

## MARK 1:1-15 | PREFACE

### ENGAGE (15-20 MINUTES)

Real Biblical community involves people “doing life together.” As much as we can, we want to create an atmosphere where people get to know one another, and feel comfortable sharing the ups, downs, and in-betweens of life.

Take a few moments and have everyone pick one word to describe their Christmas season. (i.e. “Tiring,” etc.) Make sure everyone gets a chance to share.

### REFLECTION AND STUDY (30-35 MINUTES)

*Read Mark 1:1-15.*

:: What did you find most challenging, helpful, or troubling in the sermon (or the text) from either of the last 2 weeks?

:: Two weeks ago, Josh mentioned that there are lots of ways that people in our culture answer the question, “Who is Jesus?” Why do so many people answer this question differently? What steps can we take to make sure we have a clear picture of who Jesus is?

:: Verses 2-8 describe John the Baptist. How do the OT quotations (v.2-3) describe his role in relation to Jesus? How does John himself understand his role (v.7-8)? How can we join in John’s mission (of preparing the way for Jesus in the lives of people around us)?

Can you think of a few people God might be calling you to reach out to in 2010 (think about family, friends, neighbors, co-workers)? Give as many people as possible a chance to share. Suggest that each person make a list of 3-5 people that they can be regularly praying for.

:: Mark gives us a picture of Jesus in verses 9-13. What do we learn about Jesus’ identity from these stories? What do we learn about His mission?

:: In verses 14-15 Mark tells us that the kingdom of God was at the center of Jesus’ preaching ministry. The “kingdom of God” has a rich meaning in the Bible. Read the following passages and talk about what you learn about the kingdom of God (and the King).

- Psalm 96:10-13 – God is the King of Creation
- Psalm 2:1-2; Ephesians 2:2 – there is a rival kingdom
- Luke 17:20-21; Matthew 13:31-32 – the kingdom of God is not here yet in full, but it is here
- Mark 8:38, Matt 19:28-29, 24:30-31, Rev 21:5 – the kingdom will come in fullness

:: How do we enter the kingdom of God (v. 14-15)? What does it mean to repent and believe?

### APPLICATION AND PRAYER (10-15 MINUTES)

:: Growing in kingdom living means growing in our ability to treat Jesus as our King. It is helpful to regularly ask ourselves diagnostic questions to see if we are really treating Him as King.

- *Obedying*: “Am I willing to obey whatever God says in all areas of my life? Or do I think, I’ll obey Christ if...?”
- *Accepting*: “Am I willing to thank God for whatever happens? Or am I consumed with worry, bitterness, or self-pity?”
- *Relying*: “Is there something instead of God that I am relying on for security and happiness?”
- *Trusting*: “Are there problems or limitations in my life that I think are too big for God?”

The King and His Kingdom  
01.03.10

Break into groups of 3-4. On the basis of these evaluation questions, ask for prayer in one of these 4 areas (Obeying, Accepting, Relying, Trusting).