

3. Review Mark 3:14-15. What stands out to you about the commissioning of the apostles and why?

4. Which of the steps to identify with Jesus—baptism, communion, and fellowship—is the most logical next step for you? What would it look like for you to identify with Jesus more closely?

5. 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.

GIVE GENEROUSLY TO CARE NET

From Mother's Day to Father's Day we are joining the larger church community in Concord in supporting Care Net pregnancy center and their mission to serve families in need. See [CORNERSTONENH.ORG/CARENET](https://cornerstonenh.org/carenet) for details.

For your regular giving, give online at [CORNERSTONENH.ORG/GIVE](https://cornerstonenh.org/give) or text the amount you want to donate to 84321. Checks can be sent to our mailing address below. Through your generosity you're playing a part in more people saying "YES!" to Jesus!

CORNERSTONE COMMUNITY CHURCH

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

Voice or Text: 603-225-2550

Email: CONTACTUS@CORNERSTONENH.ORG



YOUR NAME: _____ 05/15-16/2021

WATCH, LISTEN & MORE AT
[CORNERSTONENH.ORG](https://cornerstonenh.org)

Growth Guide

FOR THE WEEK OF SUNDAY, MAY 16, 2021

CONNECT AT CORNERSTONE

We want to encourage, inform, and connect with you! Go to [CornerstoneNH.org](https://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 FAMILY

TODAY: RESPONSE • MARK 3:7-35

THE BOTTOM LINE

**OUR STANDING WITH GOD IS
_____ BY OUR
RESPONSE TO _____.**

They were to accompany him, and he would send them out to preach, giving them authority to cast out demons.

– Mark 3:14-15 NLT

THE KINGDOM OF GOD ARRIVES WITH JESUS

This is the Good News about Jesus the Messiah, the Son of God.

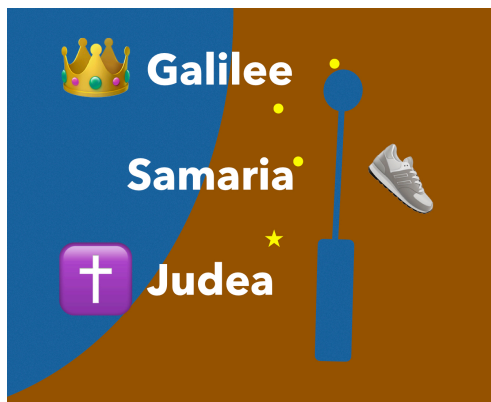
– Mark 1:1 NLT

"The time promised by God has come at last!" he announced.

"The Kingdom of God is near!" – Mark 1:15 NLT

MARK 3:7-12 – JESUS DREW LARGE & _____
CROWDS

The geographic diversity of the crowd Jesus drew hinted at the greater diversity of those who sought out and were received by Jesus. For example, Jerusalem was the center of religious and civic life. Tyre & Sidon in contrast were Gentile cities, although there were Jewish people in the area.



Jesus went out to the lake with his disciples, and a large crowd followed him. They came from all over Galilee, Judea, Jerusalem, Idumea, from east of the Jordan River, and even from as far north as Tyre and Sidon. – Mark 3:7-8a NLT

MARK 3:13-19 – JESUS WAS _____ &
RECONSTITUTING THE _____ OF GOD

Then he appointed twelve of them and called them his apostles. They were to accompany him, and he would send them out to preach, giving them authority to cast out demons.
– Mark 3:14-15 NLT

By appointing twelve apostles Jesus is clearly signaling his intention to reconstitute the people of God with himself as the defining center, since they were first constituted from the twelve tribes of Israel. Mountaintops also have significance in Scripture as places where God reveals himself.

MARK 3:20-35 – JESUS _____ THE PEOPLE OF GOD
BY THEIR RELATIONSHIP WITH _____

When his family heard what was happening, they tried to take him away. “He’s out of his mind,” they said. – Mark 3:21 NLT

But the teachers of religious law who had arrived from Jerusalem said, “He’s possessed by Satan...” – Mark 3:22a NLT

The New Living Translation (NLT) translates Beelzeboul (Greek) to Satan. “Beelzebub is a name for Satan in the Gospels and is probably derived from the ancient name for a Canaanite god (Baalzebul), which meant “lord of the high place.” This god is referred to in 2 Kings 1:2-6, 16, where he is called Baalzebub, which means “lord of the flies,” probably a Jewish pun on the actual name.” Hurtado, Larry W.. Mark (Understanding the Bible Commentary Series) (Kindle Locations 1523-1527). Baker Publishing Group. Kindle Edition.

“Listen to this carefully. I’m warning you. There’s nothing done or said that can’t be forgiven. But if you persist in your slanders against God’s Holy Spirit, you are repudiating the very One who forgives, sawing off the branch on which you’re sitting, severing by your own perversity all connection with the One who forgives.” He gave this warning because they were accusing him of being in league with Evil. – Mark 3:28-30 MSG

As The Message version makes clear above, Jesus is giving a warning against persisting in rejecting Jesus, specifically by attributing his power to Satan—

hardhearted willful slander. If one is concerned about committing this sin, presumably the same one recognizes Jesus as the Son of God, whom came from God, and who did his miracles by the power of the Holy Spirit, and thus is not in danger of “accusing him of being in league with Evil.”

Then Jesus’ mother and brothers came to see him. They stood outside and sent word for him to come out and talk with them. There was a crowd sitting around Jesus, and someone said, “Your mother and your brothers are outside asking for you.” Jesus replied, “Who is my mother? Who are my brothers?” Then he looked at those around him and said, “Look, these are my mother and brothers. Anyone who does God’s will is my brother and sister and mother.” – Mark 3:31-35 NLT

In Mark 6:1-3 the names of four brothers of Jesus and unnamed sisters are mentioned. The most natural understanding is that these are Jesus’ half-siblings through his mother Mary (or perhaps step-siblings from a previous marriage of Joseph’s). Some traditions hold that these are cousins or some other extended family. Regardless, Jesus is making clear that the closest familial relationships are superseded by the new family of God in the Kingdom of God as defined by one’s relationship with him. See Hurtado, Larry W.. Mark (Understanding the Bible Commentary Series) (Kindle Location 1564). Baker Publishing Group. Kindle Edition.

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

THE CHALLENGE

TAKE A STEP TO _____ WITH JESUS

**BAPTISM
COMMUNION
FELLOWSHIP**

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. When did you feel the strongest sense of belonging in your life?**
- 2. What are the different responses and opinions we encounter today as to who Jesus is? How do these compare and contrast to the story of Jesus in the Gospel of Mark?**