



# GROUP GUIDE

WEEK OF JANUARY 17 & 18, 2026 | THE URGENT KINGDOM

## DISCUSS

### Read Mark 1:12-15 together

#### TEMPTATION & TRUTH

- What lies are you most tempted to believe about God or yourself right now? (For example: God doesn't really love me; I've gone too far for grace.)
- What truths from Scripture help combat those lies?
- When you face temptation, what is your typical response?
- What practices or rhythms help you resist temptation before it leads to sin?
- Keeping in mind that God allows testing, but Satan is the one who tempts, how does that distinction shape the way you face temptation?

#### WILDERNESS & FORMATION

- The wilderness often feels like a place of loss or isolation. How might God use wilderness seasons to clear away distractions and help us hear His voice more clearly?
- Jesus fasted and withdrew from community for 40 days. What "wilderness" might God be inviting you into right now—whether that's slowing down, 21 days of praying and fasting with the church in February, or creating space to listen?
- Why do you think Scripture repeatedly highlights seasons of 40 days? Where else do we see this theme, and what does it reveal about God's work in formation and preparation?

#### REPENTANCE & THE KINGDOM

- How can we shift our mindset to expect temptation rather than see it as a sign of spiritual failure? How does this expectation help us stay dependent on God?
- Jesus calls people to repent because the kingdom of God is near. Why is repentance an important ongoing rhythm in the life of a believer?
- What might it look like to practice repentance regularly—not out of shame, but in response to God's nearness and grace?
- Jesus proclaimed this message over 2,000 years ago, yet the kingdom is still near today. Where are you seeing glimpses of God's kingdom in your life, community, or the world right now?



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## TAKE ACTION

Create a “Mark Journal.”

Encourage each group member to bring it each weekend as you journey through the Gospel of Mark and jot down three reflections:

- One thing I learned
- One thing that challenged me
- One thing God is asking me to do

Invite group members to share from their journals during group time as a way to encourage one another and stay attentive to God’s work.