

The Kingdom of God is Near
Mark 1:1-20
Key Verse: 1:15

1. Read verse 1. What is the Gospel of Mark about? What is this passage about? The key verse of this book is Mark 10:45. What do these two verses tell us about Jesus?
2. Read verses 2-3. Why is it important that the gospel began with prophecy? How does this establish its truthfulness? What does it show about the God of history? What did Isaiah say about the Lord's messenger and his work?
3. How did John the Baptist fulfill this prophecy? What did he preach? How does this prepare the way for the Lord?
(4) How did the people respond to John? What does this show about them? (5) Why do people need to repent?
4. Read verse 6. Describe John's lifestyle. How might his pure life and personal piety have affected the response to his message? (See also Lk 1:17; 2 Ki 1:8)
5. Read verses 7-8. What was the focal point of John's message? How did John witness to Jesus? What can we learn from him? Why can only Jesus' baptism save us from the power of sin?
6. Read verses 9-11. How did Jesus prepare himself before beginning his gospel ministry? How did he reveal his sense of history? Why is this important? What happened when Jesus was baptized? What did God say to Jesus? Why?
7. Read verses 12-13. What did Jesus do immediately after his baptism? Why was it necessary to challenge Satan? What was the result?
8. Read verses 14-15. What does John's imprisonment suggest about the times? Where did Jesus begin his ministry? What was Jesus' message as he began his gospel work? (15) Why is it "good news"?
9. Read verses 16-20. What did Jesus do at the beginning of his gospel work? Who did he call? What were they doing at the time? What does this show about them? What was their mission? How would he train them? What does it mean to be a disciple? What can we learn from Jesus here?
10. How did the first disciples respond? Why? What can we learn from them?