

# Understand your Bible

## Suggested notes

### Mark 1

#### Background to Mark's Gospel

The Gospel of Mark was possibly written by Mark the son of Mary, mentioned in Acts 12 v 12. He accompanied Paul and Barnabas on their first missionary journey. He would have known the disciples who were involved in the ministry of Jesus. The Gospel is dynamic, words like "immediately" occur frequently.

#### What we will see in this chapter:

- Why John was sent to preach to the Jews and what he did
- What Jesus' message was
- The reaction of people to his miracles
- What Jesus spent his time doing and what his main aim was

### 1 Read the chapter

**2 Questions** to help us in our understanding of this chapter. Look at the chapter verses in your Bible and use the questions to help you make your notes.

| Chapter verse(s) | Questions<br>(to help with your notes)  | Suggested notes   |
|------------------|---|---|
| 1                | 1. Who is the "Good News" about?<br><br>Text note v 1 "Good News" is "Gospel" in some translations.         | The Good News is about Jesus Christ the Son of God.   |
| 2 and 3          | 2. What did the Old Testament prophets foretell?<br>Text note : Mark quotes Malachi 3 v 1 and Isaiah 40 v 3 | The Old Testament foretold the coming of John who would prepare the way for the Lord (Jesus).   |
| 4 to 8           | 3. What did John do and say?  | John wore camel's hair with a leather belt and ate locusts and wild honey. He baptised people in the river Jordan after their repentance. He talked about a greater one coming after him. |
| 9 to 13          | 4. What happened to Jesus after his baptism?  | After Jesus was baptised by John, he received the Holy Spirit and was driven by it into the wilderness. He was then tempted by satan and looked after by angels.                          |
| 14 & 15          | 5. What was his message?  | His message was about the Good News of the Kingdom of God. He told people to repent and believe.  |
| 16 to 20         | 6. Who did Jesus call to follow him and what were they to become?   | Jesus chose Peter, Andrew, James and John to follow him. He called them to make them fishers of men.  |

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|----------------|---|---|
| 21 to 28       | 7. What was the reaction of people to Jesus' teaching and miracles? | They were astonished at his teachings and amazed that unclean spirits obeyed him.                           |
| 29 to 39       | 8. What did Jesus spend his time doing and what was his main aim?   | Jesus preached and healed people throughout Galilee.<br>His main aim was to preach.                         |
| 40 to 45       | 9. What was Jesus' reaction to the leper?                           | He was moved with compassion; he healed him, and told him to go to the priest, but not to tell anyone else. |

### 3 Related theme from v 4: **Baptism – a first-century practice.**

*"To baptise" comes from a word meaning "to make fully wet". The word is used concerning ships sinking and with reference to a piece of cloth being dyed. Baptisms recorded in the Bible imply that they are full immersions.*

Have a look at these related verses and see this theme running through the New Testament. Make a note of the main point(s) about baptism in the verse(s).

| Verse(s)           | Main point(s)   |
|--------------------|---|
| John 3 v 23        | John the Baptist chose a place to baptise where "there was much water".   |
| Mark 1 v 5         | Mark tells us that John baptised people "in the river Jordan".  |
| Matthew 3 v 16     | When Jesus was baptised we are told that he "went up from the water".   |
| Acts 8 v 38 and 39 | When an Ethiopian official was baptised, the record says that they "went down into" and "came up out of" the water. |