


1

THE GOOD NEWS ABOUT JESUS CHRIST

BACKGROUND

 *Read Mark 1:1-15.* This section is Mark's **start** or **introduction** to his book. It tells us the main point of his book. Notice that John and Jesus preach the same message. When we have read about Jesus Christ, we too should 'repent and believe the good news'.

MAIN POINT

Jesus Christ has come as God promised. This is good news. We should come to Jesus and repent.

SOMETHING TO WORK ON

1. Pray that God will help you show people how important and wonderful Jesus is. Mark's good news is Jesus, so we must preach Jesus!
2. Make sure that they understand 'repent' ('turn away from your sins'). Mark 1:4, 15. 'Repent means more than 'say sorry'.

When we repent we turn round. We change our mind. We do not go sin's way any longer. We go God's way. Use a word picture to help.

NOTES

- **Mark 1:2, 3:** Mark uses the words of Isaiah 40:3. He shows that John is the 'messenger' (prophet) that Isaiah told people about. Isaiah uses a picture. A person is making a good road, ready for the King to ride on. John is like this person.
- **Mark 1:6:** John is dressed like the prophet Elijah (2 Kings 1:8).
- **Mark 1:7:** John is talking about Jesus. Crowds of people listen to John, but he does not feel important. Jesus is much more important than he is.
- **Mark 1:8:** John can only make people wet. Jesus will wash people from their sin. Jesus will change people by his Holy Spirit. This verse talks about what happens when Jesus makes us a Christian.

 *Read 1 Corinthians 12:13.*

THE GOOD NEWS!

 *Read Mark 1:1-3*

1. JESUS CHRIST IS THE GOOD NEWS

In Mark 1:1 'gospel' means 'good news'. The good news is a **person**! Usually good news is when something happens. But the best news is when this **person** comes. God had promised this person for hundreds of years. Isaiah the prophet spoke about Him (Mark 2:2, 3).

- **Jesus is the Christ: Mark 1:1.** 'Christ' is not just another name that Jesus has. It is his **job**. Jesus' job is to be the 'Christ' or **king** that God sent. Think how excited you would be if the most powerful ruler in the world came to see you! Jesus is far more important, because he is the king of **heaven**.

- **Jesus is God's Son: Mark 1:1.** When we truly believe that Jesus is God's Son, we will bow and worship him. We will believe everything he says. We will give our lives to him.

- **Jesus came to wash us clean inside: Mark 1:8.** Jesus did not come to punish us for our sin! Jesus came to forgive us! This is why John 'baptised' people (dipped people in water). He baptised people to show that Jesus was coming to wash them from their sin.

2. TELL THE GOOD NEWS!

When you have good news, you do not keep quiet. You tell people about it! [*Think of an example.*] God gave John a job to do. He must tell people the good news about Jesus.

 *Read Mark 1:2-4, 7, 8.*

☒ *We have the best news to tell! Think of people who have not heard the good news about Jesus. How will you tell them?*

WHAT WE SHOULD DO!

 *Read Mark 1:4*

Many people think that Jesus does not matter. They may believe Jesus has come, but it does not change them.

- Why is it wrong to think like this?

John told people to 'repent' (change the way they think) because King Jesus was coming. They must hate their sins and ask Jesus to forgive them.


☒ **Heaven's king has come!**

- *Will you do nothing?*
- *Will you leave Jesus out of your life?*
- *Or will you repent and believe in Jesus?*

2

JESUS BEGINS TO TELL THE GOOD NEWS

▣ BACKGROUND

 *Read Mark 1:1-15.* This section is Mark's start to his book. Mark wants us to see who Jesus is (Mark 1:1, 11). He wants us to turn away from our sins and believe the good news (Mark 1:15).

▣ MAIN POINT

Jesus is God's Son. God says so. Jesus has come to tell the good news. So we should believe it and turn away from our sins ('repent').

⊠ SOMETHING TO WORK ON

Have you told the good news about Jesus many times? Perhaps it is not new to your people. Perhaps they think that they can wait until they are older. Think how to show them why Jesus' message is so important. Think of a word picture to help them. Show them why they must turn away from their sins, and believe in Jesus today.

⊕ **Word picture example:** imagine that you are very ill. You hear that the hospital has a cure. This is very good news! So do you stay at

home and die? No, you go to the hospital! The good news about Jesus is for today.

▣ NOTES

- **Mark 1:9:** 'The Jordan' is the name of the river in which John baptised people.
- **Mark 1:10:** What is the dove? A dove is a white bird. God was showing how pleased he was with Jesus. He gave the people a picture of His Spirit coming down on Jesus. His Spirit looked like a dove.
- **Mark 1:13:** After Satan had tempted Jesus, God sent angels to look after him. (Matthew 4:11)
- **Mark 1:15:** 'The time has come'. God had promised Israel a Messiah (Saviour) in the Old Testament. They have waited for many years. But now this time has come. Jesus will be the king of God's kingdom. Jesus will rule over God's people.

GOD SPEAKS!

 *Read Mark 1:9-11*

It was time for Jesus to begin his work. His work was to bring the good news.

- **What is the first thing that Jesus did?** Mark 1:9. Jesus was ‘baptised’ (put under water) to be an example to us. Everyone who follows Jesus should be baptised.
- **What did God think of Jesus as Jesus began his work?** Mark 1:10, 11. Do you remember that John told people how special Jesus was? (Mark 1:4-8) Now God speaks from heaven! John was right about Jesus. Now God says that Jesus is his Son. We must believe him.

SATAN TEMPTS!

 *Read Mark 1:12, 13*

God was pleased, but Satan (the devil) was angry. God wanted Jesus to bring the good news. Satan wanted to stop Jesus. Satan tempted Jesus to follow an easier way. (‘Tempt’ means to attract someone to do wrong.) But Jesus did not listen to him.

This is like God’s people Israel in the desert (in Exodus and Numbers). Israel failed the test. Israel chose not to trust God. But Jesus did not fail the test.

☞ *Satan tempts us to follow an easier way. Remember Jesus. He said no to Satan. He trusted God. We can ask Jesus to help us to say no to Satan.*

JESUS PREACHES!

 *Read Mark 1:14, 15*

Jesus has passed the test. Jesus comes out of the desert to preach the good news. John cannot preach the good news any longer. (Why not? Mark 1:14). So now, Jesus tells people the same message as John did.

- **What is that message?**
Mark 1:15.

The good news is that people do not have to wait any longer. The king has come. The person who can forgive their sins has come. It is time to do something.

☞ *We do not have to wait to have our sins forgiven! Jesus has come! Praise God for Jesus. Turn away from your sins (‘repent’) now, and follow Him. [Explain what repent means – see notes on Mark 1:1-8]*