



## Introduction

The Gospel of Mark was the very first written account of Jesus' life, work, death for our sins, resurrection, and his return back to heaven. After Jesus left, there were many false rumors circulating about who he "really" was. John the baptizer was one of many who saw and believed that Jesus was indeed God's Son, the true King, who came to rescue people from their sin. Mark began his carefully organized story by pointing to the testimony of this well respected preacher who lived in the desert, to help us to believe the truth about Jesus.

## Observation/Interpretation

What does the word "gospel" mean?

What is the gospel and why is it good?

John the Baptist's ministry was to get people ready for the greatest moment in history -- Jesus' ministry, death and resurrection. How does John seek to prepare people for Jesus' coming (vss. 1-8)?

## Application

What do we believe about Jesus, and how do you know it's true?

Why is it so important to have a proper understanding about Jesus?

Do you have any false views of Jesus that you're aware of? What are they? Why does it matter?

Talk about some of the things you know to be true about Jesus. Since John the Baptizer was faithful and his testimony true, we can trust what he's said about Jesus. And because it's true, we can confidently trust Jesus, too! "But these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name." John 20:31

## Memory Verse

Mark 1:1 The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

### Community Group Discussion

- Read the passage together out loud.
- Involve your group by asking/answering the study questions, taking the time to share.
- Ask for prayer requests and be sure to pray together.

### Family Discussion

- Have your child/children read the passage aloud, if old enough otherwise you read it aloud.
- Involve them by asking questions.
- Ask for prayer requests and invite them to pray together as a family.

A great way to use of these notes is to start/join a Community Group

These notes can be used for personal bible study, yet, another way would be to invite some people together. We call these intentional gatherings, 'Community Groups'.

What is a Community Group?

Community Groups are small gatherings of believers (non-believers welcomed too!) that meet regularly for accountability, friendship, study of the Bible and prayer. Community Groups are an essential part of the mission of Calvary SLO Church as they are a place where we wrestle with the truths of the Bible and encourage one another toward the life God intends. Each community group is unique and molded by the people who attend it. Most community groups gather weekly and involve food, dialog, prayer, discussion for applying the Bible to practical living, and loving service to one-another. They're meant to be an organic and authentic expression of the church, actively living like the body of Jesus.

Why should I join/start a Community Group?

God is a Trinitarian God who is revealed as one in three persons: Father, Son and Spirit. We've been made to image God, which means we're designed for community & friendship. We often suffer when we're not in community, due to the brokenness of life, complexity of this world and the temptation to isolate ourselves. We encourage you to gather with a small group of friends, family or roommates on a weekly basis and use these discussion notes to press deeper into God.

How do I join the Calvary SLO Community Group eco-system?

We're enthusiastic about all forms of biblical community, however there are definite benefits to joining with the Calvary SLO Community Group (CG) eco-system. In short, the benefits are:

- **Training:** We have trainings intent on equipping leaders.
- **Support:** Each CG leader is assigned a coach to provide assistance and ongoing support.
- **Visibility:** CG's are promoted via the bulletin, website & given access to The City (our online social network).

To join all you have to do is sign up for the next upcoming training! Info: pastor James: james@calvaryslo.com.