

# Preparing for Mission

## Session Thoughts:

- Among your group consider a few ways you might be able BLESS a few individuals around you over the next week.
- Read Mark 1:1-13 at least twice. Try reading the text from two different translations. What do you observe in the text? What jumps out at you and grabs your attention? What questions do you have from the text? Pay attention to any action words or phrases and observe what the implications are.

## Discussion Questions:

1. Who was Mark? Why was he writing this “gospel”?
2. Mark opens his Gospel with a reference to an Old Testament passage. Read Isaiah 40:3 and then compare it to Mark 1:1-4. What is Mark telling us about the identity of Jesus?
3. How, specifically, does John ‘pave the way’ for the Lord? What do verses 4-8 tell us about how the Messiah, the King, is to be received?
4. What is the significance of Jesus baptism’ and the events recorded in verses 9-11? (Note: During John’s time, the Jews often administered baptism as a rite of purification for Gentiles who were converting to Judaism. John went one step further, preaching that Jews as well as Gentiles needed to be baptized as a sign of turning from sin.)
5. What is significant about the events of v.12-13. What stands out to you in these verses?
6. What is the significance of Mark including these scenes (the baptism and the temptation of Jesus) with so many supernatural forces?

## Next Steps:

- The Gospel is good news that makes up the core of what it means to be a Christian. We are Christians by faith, or belief in this good news of what Jesus has done. Yet, Christianity often ends up being cast as a set of behaviors. What “Christian behaviors” are you most inclined to feel proud of yourself or beat yourself up for? How does believing the Gospel change this?
- This week BLESS 3 people; 1 person from your community, 1 person from your workplace or neighborhood and 1 person as the Spirit leads.

*If you need to talk further about anything discussed tonight your leaders have other resources and are eager to discuss these things with you.*