

Life Group Notes 3/22/2026 Mark Warren Formed on a mission— Week Three

No doctrine is a given unless it has been found in the Word given by the Holy Spirit and received by you. If you have observations or questions, feel free to send me an email with your comment or observations at tbeachhead@comcast.net. Thank you for taking the time.

– *Pete Mehegan, the Scribe.*

Remember: Be good to one another. Be sensitive and kind. Let God heal our heart and guide our discussions.

Leaders: please pre-read these notes and choose the direction that is appropriate for your group. Scan the detailed questions that follow the AI-generated study questions, to see if you want to add any more detailed questions.

Be cognizant of your group's time and be sensitive. *Some groups would like to dwell on a single idea. Let the Spirit be your guide. Never feel obligated to complete this study.*

Note: I have highlighted suggested discussion questions that Pastor Mark has raised this week, 3/22. Let's allow the Holy Spirit to guide all our discussions, using the highlights as trail blazes. ***The purpose is to minister to one another***

Important: At [the very end of these notes](#), I've included passages that were mentioned in this week's message for deeper study using SOAP journaling to help further your study during the week.

Footnotes are added to supply detail, and to enhance the study. Use at your discretion, and know any questions are welcomed. This week's footnotes cover:

1. [On Jesus humbling Himself, what the original Greek tells us.](#)

This format begins with a [summary](#) of the notes, followed by AI generated [study questions](#). This week, [notes in full detail](#) can be found beginning on page 4:_____

Section I: Summary

Here's "co-pilot's" AI summary of the Sermon Lifegroup Notes

The highlighted sections focus on **spiritual formation through discomfort, obedience, and surrender**, modeled after the life of Jesus. They invite participants to reflect personally and practically on what it means to live "on mission."

Key emphases include:

- **Discomfort as a tool for formation**
Spiritual growth often begins when God stretches us beyond comfort. The questions press participants to consider moments when obedience felt uncomfortable and how God used those moments to bring transformation.

- **Jesus as the model of surrender and obedience**
Through passages like Philippians 2 and Hebrews 12, the discussion highlights how Jesus willingly gave up comfort, status, and safety to fulfill the Father's will—and calls believers to adopt the same mindset.
- **Comfort as a threat to spiritual growth**
Repeated reflection is encouraged on what areas of life may be “too comfortable” and therefore resistant to God's shaping work. Comfort is framed as something that can quietly hinder mission and maturity.
- **Obedience over outcomes**
A central principle is reinforced: *we are responsible for obedience; God is responsible for the results*. Participants are asked to examine where God may be calling them to act in faith without controlling the outcome.
- **Living on mission through action, not observation**
Faith is shown to grow when believers step into others' pain, engage in awkward or difficult conversations, and serve tangibly—rather than remaining passive consumers of teaching.
- **Our role in God's redemptive work**
The highlighted questions clarify that believers are not saviors, but ambassadors—called to introduce others to Jesus, stand in the gap against darkness, and participate in reconciliation through love and obedience.

Section II: Study questions

0–5 Minutes | Welcome & Centering

Purpose: Set a safe, Spirit-led tone.

Facilitator prompts

- “Let's take a moment to settle in. This is not about having the ‘right’ answers, but about listening—to God and to one another.”
- Open with a brief prayer inviting the Holy Spirit to guide the discussion.

5–15 Minutes | Opening Reflection: Discomfort & Formation

Purpose: Ease the group into honest reflection.

Primary questions

1. Pastor opened with the prayer, “*Lord, make me deeply uncomfortable.*”
 - What is your first reaction to that prayer?
2. Can you recall a time when God led you into something uncomfortable?
 - What happened as a result?

Optional follow-ups (if the group is engaged)

- Do you think growth can happen without discomfort? Why or why not?
- How do you usually respond when God disrupts your comfort?

Facilitator note: If conversation stalls, normalize silence. Let people think.

15–25 Minutes | Jesus as the Model: Obedience & Surrender

Purpose: Ground the discussion in Jesus' example.

Read together (briefly): Philippians 2:5–8 (or summarize)

Primary questions 3. What stands out to you about what Jesus gave up in order to obey the Father?

- Pastor said, *“Obedience and surrender equal transformation.”*
 - What does that mean in real life?

Optional follow-ups

- Was obedience easy for Jesus? What do the Scriptures suggest?
- How does Jesus’ surrender challenge our view of success or comfort?

25–40 Minutes | Comfort vs. Mission

Purpose: Move from theology to personal application.

Primary questions 6. Pastor said, *“Comfort is often the greatest threat to formation.”*

- Do you agree or disagree? Why?
 1. What is one area of life that feels *too comfortable* right now?
 - Why might it be difficult to surrender that area?

Secondary reflection 8. How comfortable are you in unfamiliar environments—new people, cultures, or situations? 9. Have you ever seen God do His best work in a place you would not have chosen?

Facilitator note: This section can go deep. Protect vulnerability—no fixing, no preaching.

40–50 Minutes | Obedience, Faith, and Action

Purpose: Connect mission with everyday faith.

Primary questions 10. Pastor said, *“You are responsible for obedience. God is responsible for the outcome.”*

- How does that statement encourage you? - How does it challenge you? 11. What does it look like to “live on mission” in ordinary life—not overseas, but here?

Scripture connection (summarize James 2:15–17) 12. How does action give credibility to our faith? 13. Where might God be inviting you to move from watching to participating?

50–58 Minutes | Identity & Freedom in the Mission

Purpose: Release pressure and refocus on grace.

Primary questions 14. Pastor closed by saying, *“Jesus is the Savior. We are not.”*

- Why is that freeing? 15. What is our role if we are not the ones who save people? 16. How does knowing God handles the results change how you approach obedience?

58–60 Minutes | Prayer & Closing

Purpose: Respond to what God has stirred.

Closing prompts

- “Is there one word or phrase from tonight that you want to carry into the week?”
- Invite silent reflection, then close in prayer:
 - Surrender
 - Courage for obedience
 - Willingness to step out of the comfort zone

Optional Facilitator Tips

- **Do not rush**—depth over coverage.
- **Let testimonies breathe.**
- **Trust the Spirit** more than the outline.

(Scribe's note: These are AI generated suggestions that I'd love to take credit for.)

Section III: Complete study notes

Pastor Mark opened with a question: Have you ever begun your day with the prayer, "Lord, make me deeply uncomfortable."

1. Answer him.
2. Who would pray a prayer like that?
3. Have you ever been made uncomfortable by what you knew God was calling you to do? Do you have a testimony?
4. What came of your actions that day?
5. He continued, "What if part of this mission He called us to also makes you uncomfortable, would you be willing?" Answer him.

He said, "I do believe, at some point in time in our faith journey with Jesus, we are going to be stretched, disrupted, we're going to be made uncomfortable. It's at that point that formation takes place."

1. Have you seen this?
2. Do you have a testimony?
3. Again, what was the result?

Look up Philippians 2:⁵*Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus: ⁶Who, existing in the form of God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, ⁷but emptied Himself, taking the form of a servant, being made in human likeness. ⁸And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to death—even death on a cross.*

1. What do you see? What is Paul asking us to do?
2. Who else do you know in scripture who, in the beginning, existed in the very image and likeness of God?

Look up 1 Corinthians 15: ⁴⁴It is sown a natural body; it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a natural body, there is also a spiritual body. ⁴⁵So it is written: "The first man Adam became a living being;" the last Adam a life-giving spirit. ⁴⁶The spiritual, however, was not first, but the natural, and then the spiritual

1. Why is Jesus called the Last Adam?
2. What did Adam have in common with Jesus.
3. What did Adam not do that Jesus did?
4. How are we like Adam?
5. How are you like Jesus?
6. Go back to the passage from Philippians, above: What did Jesus leave behind to obey and to come among us?
7. Did he know about the mosquitos and ticks that Pastor encountered in Rwanda?
8. Did He have to be comfortable among those mosquitos and ticks?
9. Among whom else did He have to become comfortable?
10. Pastor says, "Obedience plus surrender equals transformation." Explain.

11. Look at Matthew 17:17, or Mark 9:19, or Luke 9: ⁴¹“O unbelieving and perverse generation!” Jesus replied. “How long must I remain with you and put up with you? Bring your son here.” Was it easy for Jesus to do what He did? Explain.
12. Describe how our mindset must change. What must we put up with?
13. Now look up Matthew 27:46, or Mark 15:34, or Psalm 22: My God, my God, why have You forsaken me? Why are You so far from saving me, so far from my words of groaning? What was the most difficult surrender of all, for Jesus?
14. Was the difficulty foreseen? Was it avoidable? How do you know?
15. What does this mean, “Not my will but yours be done?”
16. Mark adds, “Comfort is often the greatest threat to formation.” Explain.
17. He asks, “What is the one thing that is too comfortable in your life, that would be hard for you to give up.”
18. How comfortable are you in surroundings with which you are unfamiliar?
19. Do you have a testimony from where you faced the unknown?
20. Mark says, “God does His best work in places that we would never choose.” Is this true?

Look at Hebrews 12: ²*Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.* ³*Consider Him who endured such hostility from sinners, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.*

1. How does the author of Hebrews echo what Paul is telling the Philippians?
2. Describe what Jesus gave up.
3. Describe what He faced.

Now look at Philippians 2: ⁹*Therefore God exalted Him to the highest place and gave Him the name above all names,* ¹⁰*that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth,* ¹¹*and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.*

1. What was the joy that was set before Him, spoken of in Hebrews 12, that helped Him endure?
2. What joy has been set before you to help you endure?
3. How important is it to step out of your comfort zone?

Pastor says, “God shapes us most in those places that stretch us the furthest.”

1. Explain this principle.
2. Look at the lives of the apostles from Gethsemane to Pentecost. What did they do in the Garden when they were asked to pray?
3. How did they spend those next days after Gethsemane?
4. What changed at the resurrection?
5. What changed at Pentecost? How were they stretched and shaped?
6. Did that stretching end when the Holy Spirit arrived? Explain.

Now look at this principle pastor establishes: “You are responsible for obedience. God is responsible for the outcome.”

1. Explain.
2. Review above...in what ways was Jesus obedient?
3. What was the outcome. Be rich in detail.

4. Look at this promise from Isaiah 1:¹⁸*“Come now, let us reason together,” says the LORD. “Though your sins are like scarlet, they will be as white as snow; though they are as red as crimson, they will become like wool. ¹⁹If you are willing and obedient, you will eat the best of the land. ²⁰But if you resist and rebel, you will be devoured by the sword.”* What do you see?
5. What is God asking us to do?
6. Look at verse 19. What is the offer? What is the promised reward?
7. What is the outcome of disobedience?
8. Have you ever reasoned with God? Why or why not?
9. How did you reason with Him? What form did the reasoning take?
10. What was the outcome?

Mark continues, “Living on mission is a decision to model your own life after Jesus’ life. Faith grows when we go...not when we merely watch.”

1. Explain.
2. Do you have a testimony?
3. Have you ever gone? What happened?

“We don’t get warmed by watching sermons alone, we get warmed when we step into someone’s pain. You pray for someone out loud. You have an awkward faith conversation.” Pastor says, “The important thing is your obedience.”

1. How is your own obedience a manifestation of your faith?
2. What does this mean, “Faith adds hands and feet to your lips?” Is this true? Explain.
3. Look at how James puts it in chapter 2: ¹⁵*Suppose a brother or sister is without clothes and daily food. ¹⁶If one of you tells him, “Go in peace; stay warm and well fed,” but does not provide for his physical needs, what good is that? ¹⁷So too, faith by itself, if it does not result in action, is dead.* What do you see in these verses?

Mark closes with a prophetic review, saying, “Jesus is the Savior. We are not. We’re not here to save people. We’re here to introduce them to Jesus, Who does the saving. This takes the pressure off of us, but we have the responsibility to be the mouthpiece, the hands and feet of Jesus to others. And we have the commitment to reconcile people to the Father who loves them so much. We stand in this gap, holding back the darkness to allow the light of Christ to come into their lives...so that they can imagine the possibility that there really is a Father in Heaven Who loves them, to set them free...and then we are going to have a passion to redeem what the enemy has stolen.”

1. What do you see?
2. Why is this not burdensome?
3. What makes it burdensome?
4. Review, as it comes up in every message, John 10:¹⁰*The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I have come that they may have life, and have it in all its fullness.* What is our role in this?
5. Where is this life found?
6. What does its fullness look like?
7. How are you doing?

Take the time to pray.

Follow up application:

1. Use the **Soap study below** to pursue your own understanding.
2. Ask yourself, “What is the one thing in my life that is too comfortable, that I would struggle to give up?” Make a list.
3. What is God calling you to? Write down what God reveals.

Footnotes:

1. **On Jesus humbling Himself, what the original Greek tells us**—There is a benefit once in a while, when reading a translation, to know something about the original language. Things happen in one language that are difficult to translate into the other, and the result is inevitably a paraphrase. (Explain to someone who is learning English why you must chop a tree *down* before you can chop it *up*.) Now look again at the translation of Philippians 2: ⁶Who, existing (ὑπάρχων *hyparchon*—from the very beginning) in the form (ἐν μορφῇ—*en morphe*—in the *form* (or outward expression) that *embodies essential* (inner) substance so that the *form* is in **complete** harmony with the inner *essence*.) of God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped (ἄρπαγμὸν—*harpagmon*—seized, plundered, stolen.), ⁷but emptied Himself, taking (λαβών—*labon*—to take, receive or obtain/to accept) the form (μορφὴν—*morphen*, see above) of a servant, being made in human likeness (ἐν ὁμοιώματι ἀνθρώπων—*en homoiomati anthropon*—in resemblance to man). ⁸And being found in appearance (σχήματι—*schemati*, design) as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to death—even death on a cross. Here, then, is a paraphrase of these verses, “Who, being from the very beginning of God’s essence in form and substance, did not feel obligated to grab and establish by plunder his equality with God, but instead, he emptied himself [of privilege], and accepted the essence and form of a bonds slave, being made as a replica after the pattern of a man. Being after man’s design, he [even] humbled himself to be obedient unto Death himself [our last enemy].” When you realize what Paul is describing is a contrast, that what Jesus did was as Adam should have done, that Adam thought equality with God was something he had to seize, you understand the awesome nature of Jesus’ sacrifice better. Now it’s up to us to learn this attitude.

For further study:

Take a moment each day this week to apply the **SOAP method** (**S**cripture—Copy the scripture. / **O**bservation—Write what you see. / **A**pplication—Write what God is saying. / **P**ray—Write what your response is.) to some of the scripture we looked at this week:

Monday: Philippians 2:5-8
Tuesday: Philippians 2:9-11
Wednesday: 1 Corinthians 15:44-46
Thursday: Luke 9:41
Friday: Psalm 22:1
Saturday: Hebrews 12:2-3
Sunday: Isaiah 1:18-20

Once again, some passages suggested here have more than the usual number of verses. This is not to increase the burden but to provide clarity of context. Pick the verses that speak to you most clearly, and run these through the SOAP steps.