

What do you do when a prophet tells you to take a bath? What do you say to a fig tree with no figs? What happens when some young people mock a bald guy? What is a Nephilim? Is the witch of Endor a Star Wars character? Join as we explore these stranger things from the Bible and how they find themselves in the story of God.

Mark Overview:

Mark is a book of action. Thought to be the first gospel written, Mark records the activity of Jesus ministry from his baptism through to his resurrection. In Mark, a verse that captures the activity and purpose of Jesus is 10:45—

“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.”

Author and Date:

John Mark around 50-60 A.D.

First readers and their location:

Possibly believers in Rome

Open-up

Have you ever been inconvenienced by someone in a way that just did not make sense? What was it? How did you respond?

 **Into the Bible—Ask “What does it Say?”**

Read: Mark 1:1-20

What do you notice about the passage itself? (Structure, repeated words or ideas, unique words, main points, what did this passage say to the original author and audience)

What was Jesus reaction to the fig tree? What do you think the disciples thought of this behaviour?

Describe Jesus' behaviour in th temple. How did he understand what the temple was supposed to be for?

What do you learn about Jesus in this passage? The religious leaders? The disciples?

If the fig tree represented Israel, How did Jesus understand what was going to happen to the temple?



Into my life—Ask “What does this look like in my personal life?”

Read Mark 11:22-25. How does Jesus look towards a new reality that includes anyone who is in Christ?

Read 1 Corinthians 3:16-17. How do you understand this passage as it relates to you? To the church? What makes this idea difficult? What is an encouragement?

What are some of the things in your life that have taken the place of true worship? (consumerism, comfort, traditions) (Use I statements) (Pray for each other in this)



Into the World—Ask “what does this look like in my world?”

How can your life be a place where people experience the living God? Your group? Your church?