

Small Group Study Guide: The Jewish Gospel of Mark – Part 1

December 6, 2025

The Good News and John's Message

Discussion Questions:

1. ****Preparing the Way**:** John the Baptist's role was to prepare hearts for Yeshua. Who are the "John the Baptists" in your life who prepared you to receive Yeshua? How can you play that role for others?
2. ****Inner vs. Outer Transformation**:** Yeshua warned against being "whitewashed tombs" (Matthew 23:27). How do we ensure our faith transformation is genuine and not just external appearances?
3. ****Fruit of Repentance**:** John demanded people "produce fruit worthy of repentance" before baptism. What does genuine repentance look like practically? What "fruit" should be evident?

Key Takeaway:

True repentance (teshuva) involves confession, a changed heart, and visible fruit – not just external religious activity.*

Part 2: Understanding Baptism/Mikvah

Discussion Questions:

1. ****Baptism's Meaning**:** The message explains mikvah (immersion) as a public declaration of inner change. How does understanding baptism as a Jewish ritual deepen your appreciation of it?
2. ****Why Yeshua Was Baptized**:** Yeshua had no sin to confess, yet He was baptized. What does His obedience to baptism teach us about following God even when we don't fully understand?

Key Takeaway:

Baptism is an outward symbol of an inward reality – a heart genuinely turned toward God.

Part 3: The Kingdom Is Near

Discussion Questions:

1. ****Messianic Age**:** The message states we're not just on the edge of God's Kingdom – "it is here now." How should living in the "already but not yet" Kingdom affect our daily choices?
2. ****Proclaiming Good News**:** Isaiah calls us to "get up on a high mountain" and proclaim, "Behold your God!" What prevents Believers today from boldly sharing this good news?
3. ****"Do Not Fear"**:** The message to Jerusalem was "Do not fear – Behold your God." What fears in your life need to be confronted with this truth?

Key Takeaway:

The world desperately needs to hear: "Do not fear – Behold your God!" We are called to be voices crying out this good news.