

THE KINGDOM OF GOD APPEARS IN PERSON

Mark 1:1-20

Each week, read the entire passage before you begin. Record the verses where you find your answers.

Memorize God's Word for the week: Mark 1:17.

Discuss review questions from the previous lesson.

DAY 1: MARK 1:1-4—THE PROPHECY

1. What crucial ingredients does John the Baptist's message contain?
2. Define *repentance*, using a dictionary or other Bible reference.

DAY 2: MARK 1:4-8—THE PROPHET AND THE PEOPLE

3. From Matthew 11:7-15 and Luke 3:1-20, what do you learn about John the Baptist and those who hear his message?
4. If John the Baptist were speaking to our culture, what do you think his message might be? Try to state it in contemporary language.
5. How does the imagery of John's words in Mark 1:7 communicate his estimation of Jesus?
6. How does Scripture describe the difference between John's work and Jesus' (Mark 1:8)?

DAY 3: MARK 1:9-13—THE INTRODUCTION OF JESUS

7. In what way does Jesus' baptism reveal His identity?
8.
 - a. Matthew 4:1-11 offers more details about Jesus' 40 days in the wilderness. Who directs Jesus to the wilderness?
 - b. Who tempts Him there?
 - c. What do you learn from Jesus about dealing with temptation?

9. According to Hebrews 2:17-18 and 4:14-16, how do we benefit from Jesus' experience?

DAY 4: MARK 1:14-15—THE BEGINNING OF JESUS' MINISTRY

10. In what way is the gospel "good news" to you personally?
11. What truths do you discover about God's kingdom from the following verses?
- a. Psalm 103:19

 - b. John 3:2-5

 - c. Romans 14:17-18

DAY 5: MARK 1:16-20—THE CALL OF DISCIPLES

12. Luke's account (Luke 5:1-11) conveys a relational dimension to Jesus' encounter with the four fishermen that is missing in Mark's succinct style. From the Luke passage, what do you observe about:
- a. the setting?

 - b. Jesus' initiative and intentions?

 - c. the disciples' response(s)?
13. Read again Mark 1:18 and 20. Does the immediacy of the disciples' action surprise you? Why, or why not?
14. What do you think it means to "follow Jesus" today?

DAY 6: PARTICIPATE IN CLASS

APPLY what you have learned. John the Baptist's message implies that there can be obstacles to experiencing Jesus' presence in our lives. Take a few moments to think back on your own spiritual journey. For some it has been a long one; for others it is just beginning. What obstacles have had to be removed in the past so the Lord's path in your life could be clear and straight? Are there any that need to be removed now? If so, what is one step you could take this week to clear the road?