

## Prayer: Mark 1:35-39

### Context

Our passage for this week continues on in Mark 1, where we've already spent some time this year. After Jesus' baptism, he immediately went into the wilderness for prayerful fasting. As Mark recounts it, upon returning, Jesus began calling disciples, healing people and casting out demons. His fame began to spread throughout the region (1:28) and he was soon with people non-stop. It's here that we get to our passage for today. As you read, consider the shift from Jesus' previous activity to his time away; consider also the place he chooses to pray.

### Hearing: (*Read "Context" and then Mark 1:35-39*)

- Before we dive in, what comes to your mind when you hear the word "prayer"? How would you define prayer? What are some things that you heard in the sermon on Sunday?
- In v 35, we read that Jesus went to a desolate place to pray. This word can also be translated as the wilderness or as a lonely/quiet place. What is the importance of this location? (Hint: recall our study of Mark 1:12-13) What does it look like for us to imitate Jesus in praying in a quiet place? Share with each other your experiences of solitary prayer. What was special about it?
- In vv 37-38, we read that many were looking for Jesus, yet he chooses to move on to a different ministry location and take time away to pray. What does this tell us about Jesus' priorities? What does it demonstrate about how Jesus viewed prayer? How may we follow Jesus' priorities in our own lives?
- In this passage we read of Jesus in solitary prayer. Yet, there are many different types of prayer. What are some prayer types that you have done in the past? Which ones do you do well with? Which ones are you less keen on? Are there any types of prayer that you would like to practice?

### Obeying:

- As we've just named some prayer types we'd like to practice, commit to trying out that practice for the coming week. If possible, choose to do one type of prayer together with a partner, a group or as an entire Life Group.