

Encountering Christ in the Gospel of Mark

January- Week 3, Mark 9-12

The words “teach”, “teacher” and “rabbi” are applied to Jesus 39 times in Mark. Provide examples of how Jesus, the Master Teacher, utilizes hyperbole when teaching? (hyperbole: exaggerated statements or claims not meant to be taken literally.)

How difficult is it for you to comprehend which teachings of Jesus are hyperbole and which are meant to be taken literally?

In Mark 9:24 the boy’s father exclaimed, *“I do believe. Help me overcome my unbelief!”* What does belief and unbelief look like in Mark’s Gospel?

In general, does Mark portray the disciples in an overall positive or negative light? Why do you think it is so difficult for the disciples to comprehend Jesus’ rejection, crucifixion, and resurrection even though He plainly describes it to them on three different occasions?

How do you think Jesus felt when they couldn’t comprehend what He was sharing with them? Is there something in your life that God is plainly saying to you that you are failing to comprehend or understand?

Who does Jesus provide His harshest words of criticism towards?

Who does He lift up as positive examples in His teachings?

Do you think Jesus knew the religious leaders were plotting to have Him killed? If so, why do you think He still chose to come into Jerusalem, right where they all were? Why would He walk into the trap they were setting for Him?