

Mark Chapter 1 Study Guide

“The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand, repent and believe in the gospel.”

1:15

Instructions:

Take a moment to rid yourself of distractions. Slow your breathing down, and clear your mind. When ready, pray to God and ask him to give you insight into his word. Pray and ask the Holy Spirit for understanding while you read.

Read Mark 1:1-8

1. Who was John, and what was he doing in this passage?
2. Why does Mark foreshadow John’s ministry with a passage from Isaiah? What does this tell us about John? Who does Mark think John is?

Read Mark 1:9-11

1. Jesus went out to John to be baptized like many people had been doing. What was unique about when Jesus was baptized?
2. There are two miraculous occurrences in these verses. Who or what are they?
3. Besides Mark in verse 1, who is the first person to say that Jesus is the Son of God? Do you think this is important? Why or why not?

Read Mark 1:12-13

1. For more explanation of what happens to Jesus here, see Matthew 4:1-11.

Read Mark 1: 14-20

1. Jesus himself proclaims that the Kingdom of God has arrived. What do you think he means by ‘repent and believe in the gospel’? (reference Mark 1:4; and Mark 1:7)
2. Jesus asks four men to come with him and Follow Him. Who are these four men and what are their professions?
3. Does it strike you odd that Jesus picks these men? Why or why not?

Read Mark 1: 21-28

1. What was Jesus doing on the Sabbath? What was his audience’s reaction to his teaching? Why?

2. What did the unclean man say to Jesus? Who is the second witness to say Jesus is the Son of God? What do you think about this character witness?
3. What did Jesus do to the man?
4. How do the other people in the story react?
5. What does this teach us about Jesus authority? What does he have authority to do?
6. What is your initial reaction to the story? Is it believable, surprising, etc?

Read Mark 1:29-39

1. Where does Jesus go after teaching in the synagogue?
2. Who does he heal?
3. What does this teach us about Jesus authority? What does he have authority to do?
4. Verses 32-34 say that he healed many people and cast out many demons. Now imagine that Jesus were among us to do, doing those same things Do you think people in our day would have a similar response? Why or Why not?
5. Where does Jesus go next and what is his purpose?

Read Mark 1:40-45

1. Who came to Jesus? What was wrong with him? (you can totally look up his disease if you don't know what it is, just be prepared. It's gruesome!)
2. Jesus becomes more intimate with this man when healing him. Why do you think Jesus does that?
3. What did Jesus ask the man to do after he was healed of Leprosy?
4. The Jews believed the Messiah would be the only person who capable of healing a person of leprosy. There is only one recorded instance of a leper being healed in scripture, and it is a foreign-born person, NOT an Israelite. The Israelites had special laws about what to do if a person was healed of Leprosy; and Jesus commands him to do them. What might this have meant if the healed leper actually went to the priests after Jesus healed him?

In Conclusion:

1. Who are the people who say that Jesus is the Son of God in this chapter? (2, possibly 3 witnesses.)
2. What type of authority does Jesus have? What things can he do so far?
3. What do people think about Jesus? What are their feelings towards him?
4. What do you think about Jesus so far? What type of person does he seem to be?

Defining the “Bible-y” Words:

Gospel: Term meaning Good News, usually a messenger giving news about a King.

Isaiah the Prophet: Isaiah was a person who lived 740 BC. He was a prophet (a person who spoke to the Israelites on behalf of God.) to the Southern Kingdom of Judah. He wrote an entire book of the bible, which contains many of the prophecies about the coming Messiah, or Son of God, for Israel.

Nazareth of Galilee: a city located in the Northern part of Modern day Israel. As a first-time reader to Mark, it's important that you look up a map of Israel and put your finger on Nazareth. The locations listed in Mark are not a bunch of made-up places; they can still be found on the map today. These were real historical people living in real historical places.

Capernaum: a city located on the Northern shore of the Sea of Galilee. Jesus makes Capernaum his headquarters of sorts. He focuses much of his ministry here.

Sabbath: The sabbath was a Jewish day of rest. Jews were not permitted to do any work on this day. They went to synagogue and worshipped on this day similar to how many people attend a church service on Sundays today. Jewish Sabbath began Friday at sunset and ended on Saturday

Scribes: simply put, scribes were people tasked with copying transmissions of religious texts and preserving the scriptures for Israel. (think Dead Sea Scrolls). Often they were very religious people, who were not only responsible for transcribing the scriptures; they interpreted them as well. Scribes were great influential leaders in Israeli communities. In the coming pages, we will see that scribes are often at odds or in conflict with Jesus.

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