



theme: The Gospel of Mark #7 – Hide & Seek
materials: Bibles

This month the cell talks will cover chapters three and four of Mark. We are building up a picture of Jesus in these months, one which amazed, angered, and fascinated people in 1st Century Palestine. What does this picture of Jesus tell us now? How do we respond to this “Son of Man”?

welcome

If you can, play a game of hide and seek to start off with. Or hide something in the room (say some sweet candy) and have everyone try and look for it.

What is the coolest thing you have ever discovered? Were you looking for it, or did you find it accidentally?

interact

Go around the circle and have people speak out where they see evidence (fruit) of the Kingdom of God at work in each person’s life. Where have you seen evidence of love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control in each other? Call this out in one another, and bless and thank the Lord for the fruit of His Kingdom that he is growing up in His children.

read

Ask only one person to read out the Scripture passage this week, and have everyone else keep their Bibles closed and just listen. These parables were originally heard, not read.

Ask a good reader to read out Mark 4:1-34.

What do we learn about Jesus and His mission in this passage?

What is a parable, and why does Jesus use them to teach about the Kingdom of God?

Why doesn’t Jesus just speak plainly?

Verse 12, where Jesus seems to say He doesn’t want people to understand Him, can be troubling. You will want to read out Isaiah 6:8-13 as well, which is the OT Scripture Jesus is quoting.

Why would Jesus only reveal the “secret” of His Kingdom to his disciples? Does he want certain people to not understand what He is teaching? If so, why?

What does each parable seem to say about things being hidden and then revealed?

How is this like the Kingdom of God? How was it hidden, and how was it revealed?

Where and when did you first discover or hear about Jesus?

How has this encounter with Jesus changed you?

think

Do some gardening and planting of your own – or start up a community garden in your town where you can sow seeds in the natural and when neighbours come by and ask what you are doing you can sow seeds spiritually too. Talk with your cell next week about the fruit of this (literally!)



live & pray

Try your hand at writing a parable. Try to come up with a story that explains something about the Kingdom of God using everyday objects or situations. See if you can work in the theme of the Kingdom being hidden and then revealed as well.
Share it in cell next week.

useful resources

Book: *Hitchhiker's Guide to the Kingdom of God* – By Rook and White
Movie: *Big Fish*

leader's guide

A parable is a story form that is used to compare one thing to another thing. They were used by Jewish teachers back in the OT, and Jesus is an acknowledged master of their use. Usually the stories are meant to help people understand a point better, but Jesus seemed to use them to confuse people, or to hide His real meaning from some people while teaching it later to other people. Jesus had a timeline in mind, and had to ensure He got His teaching through to His disciples before He was killed. So He could not afford to be too widely understood by the wrong people at this stage. But all of the parables talk of something being hidden, and then being revealed. Jesus' Kingdom was being hidden then, (and later would be hidden in the tomb), but it would soon be revealed to all. Jesus' Kingdom is not now hidden knowledge, it is available to those who come to Jesus in faith. And it is spreading throughout all of creation.