

# LIFE GROUP STUDY GUIDE

January 15, 2012

**Series: Jesus 101**

**“Your Gospel is Too Small” Mark 1:1-15**

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## **Sermon Summary:**

Mark's Gospel is about the “gospel of the kingdom”. He launches right in to it with his opening statement: “The beginning of the gospel about Jesus Christ, the Son of God.” The next 8 chapters will answer the question “who is Jesus?”. In this first section we are introduced to John the Baptist and his role in preparing the way for the Lord; Jesus' baptism and the voice from heaven and the temptation in the desert. There are three common reactions to Jesus in the Gospels: 1. people are afraid of Him and want to get away 2. people hate Him and want to kill Him 3. people worship Him and are willing to give up everything to follow Him. The one reaction that we don't see is apathy. Jesus is the Christ - He is the Good News. He has come to rescue us from our sins. How will we respond to Him?

## **Group Discussion Questions:**

- I. Where have you seen God at work in the past week? Have you seen answered prayers? How would you characterize your relationship with Jesus? In Mark there are a number of times when people are described as being astonished or amazed by Him. When was the last time you felt that way?
- II. Read Mark 1:1-15
- III. What stands out to you in this passage? Was there something that stood out to you on Sunday?
- IV. Read Isaiah 40:3-5 what is Mark telling us about the identity of Jesus?
- V. What does it mean to “prepare the way for the Lord” (v.3)? What kinds of things are necessary in our lives to do that?
- VI. What stands out to you in the account of Jesus' baptism? If Jesus did not need to be baptized for the forgiveness of sins, why was he baptized? v. 9-11
- VII. The Holy Spirit sends Jesus out into the desert and he is tempted by Satan (v.12-13). What does this teach us about suffering? temptation? Satan? (cf. Mt. 4:1-11; Lk. 4:1-13) Have you had

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“desert” experiences in your life? How have you dealt with them? When do you feel most vulnerable to temptation?

VIII. What is the essential message of Jesus (v.15)? What questions does this raise?

**Working it Out:** Encourage your group to take part in the Jesus 101 Challenge. If you need extra cards with the challenges you can pick some up at the office or contact Pastor Ken to email you a copy. Take time each week to share as a group or in smaller groups of 2 or 3 what God is showing you.

## **The Big Picture:**

**Who Jesus Is:** He’s the Christ (1:1 and 8:29). He’s the “good news” that God promised would come. He’s the “good news” of victory. Mark’s gospel is all about Jesus.

**Why Jesus Came:** To solve the problem of sin introduced by the Fall (1:4, 1:13, 1:15, 15:38)

**How Should I Respond?** Not by opposition (1:14, 3:6), but by repentance and faith (1:15, 2:5). Mark’s book will demand commitment and change.

***May God richly bless your time together as a group!***