

Adult Study Guide for January 31, 2021
Hope for 2021: Defining Moments
Mark 1:14-20

Goal: To respond to the call of Christ to repent and believe and seek his kingdom.

Key Verses: “*The time has come,*” Jesus said. “*The kingdom of God has come near. Repent and believe the good news!*” – Mark 1:15

1. What do you think will be the defining moments of 2021? What are the chances that your defining moment will be something that you cannot predict at the present time?

2. Bible uses two different Greek words used to signify time: *chronos* which refers to linear time or our chronology. In Mark 1:15 (above) Jesus uses a different word for time: *kairos* which refers to an opportune or defining moment. Notice that this verse appears between the temptation of Jesus in the desert and the call of his disciples. Why did Jesus use these words to launch his public ministry?

3. Read Mark 1:16-20. The call of Jesus was a defining moment for fishermen. Mark omits some of the chronology of the story – the fisherman had listened to Jesus preach before Jesus called them to follow him. Why was the *kairos* moment more important to Mark than the *chronos* when he wrote his gospel?

4. Jesus directs us to take two steps in a *kairos* moment: *repent* and *believe*. While repenting may sound grim to modern ears, the Bible views repentance as an essential part of the gospel. (Luke 24:46-48; 2 Peter 3:9) Repentance helps us reflect on the direction of our lives and helps us to reframe the way we look at things. What happens when we switch from saying “What about me?” to “It’s not about me!”? When was the last time that you repented and allowed God to change you? What would help you to be more like Jesus?

5. Read Romans 2:1-4. We often try to avoid repentance by comparing our behavior to others and judging them while excusing ourselves. Believing in the goodness and kindness of God unlocks the transformational power of God in our lives. Believing includes two dimensions: *trusting* and then *acting* in a new way and direction. Read Ephesians 2:8-10. How does believing in God’s grace free us to become the people God created us to be?

6. In response to the call of Jesus, the disciples immediately left their nets and followed him. The word for time (*kairos*) that Jesus used suggests that a limited time may be available for a response. Read Matthew 6:33. What will you do to seek the kingdom of God this week? Will you be paying attention when the kingdom of God comes near?