

Preparing to Teach at Camp

A week of manuscript study at camp can be life-changing. Can you remember some of the ways Jesus came to life and touched you profoundly through the gospel of Mark? Take a moment to remember a few of those significant encounters and give thanks for the staff who led those studies.

Manuscript teachers are like the Levites setting up the tabernacles in the wilderness so that Israel had a sacred space to encounter God. Preparation is hard work, but it is also a priestly duty. We do the work in faith that these Scripture studies will become like the tent of meeting where students will meet the living God. We trust that they will be places of repentance, cleansing, healing, worship, and receiving calling. We believe that, like the pillar of cloud that stood over the tent of meeting, God will speak to our chapters and lead them into his mission.

There is much to prepare for this kind of encounter: our hearts, our understanding of the students, the text, our partnerships, and the environment. Starting early is key to coming into camp in the best possible shape to lead God’s people well.

<p>Preparing our hearts</p> <p>Plan to spend Quiet Time with Jesus, preparing your heart with these questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How is your relationship with Jesus? When was the last time you had an extended period alone with him? Are there any areas of sin you need to confess? • How eager are you to meet Jesus in the Scripture you will be studying and leading? What will help you increase your expectation and motivation for that? • What do you need from Jesus in order to be in the best possible spiritual shape before you enter camp? 	<p>When and where will I have this reflection time with Jesus?</p> <p>What will I bring?</p> <p>After reflection, in what additional ways do I need to prepare myself spiritually before I teach at camp?</p>
<p>Preparing our partnerships</p> <p>Early in the process, meet with your team.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Decide who will teach which passages. •Reflect on the students. •Pray for each other and the students. <p>Meet again to share your progress with prep.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Share what you are seeing in the text. •Give feedback on your summaries and application questions. •Plan how you will include training in the inductive method throughout the week. •Plan touchpoints for prayer and debrief with your team during the week of camp. •Ask each other what you find encouraging or supportive (favorite snacks, notes of encouragement, affirming feedback...). •Pray for each other and the students 	<p>Who is my team?</p> <p>What sections will I teach?</p> <p>What will my audience be like?</p> <p>When will we meet again to share our prep progress?</p> <p>When will we meet during the week of camp?</p> <p>How will I recognize my team at camp?</p>

<p>Preparing for <i>these</i> students</p> <p>Reflect on the students you will be leading. If you don't know them, call their staff.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •What are their motivations and expectations coming into camp? •Is there anything significant that has happened on campus or in their chapter in the months before camp? •What level are their inductive study skills? Identify key growth areas, and make a training plan for addressing them at camp. •Pray and ask Jesus what he wants to do for the students in your Bible study. 	<p>What do I know so far about the students I will teach?</p> <p>In what specific ways do I want to see them grow in the inductive method?</p> <p>What is my plan for leading them to grow?</p>
<p>Preparing the text</p> <p>Set aside 1.5-2 hours for every passage you will be leading. Consider starting with a blank manuscript.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Push yourself to observe the text and research background and cultural context thoroughly. •Brainstorm as many questions as you can, and then hone 4-5 great interpretive questions. •Take a look at your old manuscripts. Are there observations, questions, or insights to add to your new manuscript? (Only add points that you fully see and understand.) •Figure out how each passage you are teaching fits within Mark as a whole. •Write a compelling summary. •Write 3-4 application questions that arise from different themes in the text. •THEN (only then) look at teaching notes from someone else. Use them to sharpen yours. 	<p>When do I plan to prep my passages?</p> <p>What help do I expect I will need as I prepare?</p> <p>Who will I reach out to when I need that help?</p>
<p>Preparing the environment</p> <p>Plan out what to bring to create a good learning and community atmosphere.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Snacks •Supplies for creative application •Decorations for your room •Props for a social activity <p>Assemble the tools needed for inductive study.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Handouts for training in the method •Poster-sized copy of page 1 for Mark 1 •Creative summary of Mark 1 to start Mark 2 •Colored pencils or pens •Concordances & New Bible Dictionaries •Dictionaries of Biblical Imagery •Easel, paper, markers, and painters' tape 	<p>What will I bring from home?</p> <p>What do I need to borrow? From whom?</p> <p>What do I need to buy?</p>