

Student Handout: Mark Chapter 1

1. Overview of Mark's Gospel

Author: Traditionally believed to be John Mark.

Audience: Likely Roman Christians.

Themes: Action, urgency, Jesus' authority, the Kingdom of God.

Mark 1 introduces Jesus' ministry with rapid movement—John the Baptist, Jesus' baptism, temptation, early preaching, healings, and the calling of disciples.

2. Key Sections of Mark 1

A. John the Baptist Prepares the Way (1:1–8)

- John preaches repentance and forgiveness.
- Fulfills Isaiah's prophecy.
- Says Jesus will baptize with the Holy Spirit.

B. The Baptism of Jesus (1:9–11)

- Jesus is baptized in the Jordan.
- Spirit descends like a dove.
- God declares Jesus as His beloved Son.

C. The Temptation in the Wilderness (1:12–13)

- Jesus is tempted for 40 days.
- Angels attend Him.

D. Jesus Begins His Ministry (1:14–15)

- Jesus proclaims the good news: "The kingdom of God has come near."

E. Calling the First Disciples (1:16–20)

- Jesus calls Simon, Andrew, James, and John.
- They immediately follow Him.

F. Teaching and Authority in Capernaum (1:21–28)

- Jesus teaches with authority.

- He drives out an impure spirit.

G. Healing Ministry in Galilee (1:29–34)

- Jesus heals Peter's mother-in-law.
- Many come for healing and deliverance.

H. Jesus Prays in Solitude (1:35–39)

- Jesus withdraws early to pray.
- Says His mission is to preach.

I. Jesus Heals a Man With Leprosy (1:40–45)

- Jesus heals a man with leprosy.
- The man spreads the news widely.

3. Key Themes

- Jesus' authority
- Urgency ("immediately")
- The Kingdom of God
- Discipleship
- Compassion
- Prayer

4. Vocabulary

Gospel – Good news about Jesus.

Repentance – Turning away from sin toward God.

Baptism – Symbol of cleansing and new life.

Synagogue – Jewish place of worship.

Leprosy – Skin disease symbolizing impurity.

5. Reflection Questions

1. Why does Mark begin with John the Baptist?
2. What does Jesus' baptism reveal?
3. How does Jesus show authority?
4. Why is prayer important in His ministry?

5. What might it mean to follow Jesus immediately?

6. Activities

- Verse mapping (e.g., Mark 1:15)
- Character study: John the Baptist
- Timeline of events

7. Memory Verse

Mark 1:15 — “The time has come... Repent and believe the good news!”