

# Growth Group Curriculum

## WINTER SEMESTER 2021

Mark Week 1 Mark 1:1-8

For information on Growth Groups email [info@cbclife.org](mailto:info@cbclife.org)

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### REVIEW

1. Was there anything from this past Sunday's message that challenged or confused you?
2. Can you think of one thing from Sunday's sermon that you are likely to remember two weeks from now?

### GETTING TO KNOW YOU

1. This past Sunday, Pastor Jeff taught on the importance of knowing the real Jesus. Have you ever held any ideas about Jesus that turned out not to be true?
2. This past Sunday, Pastor Jeff quoted Voltaire saying, "God created man in his image and man has been trying to return the favor ever since."
  - How would you explain this quote to someone?
  - Has there ever been a time in your life where you might have tried to recreate Jesus?

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## **DIGGING DEEPER**

Mark's Gospel is about "the gospel of the kingdom" which consists of these principles:

The healing, all-renewing presence of the kingdom of God that has come back into the world and history because Christ is that true King. However, this King comes in a way that reverses the values of the world — in weakness and service, not strength and force — to die as a ransom for us. Therefore, we enter this kingdom through the "upside-down" pattern of the King who went to the cross.

We are accepted not because of our ability or merit, but through sheer grace and repentance. We "live out" this kingdom by following the "upside-down" pattern of the King who went to the cross. We live lives of sacrifice and service.

**1. Read Isaiah 40:3-5 and then cf. with Mark 1:1-4. What is Mark telling us about the identity of Jesus?**

**2. How, specifically, does John 'pave the way' for the Lord? i.e. What do verses 4-8 tell us about how the Messiah, the king, is to be received?**

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**3. What do verses 9-13 tell us about what ‘the baptism of the Spirit’ means and brings to us?<sup>1</sup>**

**4. Everyone notices the abruptness of Mark’s narrative style. Everything happens quickly, all the statements and descriptions are extremely terse and direct. What do you think Mark is trying to get across?**

**5. What do verses 14-15 tell us about the essential message of the King?**

- **What is explained?**
- **What is left “mysterious” and unexplained in Mark’s proclamation?**

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<sup>1</sup> **Baptism:** 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.

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