



Good Afternoon,

I pray your week is going well. In an effort to help you, as the parent, take an active role in the discipleship of your student, I wanted to send you a quick update for what we will be covering in August in student ministry. My goal is that you take these topics and begin to have meaningful conversations with your students about their personal walks with the Lord. My prayer is that your family grows closer together as you all grow closer to God.

Sunday Mornings Sunday School:

We are walking through **the Gospel of Mark** and seeing how this book fits into the grand narrative of Scripture. We will be reading through **Chapters 1-4** which covers **the early ministry of Jesus Christ up to the calming of the sea before meeting to demoniac of the Gerasenes**. Listed below are some ideas for questions you can ask of your students each week as they read through this book. I'd encourage you, as part of your own devotional time, to read through these chapters with your students.

- **Week 1:**

- *Why do you think that the Gospel of Mark does not include a birth narrative about Jesus? Is that important that Mark left it out?*
- *What is one thing you read that you found interesting in the reading this week?*

- **Week 2:**

- *What do you make of the reactions of the religious leaders have to Jesus' miracles and teachings in this chapter? Why do you think Mark is setting up for us a conflict that we need to pay attention to throughout the Gospel account?*
- *What is one thing you read that you found difficult to understand in the reading this week?*

- **Week 3:**

- *Why was it so strange for Jesus to heal a man on the Sabbath? Why were the religious leaders upset with Him?*
- *What is one thing you read that you found hard to accept in the reading this week?*

- **Week 4:**

- *Jesus spends much of His time teaching the crowds and His disciples through parables. Why do you think Jesus used this method to teach the people? How would you choose to share the message of who Jesus is with these crowds?*
- *What is one thing you read that you found encouraging in the reading this week?*

For those who do not know, each week, I provide paper copies of a Daily Bible Reading (DBR) for them to use as they develop the practice of reading their Bible daily. This DBR will be posted to social media each week as well so that they know what we will be covering the following week. This is one of the methods I am using to encourage them to spend time with the Lord daily. I'd love to partner with you in this.

Sunday Nights (Ask Anything) @ 6:00 PM (Starts September 8):

When we gather on Sunday nights, our goal is for students to have an environment where their questions about the faith can be heard and addressed. The format is such that I come prepared with several questions for them to ponder and think through and provide reasons for why they believe what they believe. If they have questions that pertain to the broad topic for the week or questions that arise from their personal reading, we will address those as well. We always center our beliefs on what the Bible says and make that our final authority on a topic. In September, we will begin talking through questions pertaining to **Our Culture & Society**. I would encourage you to have conversations with your students about this topic to broadly see what is going on in their mind and heart.

Wednesday Nights @ 6:30 PM

We come together during the week to worship, learn and spend time growing. Our typical format is to praise God through song then go into a time of teaching. After this, we break off into small groups and dive deeper into the topic being taught in a relaxed environment where they can ask questions and really flesh out how the world of God is applied to our lives. These groups are facilitated by small group leaders who will be actively helping them grow in their faith and walk with the Lord. This month, we will be discussing **Who we are as Buffat Student Ministries (BSM)** and breaking it into **3** weeks of lessons. Each week, I'll plan on sending out an email, on Thursdays, summarizing the lessons and attaching the discussion questions they would have addressed within their groups.

Upcoming Events:

We are also looking forward to these events in the months ahead, so make sure you mark your calendars so that your students can participate.

- **August 7** - Back to School Party - We will kick off the new school year with a party. Food and games for the students and a whole lot of fun.
- **September 7** - End of Summer Party - At the home of Scottie & Kiki Lee - cookout, pool party, bon fire and moonlight manhunt.
- **September 25** - See You at the Pole (SYATP) - Students and staff encouraged to gather around the flagpoles at schools and pray for their school and community. We encourage all students to participate and I'll be at one of the local schools.

Thank you for allowing us to invest in the life of your student. We are grateful for this opportunity to partner with you in discipling the next generation. If you have questions, please don't hesitate to reach out to me. **904 966 1433 (text) or jball@buffatheights.org (email)** I appreciate you and am grateful to be working alongside you as we labor to develop your student into a faithful follower of Christ.

In Him,

Jacob Ball - Student & Discipleship Pastor BHBC