



# DISCUSSION GUIDE

## Prepare The Way (Mark 1:1-14)

### GETTING STARTED

What is one thing you are thankful for this week and what is one thing we can pray for you this week?

How has your failure to prepare for something been a disaster? Why?

Looking back at your life, do you see evidence of God using challenges, difficult times, “the wilderness” to prepare you for something else? If so, share.

### QUICK REACTIONS FROM THE MESSAGE

How would you summarize/paraphrase the message in your own words?

What point/idea resonated most with you? Why?

What idea, context, Scripture do you think could have been expanded on, or included in the message?

### EXPLORE THE PASSAGE [Read Mark 1:1-14]

(Yes, these questions can seem silly, however, good discussion and interpretation of the Bible begins with having a proper understanding of the basic facts; who, what, when, and where in the text.)

What do Mark's first words tell us about his Gospel? (1:1)

Who was John the Baptist? (1:2-3)

How was Isaiah's prophecy fulfilled? (1:4)

What were the two aspects of John's ministry? (1:4)

What had to happen before John could baptize a person? (1:5)

What was John's attitude toward Jesus? (1:7)

What was the theme of John's message? (1:7-8)

How did Jesus' baptism differ from John's? (1:8)

Who baptized Jesus? Why? (1:9)

What happened after Jesus was baptized? (1:10)

How were the three persons of the Trinity present in this event? (1:10-11)

What did the voice from heaven say about Jesus? (1:11)

Who sent Jesus into the desert for forty days? Why? (1:12-13)

What happened to Jesus in the desert? (1:13)

Under what conditions was Jesus tempted? (1:13)

## QUESTIONS THAT HELP US UNDERSTAND THE TEXT

What does the message of Jesus offer to people? How is the gospel, good news?

Imagine what it must have felt like for John the Baptist to stand in front of his Creator. Think about your own Christian life. In what ways has Jesus become too familiar? Do you find yourself taking him for granted? How?

Why do you think John felt unworthy to tie the sandals of Jesus?

What blind-spots, beliefs, or practices can get in the way to knowing Jesus as Mark describes Jesus?

What usually prevents us from being Christ's witnesses?

In what ways can you prepare others for Christ?

## APPLY THE PASSAGE

What do we learn about God and about ourselves in this passage?

How can we pray for each other?