

# Question MARK

Session 1 What's the Point of All This  
week starting February 21, 2021

Like any good action adventure story, the Gospel of Mark jumps right in, offering only the prophetic promise of John's mission to prepare the way of the Messiah. There is no telling of the Christmas story, no baby wrapped in swaddling clothes; Jesus simply "came" and was "baptized." This story will give us the play by play of Jesus' actions and people's reactions. As we question Mark about Jesus he will give us what scholars believe is Peter's version of Jesus' life story. Likely the first of the Gospels written, Mark represents a fast paced answer to the question "Who is this Jesus of Nazareth?"

## GETTING STARTED

If you are new to one another or have new group members, introduce yourselves and share one reason you are participating in or looking forward to this group. Discuss your group covenant/expectations.

<https://sov.church/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/Covenant-Member-Website.pdf>

- What is the best action story you have ever read or watched? Why?
- Tell about a wilderness adventure you've had.
- Have you been baptized? If so, when, why and what does it mean to you?

## DISCUSSION

1. Read Mark 1:1–20 and Isaiah 40:3–5. What is the role of John the Baptist in the story of Jesus? How is our role as followers of Jesus today both similar and different from his?
2. It seems revival was already sparking when Jesus arrived. Read Luke 1:13–17. What are the characteristics of the revival John is leading and how are revivals still needed in our society today?
3. In Mark 1:9–13 Jesus is baptized and Father, Son, and Spirit appear together affirming his identity. Describe a time when you have had someone speak over you words affirming who you are. How did it feel? How did it help you filter out other messages claiming labels over you?
4. What is the core of Jesus' message in these verses in Mark 1:14–15?
5. The word "repent" literally means to change your way of thinking. How does this compare to your prior understanding of this word? What does it look like to repent and believe the Good News?
6. Rabbis of Jesus' time would only choose the best students to become their disciples. They expected those potential students to seek them out and request the privilege of following them. As Jesus begins to call his disciples to follow him what do you notice about 1) whom he calls and 2) from where he calls them? How has Jesus called you, and how have you responded?

## LIVE IT OUT

This week, when you bathe, take a moment to thank God for affirming your identity in your baptism. Thank him for seeking you out and calling you to be his disciple. If you are not yet baptized and want to learn more, contact Pastor Christian, [chuntley@sov.church](mailto:chuntley@sov.church).

## MEMORIZATION CHALLENGE

After John was put in prison, Jesus went into Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God. "The time has come," he said. "The kingdom of God is near. Repent and believe the good news!" Mark 1:14–15

## PRAY

Jesus, by the power of your Holy Spirit you have called us and made us your own in baptism. Remind us again that you have come to restore us and call us your own beloved children. Amen.