

# Don't have this; you have nothing!

When we think about the gospels – Matthew, Mark, Luke and John – Mark isn't usually the first place we go. Yet Mark, listening to the eyewitness accounts of Peter, wrote a fast-paced gospel sharing the miraculous things Jesus did, including His death and Resurrection, to convince his Roman readers that Jesus is the Son of God. Let's not overlook what we can learn about our Savior in the overlooked gospel.

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## INTRODUCTION

In the first part of “The Overlooked Gospel” series, we find that, without a relationship with God or citizenship of heaven, we have nothing. Diving deeper into the first two chapters of Mark defines for us what this citizenship looks like.

## STARTER QUESTION

*Citizenship* can be defined as “responsibility that comes with rights,” while *membership* means “rights that have some responsibilities.” What are some signs that someone is trying to be a member of the kingdom of God rather than becoming a full citizen? What are our responsibilities as citizens of God's kingdom?

## INTO THE WORD

Read Isaiah 55:11 and 1 Peter 1:25. How do these verses support that God's word is final? What does this mean to us as citizens of the kingdom of God? How do we live this out?

Read and discuss/journal Mark 1:29-31 and Luke 19:1-8. Was there a time in your life when you were touched by God and were moved to serve? What was the impact this had on you and others around you?

Read and discuss/journal Philippians 3:20-21. As citizens of heaven, we are released from the grip of evil; however, we can sometimes continue to struggle with sin or addiction. What are some ways you or others you know have experienced freedom from sin? Why do we still await transformation in other areas of our life?

## APPLICATION

As fishermen tending to their nets, living the status quo, why wasn't it difficult for Jesus' disciples to stop what they were doing and immediately follow Him when asked? How can we continue to surrender all instead of just adding a little bit of Jesus to our status quo?

To be touched by God requires spending time with Him. 1Thessalonians 5:16-18 says “Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances.” What would this look like in a typical day for you? How could this motivate selflessness?

Discuss or journal an example of both chasing after a miracle and chasing after the miracle-worker. What are the consequences of both examples, and why does citizenship of heaven require chasing after the miracle-worker?

## PRAYER

Thank you, Father, for having the final word. Please continue to show us grace and mercy and help us fulfill our responsibilities as citizens of heaven. Motivate us to continually chase the miracle-worker instead of the miracle. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.