



# THE GOSPEL OF MARK

## SERVANTHOOD & SACRIFICE IN A SELFIE WORLD

### QUESTIONS

ICEBREAKER: What was the longest trip you have taken?

1. Why do you think the parables of Jesus are such a powerful tool for teaching God's truth [Mark 12:1]? Also consider Matthew 13:10-17; Luke 14:7-11; and Luke 15:1-3.
2. The background to Jesus' parable in Mark 12:1-12 is likely Isaiah 5:1-7. Why are these two texts linked? What were the parallels historically, morally, and spiritually for the nation [cf. Psalm 80:1-19; Isaiah 3:14-15; and Ezekiel 19:10-14]?
3. Was it reasonable of the vineyard owner to expect fruit from his tenants [Mark 12:1-2]? Why? How does this relate to our lives today [cf. Psalm 1:1-6; Matthew 3:7-10; and John 15:1-11]?
4. Is Jesus' portrayal of humanity true to life in this parable [Mark 12:3-5]? Are people capable of unprovoked violence and the mistreatment of others? If so, how do you account for this kind of callous behaviour [cf. Genesis 6:11-13; Proverbs 1:10-19; and Romans 3:9-18]?
5. The tenants of Jesus' parable represented the Jewish religious authorities. How do their comments in Mark 12:7 expose their faulty reasoning and short-sightedness? Why do you think people make evil choices and assume no consequences will result [cf. Genesis 37:18-20; Psalm 94:1-23; and John 5:19-23]?
6. What does the fact that Jesus referred to Himself as a rejected Cornerstone indicate to His followers how they will likely be treated by their contemporaries [cf. Mark 8:31-38; Acts 4:5-12; 1 Peter 2:4-8]?
7. What did you find helpful or challenging about this Sunday's message?

"Everyone then who hears these words of mine and does them will be like a wise man who built his house on the rock. And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, but it did not fall, because it had been founded on the rock." (Jesus of Nazareth)