

THE
WAY
OF
JESUS

AS FOUND IN THE
GOSPEL OF **MARK**

SPIRITUAL GUIDE
FOR JUNE 13-19

THE WAY OF JESUS



READ

MARK 2:18 - 22

"Now John's disciples and the Pharisees were fasting. Some people came and asked Jesus, "How is it that John's disciples and the disciples of the Pharisees are fasting, but yours are not?"

Jesus answered, "**How can the guests of the bridegroom fast while he is with them? They cannot, so long as they have him with them. But the time will come when the bridegroom will be taken from them, and on that day they will fast.**

"No one sews a patch of unshrunk cloth on an old garment. Otherwise, the new piece will pull away from the old, making the tear worse. And no one pours new wine into old wineskins. Otherwise, the wine will burst the skins, and both the wine and the wineskins will be ruined. No, they pour new wine into new wineskins."

REFLECT

A key component of following Jesus is learning how to take risks. The first disciples left everything to follow Him: their jobs, friends, social status. In many instances they even suffered for their conviction to follow Jesus. Here in Canada, we don't face extreme persecution or opposition to our faith. We go to church, pray in public and follow Jesus with very little resistance.

But there is a temptation we face in our culture. The temptation is less about worshipping some other foreign god or idol and more about elevating the western vision of the "good life" above Jesus. In our society, things like comfort, security and convenience are of utmost importance. We value them greatly, often making them an idol themselves. Rather than fit following Jesus around comfort and security, we're invited to take risks in our faith and step into the unknown. This doesn't mean we act foolishly, disregarding sound advice or wisdom; it means we put our faith first and trust God with the rest.

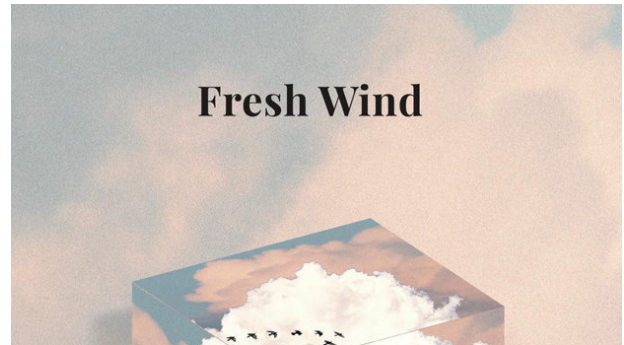
Are there things that come first in our life and heart? Are there things that would hinder you from saying "yes" to Jesus and taking a risk? Is there something you feel pulled towards?

WATCH

Check out these two Hillsong worship songs based on Jesus' words about new wineskins this week. Allow the words to become prayers on your lips.



CLICK HERE! →



← AND HERE

INVITATION

Risks, new wine, letting go of the old...all of it is easier said than done. Newness only ever comes by the grace and power of the Holy Spirit. Write down a prayer of surrender this week, allowing God to shape and form your heart into a posture of openness and trust.

In addition, pray these words from Thomas Merton this week:

My Lord God, I have no idea where I am going. I do not see the road ahead of me. I cannot know for certain where it will end. Nor do I really know myself, and the fact that I think I am following your will does not mean that I am actually doing so.

But I believe that the desire to please you does in fact please you and I hope that I have that desire in all that I am doing. And I know that if I do this, you will lead me by the right road although I may know nothing about it.

Therefore will I trust you always though I may seem to be lost and in the shadow of death, I will not fear, for you are ever with me and you will never leave me to face my perils alone.

THE
WAY
OF
JESUS

AS FOUND IN THE
GOSPEL OF **MARK**



COMMUNITY GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE
FOR JUNE 13-19



C H E C K I N

Begin as always by checking in on your group on a personal, and emotional level:

- How are you doing this week? How's the last week been?

R E V I S I T

Check in with the group to see who caught the last message from Sunday. Encourage your group to revisit them this week if they haven't watched it.

This series is about recentering our faith around the person of Jesus as found in the Gospel of Mark, rather than the religion of Christianity, or some other competing ideology about what it means to follow Jesus.

- Any initial thoughts about the message? What stood out?
- What stands out from the text about new wine and new wineskins?

R E F L E C T & D I S C U S S

Read **Mark 2:18-22**.

Matt made the point that we need to be willing for God to inconvenience us. Reflect on this point in light of Jesus' words in Mark chapter 2.

- When is a time where you felt God invite you to take a risk? Could be big, could be small.
- Think about what your life looks like. And think about your personality type. Is there room in your life for God to interrupt you? Is there room for God to inconvenience you?
- What is the new thing you feel God inviting you into as you look forward to this summer and the fall, with minimal restrictions and more gatherings again?

P R A Y

Pray to close with your group.