

BRIARCLIFF CHURCH
Small Group Study Guide: Mark
Week of August 26 (Week 2)
Mark 1:2-13



Sermon Overview

As we enter into the main content of the introduction of the Gospel of Mark we see that Mark illustrates the “beginning” of his gospel with excerpts from the Old Testament written several hundred years earlier. We understand that Mark is telling us that Jesus is the fulfillment of God’s covenant promise to his people (traceable back to Genesis 3:15).

The good news proclaimed and introduced by John the Baptist is that of a victory already won on our behalf. A victory being claimed by the Lamb of God – Jesus. The life of Jesus *is* the gospel story and his perfection our hope.

Getting Started

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1. What living person would you like to meet more than any other? Imagine that person will be at your house in a few hours for dinner. How would you respond?

Starting with God

2. Read Malachi 3:1-4 and Isaiah 40:3-5. What is Mark telling us about the identity of Jesus?

3. How, specifically, does John ‘pave the way’ for the Lord? What do verses 4-8 tell us about how the Messiah, the King, is to be received?

Living God's Word

4. Mark (as well as Matthew 3:17; Luke 3:22) tells us that as soon as Jesus was baptized a voice from heaven was heard, saying, "You are my beloved son; with you I am well pleased." What would it mean to you to hear God say that to you?

5. In Mark 1:12-13 Jesus is sent out into the desert to be tempted by Satan. He is also acting out (and perfecting) the great drama of Israel's exodus from Egypt, spending 40 days and nights in the wilderness. The same Spirit realized in Jesus at his baptism now "drives" Jesus into the wilderness.

At times we may feel driven into the wilderness or among wild beasts. How can your reflection, worship and theology in these times be formed by the knowledge that the same Holy Spirit is active in all circumstances?

Prayer

Father God, thank you for Jesus – his life, death and resurrection – perfected for your glory and my salvation.