



Week 1: So Close

Often, we read the Bible for application, inspiration, or direction. However, there are times when the author wants to simply point the reader to a big idea—an idea that fits together with God's grand story. In the gospel of Mark, he documents Peter's experience with Jesus that led Peter to believe in one big idea: the kingdom of God is near, and everyone is invited to participate.

Discussion Questions

1. How does the version of Christianity you embrace now compare to the version you were taught when you were younger?
2. Did the version of Christianity you first were exposed to emphasize membership in an invisible kingdom? If not, what did it emphasize?
3. Have you ever felt far from God? Why?
4. **Read Mark 12:28–34.**
 - What stands out to you?
 - What is the connection between the teacher's response to Jesus and Jesus's assurance that he was "not far from the kingdom of God"?

Changing Your Mind

After John was put in prison, Jesus went into Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God. "The time has come," he said. "The kingdom of God has come near. Repent and believe the good news!"

The kingdom of God is near, and everyone is invited to participate.