appropriate.

IN YOUR GROUP

In your Cornerstone Community group this week, discuss your answers to the ON YOUR OWN questions. In a one-hour online group session, you might spend a 10-15 minutes catching up, 40 minutes talking through the discussion questions above, and 15-20 minutes praying for one another and planning ways the group can meet needs and serve others.

CORNERSTONE COMMUNITY CHURCH

Mail: PO Box 1011, Concord, NH 03302-1011

Voice or Text: 603-225-2550

Email: CONTACTUS@CORNERSTONENH.ORG



YOUR NAME: _____ 03/13-14/2021

WATCH, LISTEN & MORE AT
CORNERSTONENH.ORG

Growth Guide

FOR THE WEEK OF MARCH 14, 2021

CONNECT AT CORNERSTONE

We want to encourage, inform, and connect with you! Go to CornerstoneNH.org and click on the New Here? link. (You can also text NEW to 603-225-2550.)

LIFE. BETTER.

*FOLLOWING JESUS MAKES LIFE BETTER
AND MAKES YOU BETTER AT LIFE.*

TODAY'S MESSAGE DIFFICULTY

TODAY: DIFFICULTY • MARK 1:14-28; 35-39

THE BOTTOM LINE

_____ & _____
**ARE JESUS' _____ AND
OUR _____**

For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.

– Mark 10:45 NIV

Friends, when life gets really difficult, don't jump to the conclusion that God isn't on the job. Instead, be glad that you are in the very thick of what Christ experienced. This is a spiritual refining process, with glory just around the corner.

– 1 Peter 4:12-13 MSG

This is the Good News about Jesus the Messiah,
the Son of God. – Mark 1:1 NLT

The Messiah or Christ was the promised kingly representative of God who would set his people free and put things right. But...

JESUS IS THE **KING** 🦉 WHO SECURES VICTORY
THROUGH THE **CROSS** ✝️.

KING & CROSS IN THE **TOPICAL** STRUCTURE OF
MARK'S GOSPEL: TWO MAJOR SECTIONS CULMINATING IN
TWO ASTOUNDING CONFESSIONS.

Then he asked them, "But who do you say I am?"
Peter replied, "You are the Messiah."
– Mark 8:29 NLT

When the Roman officer who stood facing him saw how he had
died, he exclaimed, "This man truly was the Son of God!"
– Mark 15:39 NLT

KING & CROSS IN THE **GEOGRAPHICAL** STRUCTURE OF
MARK'S GOSPEL: IN GALILEE ► ON THE WAY ► IN JERUSALEM

See The Bible Project overview video for Mark at
<https://bibleproject.com/explore/video/mark>

WHO IS JOHN **MARK**, AUTHOR OF THE GOSPEL?

HOUSEHOLD OF _____ BELIEVERS IN JERUSALEM

When he realized this, he went to the home of Mary, the mother
of John Mark, where many were gathered for prayer.
– Acts 12:12 NLT

INTERPRETER & SECRETARY TO _____

"...Mark, the disciple and interpreter of Peter, also transmitted to
us in writing the things preached by Peter." – Irenaeus

MINISTRY COMPANION TO _____

When Barnabas and Saul had finished their mission to
Jerusalem, they returned, taking John Mark with them.
– Acts 12:25 NLT

WHAT IS MARK'S **PURPOSE** IN WRITING THE GOSPEL?

_____ PETER'S TESTIMONY

_____ SUFFERING BELIEVERS

"...Mark's task was the projection of Christian faith in a context of suffering and
martyrdom. If Christians were to be strengthened and the gospel effectively
proclaimed it would be necessary to exhibit the similarity of situation faced by
Jesus and the Christians of Rome. The Gospel of Mark is a pastoral response to this
critical demand."¹

The Spirit then compelled Jesus to go into the wilderness,
where he was tempted by Satan for forty days. He was out
among the wild animals, and angels took care of him.

– Mark 1:12 NLT

"He's possessed by Satan, the prince of demons. That's where
he gets the power to cast out demons." – Mark 3:22b NLT

Judas Iscariot (who later betrayed him). – Mark 3:19 NLT

JESUS THE **KING** IN MARK CHAPTER ONE

Jesus **called** out to them, "Come, follow me, and I will show you
how to fish for people." And they left their nets at once and
followed him. – Mark 1:18 NLT

Saying "YES!" to Jesus? Text **YES** to **603-225-2550**
Let us celebrate your decision
& resource you for your new life in Christ.

The people were amazed at his teaching, for **he taught** with real
authority– Mark 1:22a NLT

So **Jesus healed** many people who were sick with various
diseases, and he cast out many demons. – Mark 1:34a NLT

Before daybreak the next morning, Jesus got up and went out
to an isolated place to **pray**. – Mark 1:35 NLT

THE CHALLENGE

COUNT ____ IN!

We've been through a challenging year. What's next could be
more like a restart than a return. Exciting possibilities await.

Will you be a part of it? Sign up to serve!

Text **ME** to **603-225-2550**

ON YOUR OWN

Answer these questions this week to reflect and go deeper.
TALK IT OVER with friends right now, using the
questions highlighted in **bold**.

1. How can difficulty impact a person's faith?

¹ Lane, William L. *The New International Commentary on the New Testament: The Gospel of Mark*. Eerdmans, 1974. Pg. 15