

The beginning

of the gospel | good news | euangelion

of | about Jesus Christ | the Messiah

son of God

Questions for reflection & discussion

Summarize the message in your own words.

- What stood out for you?

Read **Mark 1**

- Why is **v1** so foundational?
- When you hear the word “*gospel*” what comes to your mind?
How would you define *gospel*?
- Why do you think Mark uses the phrase “*the beginning of the gospel*”?
Why is it “*the beginning*”?
- Why do you think Mark does not spend any time on the birth or childhood of Jesus?
What might be the significance of this?
- What words and/or phrases stand out to you in this chapter?

Mark 1:1-13

- How does John, the baptizer (Jesus’ cousin), seek to prepare people for Jesus’ coming?
- What is significant about Jesus’ baptism?
- When the living God looks at every Christian, he says to us, what he said to Jesus on the day of his baptism. He sees us in Jesus.
 - What did he say?
 - What does it mean to you to hear God say that to you?

Mark 1:14-20

- Jesus begins his ministry by proclaiming the good news of God. What is this good news – euangelion – good news?

- What is the significance of linking this with the kingdom?
- Why do you think Jesus begins this when John is in prison?

Repentance:

- We often interpret this to mean “*stop sinning and become a Christian*”
- For Jesus repentance means:
 - turning away from whatever personal, social and/or political agendas they were trusting in; and,
 - calling Israel [the people of God] back to a true loyalty to God.
- To follow Jesus, Peter, Andrew, James & John had to cut loose from other ties and trust him and his message.
 - what does that mean in your life?
 - Why is this so hard to do today?

Mark 1:21-45

- How is Jesus’ teaching different (**v21-22**)?
- How does Jesus demonstrate his authority?
- Why do you think Jesus didn’t want the healed leper to tell people (**v40-45**)?

REFLECTING ON & LIVING IT OUT THIS WEEK

- Looking over this first chapter of Mark, how does Jesus model for us different ways of announcing the kingdom of God?
- How has this chapter expanded your view of what God can do and is doing, to teach, heal and defeat the forces of evil?
- Review the post [Into The Text MARK 1](#) on [occweb.org/](#)
 - Specifically listen to the song “*We Seek Your Kingdom*”
 - This song affirms that no sphere of life is exempt from Christ’s redemptive work. It’s a powerful reminder that God is interested and active in all areas of society, spurring us to seek transformation wherever we are – in our workplaces, homes, communities, and beyond.

Pray the Lord’s | Disciples | Kingdom prayer

- Praying big ‘macro’ prayers, that God’s kingdom would be increasingly evident in our society and institutions, our nation and our world.
- Pray ‘micro’ prayers for one another, that you would know his presence with you as you seek God’s kingdom on your frontline this week.