



Sermon Overview

The Gospel of Mark is an account of the actions of Jesus of Nazareth — actions driven by divine identity and perfect compassion. This account is historically reliable, but not reducible to a mere collection of locations and dates. Rather, Mark’s gospel announces the content of the gospel, the promised good news, is the person of Jesus. The promised messiah and Son of God.

As a church, we are launching into an in-depth study of Mark together. Over the next six months we will challenge ourselves and one another to “taste and see that the Lord is good.” (Psalms 34:8). And, we’ll do so by a consistent diet and digestion of God’s Word.

This first study guide is goal-driven. In Mark 1:1 we see explicit purpose and direction from the writer. Individually we will take this direction and form our own goals as we step into a new chapter, a new beginning, to pursue Jesus Christ together knowing we will arrive in a closer proximity to the Son of God.

Getting Started

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1. Have you ever studied a book of the Bible in an in-depth fashion? If so, share some of your experiences with those studies. Regardless, what do you hope to learn from this study of Mark? Make a list of items you’d like to pursue personally and with your group.

Starting with God

2. Read Mark 1:1 several times to yourself. As you do, pray that God the Holy Spirit will impress upon you what He intends this verse to communicate about God the Father’s character and nature. Share your thoughts below with your group.

3. The first word of Mark is “[The] Beginning.” Read Genesis 1:1 and John 1:1. Then, compare these verses to Mark 1:1. What similarities do you see? What is Mark trying to communicate with these similarities?

4. Mark continues in verse one to say that the beginning to which he’s referring is the beginning of the gospel. The gospel is “good news.” And, news, by definition, is a report of something that has *already happened*. If the gospel is something that has already happened, what does this tell you about the saving grace of God?

Living God’s Word

5. Our bodies require fuel for life. Our souls do as well. Pen and paper are great tools to begin your interaction with scripture but are insufficient for internalization and transformation. Consider this comment on Bible reading from Eugene Peterson,

“Spiritual writing is Spiritually-sourced writing and requires spiritual reading, a reading that honors words as holy, words as a basic means of forming an intricate web of relationships between God and the human ...”

We read the Bible not to get God into our lives. We read the Bible to be drawn into God’s reality. Participation on His terms. Discuss with your group how you can establish and transform your time reading the Bible to be a consistent, daily practice that informs your mind and molds your spirit. Write down your thoughts.

Prayer

Father God, please guide me through your story as revealed in the Gospel of Mark and help me to see my story in your sovereign work of grace. Amen.