



AMAZED **GOSPEL OF MARK** **BIBLE TALKS**

Mark 1:9-13 Baptism and Temptation of Jesus

Ice Breaker

- Ask an icebreaker question of the group: “When you recall your parents’ voice telling you how they feel about you, what do you hear being said?”
- We’re about to read a passage that begins with God the Father proclaiming how he feels about his son, Jesus.

Read Passage Mark 1:9-13

Textual Questions

- Why do you think Jesus wanted or needed to be baptized by John? Why would Jesus need to be baptized?
- What do you think it looked like to see the heavens torn open?
- Do you think the Spirit took the form of a dove who descended like a dove descends when flying? What might amaze you if you were there to see it?
- Jesus hears a wonderful affirmation from heaven - why would God the Father share that at this moment?
- How would it feel if you heard your father or mother say that same this about you? What difference would that make in your relationship?
- How does it feel to know that your Father in heaven feels that way about you right now? Can you accept that? If you do, what difference does it make in the way you see yourself? What difference does it make in your motivation to follow God?
- What happened to Jesus immediately after his baptism?
- Satan may likewise tempt you intensely after times of victory in Christ. How does hearing God’s voice “You are my beloved child, with you I am well pleased” help you overcome temptations?

Concluding Question/Charge

What habit or practice could you add to your day that would remind you of how God views you? How would it affect your day if you began it with a firm reminder of who you are in the eyes of God?



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Mark 1:14-20 The Amazing Call of Christ

Ice Breaker

- Ask an icebreaker question of the group: “Imagine you are 18 years old, walking through the mall. A uniformed sailor makes eye contact with you and says, ‘Enlist.’ What are all the thoughts that run through your mind as you consider his life-changing call to enlist?”
- We’re about to read a passage in which Jesus issues an amazing call to men to enlist in Him.

Read Passage Mark 1:14-20

Textual Questions

- What is the Kingdom of God? Does it already exist at this point (as Jesus begins his ministry in Galilee)? When will it come in its fullness?
- How do “repent” and “believe” go together? What’s the relationship between the two commands from Jesus? How does a repentant mindset help you appreciate the Kingdom of God?
- What is the command that Jesus issues to Simon and Andrew? In the ESV, v 17 reads “Follow me, and I will make you become fishers of men.” What does Jesus make us become when we follow him? What would fishing for men look like for Andrew and Simon and James and John? Why is that an amazing honor? How is it life changing for them? What costs did they need to count before answering this amazing call?
- What does Jesus make *us* become when we follow him? Do you view that as an amazing honor? Why or why not?
- What prevents us from following this amazing call of Christ? How can we overcome those obstacles?

Concluding Question/Charge

Imagine walking through the mall tomorrow and Jesus makes eye contact with you and says, “Enlist!” What will you do in response to that amazing call?



AMAZED **GOSPEL OF MARK** **BIBLE TALKS**

Mark 1:21-39 The Amazing Power of Jesus

Ice Breaker

- Ask an icebreaker question of the group: “If I told you there was a dangerous animal predator behind this door, which predator would scare you most and why? (examples might be tiger, lion, grizzly). If it were instead an evil demon that wanted to attack you, would you be more or less frightened and why?”
- We’re about to read a passage where we will encounter multiple demons and a hero with the amazing power to conquer them.

Read Passage Mark 1:21-39

Textual Questions

- Jesus’ teaching brought astonishment or amazement to crowds in the synagogue. Why would authoritative teaching produce such wonder among the crowd? What do you think he was teaching about?
- Imagine being eye witness to the events of the synagogue as the demonic spirit comes forward. If you actually saw the demonic activity and the power of Jesus against him, how would you describe it to your family later that day?
- This event launches Jesus into great fame; what was he famous for?
- What did the demon already know about Jesus? What’s the difference between the demon’s belief about Jesus and saving belief in Jesus?
- In verses 29-34, Jesus continues combat demons and illness late into the night. How would you feel at the end of long day that included multiple battles against demons? How would you feel facing the challenge to care for everyone in a city with sickness and disease? Would you think about sleeping in the next morning - why?
- What does Jesus do very, very early the next morning? Why was prayer more valuable to him than extra sleep? What can we learn from Jesus about the power and benefits of prayer?
- According to Jesus in verse 38, what is his primary purpose? What did Simon Peter learn about Jesus that morning? What did he learn about following Jesus?

Concluding Question/Charge

Simply recount all the ways that Jesus amazes you in these readings! How does his amazing power motivate your commitment to follow of him?