

BIBLE TEACHING AND WORSHIP GUIDE



FOR THE HOME-BASED CHURCH

Produced Weekly

Jesus Proclaims and Lives the Good News
Mark 1:9-15, 29-39

Copy this sheet for the Gathering Time, Bible Study, and Worship Experience leaders for the next meeting of the church.

Leaders' Responsibilities:

Important: Each person who will be leading one of the three parts of a session during a Unit of sessions needs to have access to the "Basic Information for Leading the Unit of Study". That information is often provided at the beginning of that Unit of sessions. The weekly session "Background" located in the Teacher Preparation is much more specific to that day's study.

1. **The Gathering Time Leader** will gather all of the people together and help them prepare their minds and hearts for a wonderful worship experience before God. His/her responsibility is to introduce the congregation to the theme (content) and the Scripture that will be central to their worship experience for the day.

2. **The Bible Study Leader** will then help the people understand what the Scriptures have to say and teach us about the content of the study for the day. He/she will guide the people to make a general application of the study (ie: How does this Bible study apply to people today?)

3. **The Worship Time Leader** has the responsibility to use the theme and Scriptures to guide the congregation to make personal commitments to God's will for each one in regard to the study for the day. He/she will use others to lead in the music, taking the offering, ministry moment comments, and other activities and parts of the **Worship Time** that can aid in participatory worship.

Prior to this Coming Session:

Gathering Time Leader:

Make large (8 x 13 cm) or (3 x 5 in.) blank cards and make nametags for each participant. On the top half of each nametag, write the word "BOSS" in large, bold letters in a bright colour. Draw a line at the bottom of the card that will indicate where they should place their first and last names. Have tape or a pin available for attaching the nametags to their clothes. As people arrive, have a child hand each person a nametag and indicate where they should print their names.

Bible Study Leader:

Bring a selection of recent newspaper sections that present different types of news items. As you begin the session, you will ask the group to scan those newspapers and respond to a question that you will pose.

Worship Time Leader:

Check with youth after the Bible Study time to see if they have written a news article that they want to share with the larger group.

Music Sources:

“All Hail, King Jesus”, **Maranatha! Music, Praise Chorus Book**, Expanded 3rd Ed., 1993. #1.

“He Is Exalted”, **Maranatha! Music, Praise Chorus Book**, Expanded 3rd Ed., 1993, #111.

“Great is the Lord”, **Maranatha! Music, Praise Chorus Book**, Expanded 3rd Ed., 1993, #11.

Gathering Time: (Suggested time: 15 minutes)***Jesus Proclaims and Lives the Good News******Focal Text***

Mark 1:9-15, 29-39

Background Text

Mark 1: 1-45

Main Idea

Jesus, God's Son, proclaimed the good news that the kingdom of God had now drawn near and demonstrated that reality in his life and ministry.

Question to Explore

What does Jesus' coming mean?

Teaching Aim

To help the class describe the unique significance of who Jesus is and what he did.

Gathering together:

Have a child distribute the "BOSS" nametags to each participant.

Sing "All Hail, King Jesus", **Maranatha! Music, Praise Chorus Book**, Expanded 3rd Ed., 1993. #1.

First thoughts:

The Authority of Jesus
Mark 1:14-15

The owner of a business has authority and control over that business. The principal of a school has authority in that school. Law enforcement officers have authority. Government leaders have authority.

Each of these persons has authority because of their position. This authority came to the business owner when the business was purchased or started by the owner. It came to the principal and the law enforcements officers when they were hired for the position.

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Jesus Proclaims and Lives the Good News – 02-04-01-en

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It came to the leaders of a city, a Province, a state or a nation when they were elected. Authority came with the position.

Jesus has authority because of who he is. His authority is unlike any other. He taught with authority. He did not depend on anyone but the Father. When he taught, he received respect by many. Isn't it amazing how his authority affected those with whom he came in contact? Men and women who did not know him followed immediately at his invitation. Even unclean spirits obeyed him. At his touch and at his word, those with illnesses were healed.

Read 1:14-15 and think of the importance of the statements. Mark gives the basic message of Jesus in these verses. They tell of the authority of Jesus' word. Sometimes the tendency is to think of authority merely as the power to command or control others. But the authority Jesus was demonstrated by his actions and the words he spoke. He did not demand a response to follow him. He simply spoke and the disciples, for instance, followed him. He acted with authority.

Jesus calls us to repent and believe. The response of the disciples was twofold. They left whatever they were doing and followed Jesus. They turned from their chosen occupation and followed him. Their fellowship with Jesus resulted in service to him and to others.

Today, our study focuses on the authority of Jesus. Specifically, we will discover what Jesus said and how He lived so that people responded to His authority. Then we will see how that discovery will affect each and every one of us.

Closing the Gathering Time:

Say: "As we pray and prepare for our study of God's word, think about your nametag and ask this question: 'Who is the boss in your life?'"

Take time at this point to mention items of prayer concern for the church, announcements of ministry or activities, and anything else that needs to be shared with or by the congregation. Pray for these needs. Remember to praise God in prayer.

Break time! Take five minutes between sessions. Encourage children to use the washroom so that they won't need to leave during the Bible Study time.

Distribute youth/adult Bible study outlines or paper for note-taking, if available.

Also hand out the activity sheets for preschool and younger children to use during Bible Study and/or worship.

Note to the Bible Study Leader: Suggested teaching time for the Bible study should be about 35 minutes. Use the “Teacher Preparation” for your personal study during the week before the session. Use the “Bible Study Plan” for the actual session.

Teacher Preparation

Jesus Proclaims and Lives the Good News

Focal Text

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Background Text

Mark 1: 1-45

Main Idea

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Question to Explore

What does Jesus' coming mean?

Teaching Aim

To help the class describe the unique significance of who Jesus is and what he did.

Introduction to your personal study:

During the turbulent 1960's a rock group with the unusual name, Hedgehoppers Anonymous, recorded a Jonathon King protest song called “It's Good News Week”. It spoke sarcastically of what the world calls good news – successful bombing missions, high tech chemicals used to enhance the atmosphere, scientific medical advances to keep the terminally ill alive beyond reason. Although the song was a big hit, the message was more than a little disturbing. The words were sung with tongue in cheek of course. What they sang about wasn't really good news at all! We are bombarded by news stories that keep us abreast of what is happening in our world today, but we read or hear very little that could be termed ‘good news’. Does the world even know truly good news when they see and hear it? Can they recognize good news when it is proclaimed?

Jesus came to announce good news that is genuine – the only news that can have an impact on eternity – the only news that can make any real difference in our lives. Explore this first chapter of Mark to see how Jesus is the genuine good news for our world today.

Background:

Please ask for and read the information contained in the “**Basic Information for Leading the Unit of Study**”, found at the beginning of this Unit. Whoever downloaded this session for you should have that material for you as well.

Tradition tell us that John Mark wrote this gospel, based on the firsthand accounts of his close friend Peter, to strengthen and encourage new Christians who were suffering hard times under the Romans. Mark rushes to share the story of Jesus’ life with us. He doesn’t waste many words giving background information, or telling us about what Jesus preached. Using great economy of words, Mark gives us specific information about what Jesus did, as he moved from place to place, teaching, healing, and training the disciples. Mark’s account of Christ’s life may particularly appeal to today’s hurried society looking for real hope in the midst of our bad news bombarded daily lives.

Focusing on the Meaning:

An unusual baptism (Mark 1:9-11)

1:9 “At that time...”When the news of John’s preaching and teaching became known, Jesus, who was about thirty years of age, chose to begin his public ministry. It was not unusual for Jewish rabbis to begin their ministry at age thirty. We know that the baptism John preached pictured repentance of sin. Jesus was sinless so there was no need for him for him to be baptized to demonstrate repentance. Why then did he follow through with this baptism by immersion in the Jordan River? He did so because he chose to identify with the sinful people he had come to save. Undergoing baptism also demonstrated Jesus’ commitment to God’s work. This is truly good news. In our own lives, a public profession such as baptism can focus our resolve to serve and live for the Saviour.

1:10, 11 His baptism was also a time of approval and equipping from God. As Jesus came up out of the water, the sky seemed to burst open, and God spoke to him in an audible voice. He assured Jesus that he was indeed his son, and that He approved of his ministry. The spirit ‘like a dove’ came down upon Jesus to equip him for the ministry he was about to begin. We don’t know if there was an actual dove present or if the spirit came upon him with gentleness and purity like a dove. We do know that Jesus was equipped by the Holy Spirit to conquer with love.

Facing Temptation (1: 12-13)

1:12, 13a Immediately after his baptism Jesus faced the temptation experience in the wilderness, probably in Judea. Mark used a word for 'sent' that implied there was a great compulsion of the spirit to go, but one that Jesus did not resist. Again owing to Mark's economy of words, he gives us no details of this experience except to say that Jesus was tempted by Satan for an extended period of time. We can refer to the account in Matthew 4:1-11 for more exact information on the kind of temptations Christ faced. Perhaps this was a crucial time when Jesus had to make a decision about how he would carry out the ministry laid out before him. Would he be willing to be a suffering Saviour? Obviously, Jesus emerged victorious. Temptation and testing needn't be a time of failure for us. We can emerge stronger and more able to minister as we resolve to do things God's way.

1:13b Mark mentions that Jesus was alone except for the wild desert animals, probably hyenas, jackals, and leopards. Does this imply that it was a dangerous place, or were these animals peaceful and friendly with Christ? There is no way to really know the answer, and perhaps it isn't important in the overall scheme of things, but it's interesting to speculate.

After the temptation experience was over, angels were on hand to take care of Jesus' needs.

This is often true in our own lives. When we have experienced an exceptional mountain top time with Christ, Satan is there ready to try to bring us down. He tempts us to surrender to physical and emotional needs that might hinder our ministry. But, as with Jesus, we never have to go through difficult times alone. As well, the Holy Spirit is with us to meet our needs.

Preaching the Good News (1: 14-15)

1:14, 15 Apparently as soon as John was imprisoned, Jesus stepped into the limelight to begin the teaching and preaching ministry for which he had been preparing. His message to the people of Galilee was the good news of God's kingdom. He announced that the kingdom of God is near. The kingdom of God is God's rule in the hearts of men and women. How do we enter into that kingdom? First, we hear the good news of salvation and hope- of power to live victoriously. Then, we repent of our sins; we change our minds and turn away from sin. Be careful, though, that we don't confuse sorrow for sins' consequences with genuine sorrow for sin. Third, we believe the good news – we take Jesus at his word. We believe that God loved us so much that He would go to any length to bring us into his kingdom. When we accept Jesus' coming as the ultimate good news, we become part of the kingdom of God.

Private and Public Healing (1:29-34)

1:29-31 After a busy Sabbath day teaching and healing in the local synagogue, Jesus, along with some of his disciples, returned to Peter's home to spend the rest of the day.

Apparently this was Jesus' 'home away from home'. According to Jewish custom they planned to eat the main meal of the day at twelve noon after synagogue service. However, the home was upset by the illness of Peter's mother-in-law. The disciples had already learned to bring all their concerns and troubles to Jesus. When he learned of the woman's high fever, Jesus went to her and healed her with a simple word and gesture of his hand. He didn't require an audience to perform miracles; neither did he need potions or gimmicks. It seems that Jesus was never too tired to help – he helped instinctively because he felt compassion for anyone who needed his help.

After being healed, Peter's mother-in-law immediately began to serve the noon meal. Rather than opting for prolonged recuperation, she used her recovered health for renewed service.

So, we too should aim to serve others as Jesus equips us to do so.

1:32-34 "That evening after sunset..." the crowds that began to arrive at Peter's door observed the Sabbath law that forbade carrying a burden through town on that particular day. Since the Sabbath officially ended at sunset they were then free to transport their sick friends and loved ones to where Jesus was staying. The word about Jesus' miracles and healing was spreading. People were anxious to feel Jesus' healing touch. Jesus responded to their needs by healing all who came to him. The text tells us that 'the whole town' came to Peter's home. This may be just a way of saying there was a very large number of folks there. Jesus also took pity on those who were demon possessed. He exorcised the demons but didn't permit them to speak of his true identity. Jesus did not want the testimony of the demons. His words and works would soon reveal his identity.

Crowds gathered wherever Jesus was because they recognized that he could do wonderful things. They came, not out of love for Jesus, but because they wanted something of him. They were more than willing to use him. Are we ever guilty of using Jesus? Do we spend more time with him when we're in the midst of difficulties, than when circumstances are fine?

Time of Refreshing (1:35-39)

1:35 "Very early...while it was still dark," Mark pinpoints the time that Jesus sought out a quiet place to spend time communing with God. It was likely between three and six in the morning, even though he had spent a late evening helping people the night before. If Jesus was to spend himself constantly in teaching and healing among the crowds, he needed to connect with the source of his power. He needed spiritual reinforcements. How much more should this be so in our lives today? Often Christians let a busy schedule interfere with their prayer time. Perhaps the busier we are, the more we should pray.

1:36-37 When the disciples hunted Jesus down, he willingly left his place of prayer and went with them to meet the challenges that lay ahead.

1:38-39 Perhaps Jesus had prayed about where he needed to minister – should he stay in this region around Capernaum, or move on? The decision was made to move on. These brief verses cover a preaching tour of Galilee, which probably took many weeks or even months. As he went, Jesus preached the good news of salvation and healed many that were demon possessed. These times of healing provided more opportunities for preaching, which was the major means of revealing God's salvation message.

Your Goal as the Leader of this Bible Study:

We are bombarded with bad news on every front- war, famine, crime, accidents, the list goes on and on. But here we have some good news for a change. This first chapter of Mark invites us to get excited about the good news of God's kingdom here on earth. Mark introduces us to the early ministry of Jesus – his identification at his baptism by God as his Son, and his equipping for ministry through the temptation experience. He tells us that the kingdom of God is really God's rule in the hearts of his people. It is not an earthly kingdom that the Jews were expecting. Christ preached that he himself is the good news and that the good news is available to all men and women that will hear and respond to his appeal.

For Personal Reflection:

1. **What have I learned from this study?**

2. **What personal experience does this lesson bring to mind?**

3. **What is one action I will take this week to apply this Scripture passage to my life?**

Bible Study Plan (Suggested time: 35 minutes)

Jesus Proclaims and Lives the Good News

Regroup the church after the Gathering Time and break by singing a chorus that young children can relate to—or another praise chorus if your congregation does not have children. Children who go to their own Bible teaching session should stay with the group until after this song. Have the preschoolers and children accompany the hymn with rhythm sticks, maracas, bells, etc. Children who stay with their parents in the Youth/Adult study should have the material on worship as suggested in **The Children's Corner** at the beginning of this **Unit** of studies. (Ask your leader who downloads the studies for those suggestions).

Begin by helping the group locate the Focal Text in their Bibles. Also, share with them the Main Idea to be learned from the Scriptures, and the Questions to be Explored by the group.

Focal Text

Mark 1:9-15, 29-39

Background Text

Mark 1: 1-45

Main Idea

Jesus, God's Son, proclaimed the good news that the kingdom of God had now drawn near and demonstrated that reality in his life and ministry.

Question to Explore

What does Jesus' coming mean?

Teaching Aim

To help the class describe the unique significance of who Jesus is and what he did.

Connect with Life:

1. As group members arrive invite them to scan recent newspapers for examples of good news. Give quick reports of findings. Pose the question, **"Does the secular world recognize good news when they hear it?"**

Guide the Study:

Use the following ideas to guide the study, as time permits and discussion dictates.

2. Invite a confident reader to read Mark 1: 9-15.

Ask: "If Christ was sinless why did he need to be baptized by John?" Refer to the **Teacher Preparation** comments to lead in understanding what baptism symbolizes. Invite someone to share what baptism has meant to him or her personally.

Ask: "How did God acknowledge Jesus at this time?"

3. Direct attention to the verses that tell what happened immediately after the baptism. Ask: "How can Christ's temptation experience be interpreted as good news for Christians today?"

4. Ask: "How did Jesus' message differ from that of John the Baptist?" Poll the group for opinions as to what is meant by 'the kingdom of God is near'. Refer to the Teacher Preparation material for greater details.

5. Divide into two or three smaller groups. As another member reads verses 29-34, invite each group to listen for answers to one of these questions:

- What does this account tell us about Jesus?
- About the disciples?
- About the mother-in-law?

Draw out responses from the groups.

6. Ask: "Why do you think the crowds flocked to Jesus?"

Ask: "Did they love him?"

Lead the group to understand why Jesus always made the demons keep quiet.

7. Read verses 35-38 aloud.

Ask: "What does this early morning outing reveal about Jesus?"

Encourage Application:

If you have two or more youth, this is the time to give them the **Youth!!! Take Ten** page and allow them to go away from the adults and apply the lesson by and for themselves.

8. Share a personal testimony about the connection between our prayer lives and our busyness. Invite others to share their testimonies about having an effective quiet time with God on a daily basis.

9. Encourage members to read the first four chapters of Mark as a home assignment in preparation for the coming studies in order to get an overview of the early portion of Christ's ministry.

Take a five minute break to separate the Bible Study and Worship Time. Children may need to use the washroom again before worship.

Youth!!! Take Ten

Bible Study Application for Youth

You may wish to move away from the adults for the final five to ten minutes of the Bible study and help each other as youth to apply the lesson to your own needs.

Jesus Proclaims and Lives the Good News

Mark 1:9-15, 29-39

A youth will lead the following activity and comments. No adults need to be present. If possible, teens should take turns in leading the application time.

Hometown Herald

(Lead article)

If you were the youth reporter for the newspaper in your town or city how would you write a news article that would share with youth the good news about Jesus. Spend some time writing such an article. If you wish, ask the Sharing Time leader to let you read your newspaper article during the Sharing Time today.

Worship Time (Suggested time: 30 minutes)***Jesus Proclaims and Lives the Good News*****Mark 1:9-15, 29-39****Beginning the Service:**

Sing

"*He Is Exalted*", **Maranatha! Music, Praise Chorus Book**, Expanded 3rd Ed., 1993, #111.

"*Great is the Lord*", **Maranatha! Music, Praise Chorus Book**, Expanded 3rd Ed., 1993, #11.

Offering:**Praying for the World:**

Cape Town, South Africa is developing into one of the most beautiful cities in the world. Sea and mountains converge to create an ideal location. Nearly 3 million people live in and around the city. It is a city caught between clashing traditions. It is not quite African, but neither is it European. The greatest problem plaguing the city is the ever-increasing numbers of AIDS victims. Currently, more than 5 million South Africans are infected with AIDS. Pray that those living in Cape Town will find true freedom, healing and joy through Jesus Christ.

Sharing Guide:

This sharing guide is written to assist the person who directs the worship time to reemphasize the teaching for the day and help guide the congregation to respond to God's call and will for their lives in regard to the scripture studied. The leader may choose to follow the guide closely. Or, he or she may wish to only use it to give direction and a concept for preparing an original message. The leader is free to choose other ways to communicate and share the concepts presented here.

Living the Good News**Mark 1:1, 15, 38****Introduction**

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***Jesus Proclaims and Lives the Good News* – 02-04-01-en**

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The Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) of Canada receive training to recognize counterfeit Canadian currency. The way they do this is to become so completely familiar with legal currency that any change or difference in counterfeit currency is immediately recognized.

Jesus came to announce and preach the good news of the gospel. He had many opponents from the very beginning of his ministry. Many of them claimed he was counterfeit. However, he lived his life in exactly the way his heavenly Father wanted him to do. Jesus' opponents were not familiar with the true Messiah, so did not recognize him. They were familiar with a false concept of who the Messiah would be. But his enemies could not truly say he was counterfeit. His life and his words were the very same. He was "well pleasing" to the Father.

Jesus Is The Good News!

Mark shares several truths in chapter 1 emphasizing that Jesus is the Good News. He also looks at what happened in Jesus' life as he proclaimed the good news of God's kingdom. Notice some truths pictured by Jesus' baptism.

The first truth pictured by Jesus was his experience of baptism (1:9-11). There was no sin in Jesus. Jesus' baptism did not picture repentance. But there are at least two truths illustrated by his baptism – being submerged completely under water. One truth, his baptism was a public commitment to the people he came to identify with in order to give them hope. The second truth, this public act of baptism was a commitment of himself to complete obedience to his heavenly Father.

Receive the truth of the good news and you receive Jesus himself for he is the good news. To receive Jesus is to be received by him as one of his own. To be received by him is to be made a child of the Father and to enter the kingdom of God. The experience of baptism is a public picture and declaration of a person's identity with God. Baptism for the believer is also a public demonstration of complete obedience to the Father. The Holy Spirit, whom the Father gives at the moment Jesus is received, comes to live permanently in the life of the believer.

The second truth Mark shares is about Jesus' temptation experience. This followed immediately after he was baptized. It was over a period of 40 days. Every child of God will experience many temptations all through their Christian life. Mark tells us how Jesus was tempted by Satan, the evil one. Every temptation is from Satan. Take note, Satan will always be around to tempt the Christian each time a public commitment is made to the Father. The good news is the Holy Spirit will always help each Christian to stay true to the Father in obedience. The Holy Spirit is the permanent gift of the Father to each one who has received Jesus. So you can be true to the Father just as Jesus was true to the Father. Temptation is the common experience of every Christian. Each one can make the right choice to reject every temptation because the Holy Spirit is in each Christian.

The third truth we see in the first chapter of Mark is that Jesus began to proclaim the good news saying, *“The kingdom of God (God’s rule in your heart as a believer) is near. Repent and believe the good news! (1:15).”* This means that God’s call to salvation is also an invitation to be a part of what he is doing in the world. You are to be involved in ministry with him by following him in obedience. If you will follow Jesus you will be where he is. Therefore, you will be following his will. To follow him is to be “fishers of men” (Matthew 4:19). You will be involved in what he is doing. Jesus calls and your response is to immediate obedience. As you seek Jesus, others will also seek him.

A fourth truth that we see in Jesus is that he spent time alone with the Father before making any decision about the future of his ministry. This should certainly be true in your response to him. You must spend time in prayer with him who is the only source of spiritual strength. The time you spend in prayer is preparation for following Jesus. It is also the recognition of your complete dependence on him for instruction and direction.

Call to Commitment:

What will be your response to the good news which is truth? And the truth is Jesus himself.

You might pray, **“Father, I have received the good news and you have changed my life. Thank you. I am so in need of you to guide me. I trust you and believe you and commit myself to you completely. Amen.”**

Concluding the Service:

Sing *“He Is Exalted”* again in a worshipful manner.