



Discipleship Guide

The Gospel of Mark | The Beginning of the Good News (Mark 1:1-15)

Speaker: Pastor JohnEric Zayas

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SMALL GROUP GUIDE

Key Takeaways:

1. The book of Mark presents Jesus as the Messiah and Son of God.
2. John the Baptist prepared the way for Jesus' ministry.
3. Jesus' baptism was a public declaration of His divine identity.
4. Preparation for ministry often involves facing temptation and challenges.
5. Our response to trials and temptations can be an act of worship.

Discussion Questions:

1. What stood out to you most from the sermon? Why?
2. The sermon mentioned three sections of Mark's gospel: preparation, demonstration, and opposition. How do you see these themes playing out in your own spiritual journey?
3. John the Baptist's first act of preparation was worship. How can we make worship a priority in our own lives as we prepare to serve God?
4. The pastor said, "Temptation is an invitation to worship." What do you think this means? How have you experienced this in your own life?

5. Discuss the concept of "surviving the sword" (Jeremiah 31:2). How does this relate to facing trials and temptations in our Christian walk?
6. How does Jesus' example of overcoming temptation in the wilderness encourage you in your own struggles?
7. The sermon emphasized the importance of being in God's Word. What practical steps can you take to prioritize Bible study in your daily life?

Practical Applications:

1. This week, identify an area of temptation or challenge in your life. Create a plan to respond with worship and obedience to God.
2. Choose a portion of the book of Mark to read daily this week. Journal your insights and reflections.
3. Practice using Scripture to combat temptation, as Jesus did. Memorize a verse that addresses a specific struggle you face.
4. Reflect on your "preparation season." How might God be using current challenges to shape you for future ministry?
5. Look for opportunities to point others to Jesus, following John the Baptist's example.

Closing Prayer:

Thank God for His Word and the example of Jesus. Ask for strength to overcome temptation and for eyes to see how He is working in your current season of life.

5-DAY DEVOTIONAL GUIDE

Day 1: Preparing the Way

Reading: Mark 1:1-8

Devotional: John the Baptist's role in preparing the way for Jesus reminds us of our own calling to point others to Christ. Just as John lived a life of sacrifice and dedication, we too are called to live in a way that draws attention not to ourselves, but to Jesus. Reflect on how your life can be a witness to Christ's love and power. Are there areas where you need to decrease so that Christ can increase in your life? Remember, true preparation for God's work often involves humility and a willingness to serve others.

Day 2: The Baptism of Jesus

Reading: Mark 1:9-11

Devotional: The baptism of Jesus marks a profound moment of divine affirmation. As the heavens open and God declares His love and pleasure in His Son, we're reminded of our own identity as beloved children of God. In your baptism or commitment to Christ, you too have been claimed and loved by God. Take time today to rest in that love, allowing it to permeate your sense of self-worth and purpose. How might your life change if you truly lived from a place of being God's beloved child?

Day 3: Temptation in the Wilderness

Reading: Mark 1:12-13

Devotional: Immediately after His baptism, Jesus faces temptation in the wilderness. This reminds us that spiritual highs are often followed by challenging trials. Yet, these trials are opportunities for growth and demonstration of faith. Reflect on times when you've

faced temptation or trials after spiritual victories. How did God sustain you? Remember, temptation is an invitation to worship - will you choose to worship God or your own desires? Ask God for strength to stand firm in future trials.

Day 4: The Kingdom is Near

Reading: Mark 1:14-15

Devotional: Jesus begins His ministry with a powerful proclamation: "The time has come. The kingdom of God has come near. Repent and believe the good news!" This message is just as relevant today. God's kingdom - His rule and reign - is at hand, breaking into our world through Christ and His followers. How can you participate in bringing God's kingdom to earth today? Consider areas in your life or community that need God's transforming power, and pray for His kingdom to come in those situations.

Day 5: Finding Favor in the Wilderness

Reading: Jeremiah 31:2-3

Devotional: Even in our most challenging seasons - our "wilderness" experiences - God promises to be with us and show us favor. This passage reminds us that surviving difficult times can lead to experiencing God's love and rest in profound ways. Reflect on a current struggle in your life. How might God be using this "wilderness" to draw you closer to Him? Ask God to help you see His favor and love even in the midst of trials. Remember, these challenging seasons are often where God does His deepest work in our lives, preparing us for greater things to come.