

# A WINTER BIBLE STUDY ON THE GOSPEL OF MARK

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Tuesdays, 10:30 am to 12 noon – February 23<sup>rd</sup> – May 11<sup>th</sup>

Facilitators: Rev. Geoff Ross & Rev. Rosemary Doran

*"The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God." (Mark 1:1 NRSV)*

**Session 4: Tues., March 16<sup>th</sup>** Galilee: "The Purpose of Parables" Mark 3:7-4:34

**Group Study - 3:**

Question 1) Twice in chapter 3 Mark tells a story about the what it means to be a part of the 'called' family of God – when Jesus 'appoints' His 12 disciples, and when describes His 'family' not as those who are blood relations, but are those called or chosen by God. **What costs have there been in your life because of your faith – for being a follower of Christ?**

Question 2) In the "parable of the sower", Jesus describes four types of soil – the hard soil of the path, the rocky ground with little soil, the soil crowded by thorns, and the good soil that "brought forth grain." **Which 'soil' are you? How would describe your faith if you were writing a parable?**

Question 3) After He calls His disciples and tells His first parable, Jesus explains the 'purpose' of His use of parables to them saying; *"To you has been given the secret of the kingdom of God, but for those outside, everything comes in parables"* so that they will not hear and understand *"and be forgiven."* **Why would Jesus purposely confuse His 'followers'? Why is Mark revealing this information to his readers/hearers: is the author trying to provoke us? If so, why?**

Next Week's Study:

**Session 5: Tues., March 23<sup>rd</sup>** Galilee: "Jesus Stills a Storm"

Mark 4:35-5:43