

Student - Cell Group Discipleship Study Guide

Mark 1:1-8

Subject: Get Ready, Get Ready, Get Ready!

Scripture: **Mark 1:1-8** - *1 The beginning of the gospel about Jesus Christ, the Son of God. 2 It is written in Isaiah the prophet: "I will send my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way"— 3 "a voice of one calling in the desert, 'Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him.'" 4 And so John came, baptizing in the desert region and preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. 5 The whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem went out to him. Confessing their sins, they were baptized by him in the Jordan River. 6 John wore clothing made of camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. 7 And this was his message: "After me will come one more powerful than I, the thongs of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. 8 I baptize you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."* (NIV)

II. OBJECTIVE – Goal: To remind us to study the Word and keep our lives clean so God can use us in His service. **Challenge:** To get rid of those things in our life that will hinder us from growing spiritually. **Benefit:** We will be ready to hear God and obey Him. Then God will be able to use us to reach, teach and serve others for Him.

II. VITAL STATISTICS

Purpose – To present the person, work, and teachings of Jesus.

Author – John Mark. He was not one of the 12 disciples but he accompanied Paul on his missionary journey (Acts 13:13).

Written To – The Christians in Rome, where he wrote the Gospel.

Date – Between A.D. 55 and A.D. 65

Setting – The Roman Empire under Tiberius Caesar; the empire, with its common language and excellent transportation and communication systems, was ripe to hear Jesus' message, which spread quickly from nation to nation.

Special Features – Mark was probably the first Gospel written. The other Gospels quote all but 31 verses of Mark. Mark records more miracles than does any other Gospel. (Life Application Bible, Page 1722)

Theme: Mark presents Jesus as the Ultimate Servant. He is the Son of God carrying out the Father's will.

Key verse: Mark 10:45 - For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many." (NIV)

III. OVERVIEW

- A. The **Preparation** of the Servant (Mark 1:1-13).
- B. The **Preaching** of the Servant (Mark 1:14-10:1-52).
 - 1. Preaching in Galilee (Mark 1:14-4-9:50)
 - 2. Preaching in Perea (Mark 10:1-52)
- C. The **Passion** of the Servant (Mark 11:1-16:20).

IV. EXPOSITION OF THE TEXT

Questions and Answers from Sunday's Message for Discussion

A. The **Prelude** of Mark (V. 1). *1 The beginning of the gospel about Jesus Christ, the Son of God.*

Why did Mark skip the genealogy of Jesus?

B. The **Prophecy** of Isaiah (Vs. 2-3). *2 It is written in Isaiah the prophet: "I will send my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way"— 3 "a voice of one calling in the desert, 'Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him.'"*

How did John prepare the people for Jesus' ministry?

C. The _____ of John (Vs. 4-8).

1. His _____ (Vs. 4-6).

a. His _____ (V. 4). *4 And so John came, baptizing in the desert region and preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins.*

Why did John preach in the country as opposed to the city?

b. His _____ (V. 5). *5 The whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem went out to him. Confessing their sins, they were baptized by him in the Jordan River.*

What drew the people from the temple to the desert to hear John?

c. His _____ (V. 6).

(1) His _____ (V. 6a). 6 John wore clothing made of camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist,

(2) His _____ (V. 6b). and he ate locusts and wild honey.

John lived a very simple and disciplined life. What are some things you could give up in order to serve God more effectively?

2. His _____ (Vs. 7-8). 7 And this was his message: "After me will come one more powerful than I, the thongs of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. 8 I baptize you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

John showed humility by saying he was unworthy to be the lowest house slave. What are some ways we can show our humility today?

How was John's baptism going to be different from Jesus'?

V. CLOSE – John had a very important ministry even though he wasn't the main player in God's redemptive plan. He didn't have to be the star in order for God to use him. He was happy to be a servant. Are you content to be a servant in God's kingdom? Are you currently serving Him in ministry?" If not, what would it take to get you involved in ministry?

Application

1. Preparation is required if we want to be effective in ministry.
2. We make have to separate ourselves from people and other things in order to hear God.
3. When we are passionate about the message and our ministry it will attract others.
4. We need the power of the Spirit in order to be powerful and effective in ministry.

Memory Verse: Mark 1:8 - *I baptize you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.*" (NIV)

We are growing **Warmer** through **Fellowship**, **Deeper** through **Discipleship**, **Stronger** through **Worship**, **Broader** through **Ministry**, **Larger** through **Evangelism**, **Healthier** and **Wealthier** through **Stewardship**. (Acts 2:41-47)