



The Beginning

Mark 1:1-13

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THE BEGINNING OF THE GOOD NEWS - verse 1

1. What was some really good news that you were given (other than the Gospel)?
2. How did that good news affect you?
3. Is there anything going on in your life right now where you'd like to hear good news?
4. In one sense, the good news is about Jesus Christ. Yet, Mark stresses that the gospel is Jesus Christ. What does this difference of emphasis help you to understand about Jesus and the gospel?

THE MESSAGE OF JOHN - verses 2-8

1. What was John's message?
2. How did people respond to John's message? Why do you think they responded this way?
3. How is John's message relevant today?
4. How have you responded to John's message?
5. These days, how are you responding to John's message?

THE BAPTISM OF JESUS - verses 9-11 (see also Matthew 3:13-17; Luke 3:21,22)

1. Why did Jesus need to be baptized?
2. What was accomplished by Jesus' baptism?
3. What do verses 10 and 11 help you to understand about God?
4. What is the significance of the testimony of the Spirit and Father?

THE TEMPTATION OF JESUS - verses 12,13

1. Matthew and Luke record details about Jesus' temptation that help us to understand that Jesus was tempted as we are and was victorious over those temptations (Matthew 4:1-11; Luke 4:1-13). Read and consider Hebrews 4:14-16. How might Jesus' being tempted help you to turn towards God in the midst of what tempts you to turn away from God?
2. In verse 13, why does Mark mention "wild animals"? What was the significance to Mark's readers?
3. These days, are there any "wild animals" that you face?

PROCESSING ALL THAT...

1. What does Mark's introduction of Jesus help you to understand about God in the "wilderness" of where you live life?
2. These days, in the "wilderness" of where you live life, how are you responding to the "good news"?
3. How can we as a group help each other to keep focused on the good news?