



Bible Reading Group

The gospel of Mark

Chapter 1

Background

- 1 Who was Mark?
- 2 When was the gospel written?
- 3 Who was the gospel written for?
- 4 What is distinctive about this gospel?

John the Baptist (1:1-8)

- 5 What does “gospel” mean?
- 6 Where is the quotation in verses 2-3 from?
- 7 In the quotation, who is the “messenger”, who is “you” and who is the voice?
- 8 What was John’s purpose?
- 9 What sort of baptism did John practise? Was this a new idea?
- 10 Who was baptised by John?
- 11 Where was John baptizing? [Hint: check cross-reference to John’s gospel.]
- 12 What does “repentance” mean?
- 13 Why did he wear such strange clothes and eat such strange food?
- 14 What Old Testament prophet was John like?
- 15 What did John mean by being “baptized with the Holy Spirit”?
- 16 How did John feel about Jesus?

The baptism of Jesus (1:9–11)

- 17 What amazing things happened when Jesus was baptized?
- 18 What was the purpose of these things?

The temptation of Jesus (1:12–13)

- 19 What other Bible characters spent time alone in the desert?
- 20 Why did Jesus go into the desert?
- 21 What sort of temptations did he experience?
- 22 Why did these temptations occur to him at this time?
- 23 Who is/was Satan?

Call of the first disciples (1:14–20)

- 24 What do these verses tell us about the reason Jesus came into the world? See in particular verses 14, 15, and 37–39.
- 25 What did Jesus mean when he said “The kingdom of God is near”?
- 26 Was Jesus’ message any different from John’s message?
- 27 Where was Jesus when he called the four fishermen?
- 28 Had they met Jesus before? [Compare John’s gospel.]
- 29 Why were they so willing to follow Jesus?
- 30 What did Jesus mean by “fishers of men”?
- 31 How did they make a living while they were following Jesus?
- 32 By what name is Simon better known? [Compare Matthew’s gospel]

Miracles in Capernaum (1:21-34)

- 33 What was the difference between the Jesus and other teachers in Israel?
- 34 What was wrong with the man in the synagogue?
- 35 Was this Jesus' first miracle?
- 36 What was the effect of this miracle on the people of Galilee?
- 37 What purpose did Jesus' miracles serve?
- 38 What do we know about Simon's family?
- 39 What made all the people bring their sick friends to Jesus?
- 40 Why did they wait until after sunset?
- 41 What are the demons in verse 34?

A tour of Galilee (1:35-45)

- 42 Why did Jesus head off on his own?
- 43 What else do we know about Jesus' prayer habits?
- 44 Who was looking for Jesus? Why?
- 45 Why does he ignore them and leave Capernaum?
- 46 What were the quarantine rules for people with leprosy?
- 47 What was significant about Jesus touching the leper?
- 48 What law did Jesus tell the leper to obey?
- 49 What was the effect of the leper's disobedience?