



The Kingdom Has Come Near

MARK 1:1–15 • SUNDAY, OCTOBER 11, 2026

The good news begins with what God has done. God draws near to us in Jesus Christ and invites us to turn toward him in repentance and faith.

READ THE PASSAGE FIRST • Mark 1:1–15

Read the passage slowly once. Then return to the verses below as you work through Notice and Listen.

01 NOTICE *What is happening in the text?*

Look for the “good news” at the beginning (v. 1) and at the end (vv. 14–15). What do these announcements say about Jesus and God’s kingdom?

What role does John the Baptist play (vv. 2–8)? What makes his baptism distinctive (vv. 4–5), and how does he point beyond himself?

02 LISTEN *What is God showing us?*

Follow what God does throughout the passage: preparing the way, affirming Jesus, sending the Spirit, and announcing the kingdom. What comes before the call to repent?

Compare repentance in v. 4 with “repent, and believe” in v. 15. What does this suggest about turning away from sin and turning toward Jesus?

From Scripture to Life

NOTICE / LISTEN / RESPOND

03 RESPOND *What might faithfulness look like?*

Repentance is not merely feeling sorry. It is a grace-enabled turning of our thinking, actions, and trust toward Jesus.

Where might you be drifting off course? Consider your thoughts, an action or habit, or an area where trusting Jesus has become difficult.

What is one specific turn toward Jesus you could make this week?

A SIMPLE DAILY PRACTICE

At the end of each day, ask: Where did I notice God's grace? Where did I drift? How is Jesus inviting me to turn toward him tomorrow?

IN COMMUNITY / SMALL-GROUP CONVERSATION

1. What do we learn about God's initiative from the opening fifteen verses of Mark? Why is that good news?
2. How is genuine repentance different from regret or trying harder? How do repentance and faith belong together?
3. What most commonly pulls people off course in following Jesus? How can we help one another turn toward him again?

THIS WEEK'S INVITATION

Turn toward Jesus, not simply away from what is wrong. Share one next step with someone who can encourage you.
