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MARK 1:1-13

SON OF GOD



THIS WEEK'S focus

When a family is healthy, being a member of that family is a comfort. It's nice to be part of something bigger than yourself, and it's a blessing to feel wanted and loved. Of course, membership in a family does come with a certain amount of responsibility. Family members should take care of each other, yes, but they should also do their part so none of them have to take on more than their fair share. Today, we'll look at God's family—His Son, Jesus, in particular. We'll learn how God felt about Him and watch Jesus set out on a journey to do something for us that we couldn't do on our own: make our membership in God's family possible. Regardless of how we feel, we are wanted and loved. Through Jesus, we belong.



CENTRAL truth

Jesus is the Son of God, the promised Savior.



EXPLORE

scripture

MARK 1:1-13

MARK 1:1-3

1 The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. **2** As it is written in Isaiah the prophet: See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you; he will prepare

your way. **3** A voice of one crying out in the wilderness: Prepare the way for the Lord; make his paths straight!

MARK 1:4-8

4 John came baptizing in the wilderness and proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. **5** The whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and they were baptized by him in the Jordan River, confessing their sins. **6** John wore a camel-hair garment with a leather belt

around his waist and ate locusts and wild honey. **7** He proclaimed, "One who is more powerful than I am is coming after me. I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the strap of his sandals. **8** I baptize you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.

MARK 1:9-13

9 In those days Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptized in the Jordan by John. **10** As soon as he came up out of the water, he saw the heavens being torn open and the Spirit descending on him like a dove. **11** And a voice came from heaven:

"You are my beloved Son; with you I am well-pleased." **12** Immediately the Spirit drove him into the wilderness. **13** He was in the wilderness forty days, being tempted by Satan. He was with the wild animals, and the angels were serving him.

DAILY devotions

MEMORIZE MARK 1:11

7 ARROWS FOR BIBLE READING



What does this passage say?



What does this passage tell us about God?



What did this passage mean to its original audience?



How does this passage change the way I relate to people?



What does this passage tell us about humans?



How does this passage prompt me to pray?



What does this passage demand of me?

day 1

MARK 1:1-3

DWELL

Mark wasn't one of the twelve disciples who traveled with Jesus during His earthly ministry, but he completely believed that Jesus was God's Son, the Messiah. Like us, all he had to go on was the testimony of others and what Scripture had to say about it. The same Holy Spirit who helped him believe that the gospel of Jesus was true helps us believe, too. All we have to do is let Him.

← Why do you think Mark chose to include Isaiah's words in his story about Jesus?

↔ What evidence can you offer others that Jesus really is God's Son?

MEMORIZE

Write Mark 1:11 on a few sticky notes, and put the notes in places you will see them throughout the day. When you see one, stop and read it out loud.

PRAY

Pray that God would give you the faith you need to believe Jesus is His Son and the Savior of the world. Ask Him for the boldness to share this good news with other people in your life.

day 2

MARK 1:4-8

DWELL

God gave John a very important job to do, but he didn't let it go to his head. People were coming to him for spiritual guidance and help, but he didn't let them believe for a second that he was any more special than anyone else. Instead, he reminded them he was just God's servant and pointed them to Jesus.

↔ How can you use John's example to practice humility as you serve God and others?

→ According to this passage, what can Jesus do for others that ordinary people can't?

MEMORIZE

Write down Mark 1:11 in a journal or on a note card, and circle any words that feel important. Look at just those words for a few moments, then close your eyes and say them. When you can get them all right without looking, try doing the same thing with the whole verse.

PRAY

Thank God for the privilege of serving Him, and ask Him to give you opportunities to tell people how great He is.

day 3

MARK 1:9-13

DWELL

Jesus's baptism was a high point, a special moment between Him and His Father, but the moment couldn't last. Immediately afterward, the Holy Spirit took Jesus to face Satan and his temptations in the wilderness. Why would the Spirit do this? It may sound cruel, but Jesus had to go through this trial to become what He needed to be to serve God well (see Heb. 2:10-13). The experience probably wasn't pleasant, but He wasn't alone: God provided help for Him.

↻ What words did God speak when Jesus was baptized? How might these words have helped Jesus during His time in the wilderness?

↓ Jesus wasn't just fully God; He was also fully human. What does His time in the wilderness tell us about our own ability to resist temptation?

MEMORIZE

See how much of Mark 1:11 you can remember by writing it down without looking. Check your work. Add or change as necessary and study it. Practice doing this throughout the week until you get it!

PRAY

Thank God for His testimony about Jesus. Ask God to help you accept challenges that prepare you for His service with the same grace Jesus displayed.

day 4

JOHN 1:29-34

DWELL

John had lived his whole life preparing for and anticipating Jesus's arrival, but he didn't recognize Jesus when he saw Him. God had to tell him. If you are convinced that Jesus is the Son of God, the Messiah whom God sent to rescue people from sin, it's because God showed you. None of us can understand the truth about God without His help.

↑ What do you know about the role that lamb and sheep served in Jesus's day? Why do you think John called Jesus "the Lamb of God"?

↶ Why did John point out that Jesus existed before him? Why this was this important?

MEMORIZE

Try singing Mark 1:11 to the tune of a song you know well. Practice singing the verse to yourself as best as you can throughout the week.

PRAY

Thank God for revealing the truth about Jesus to you instead of leaving you to figure it out on your own. Ask Him to continue to reveal His truth when you look for it.

day 5

MATTHEW 11:2-6

DWELL

↶ How does John deal with his doubts? How can this be an example to you when you have your own doubts about Jesus?

➔ In the end, John was executed as a result of proclaiming the word of God. How does John's faith challenge you?

John had heard from God Himself that Jesus was His Son, and he had seen the Holy Spirit land on Jesus in the form of a dove. He had more inside information than anyone else, yet he still doubted. While he was in prison, where serving God was about to cost him his life (see Matt. 14:1-12), he wanted to make sure he was right. So he sent some of his disciples to ask Jesus directly. But Jesus didn't give a direct answer; after all, He couldn't be more direct than God had already been. Instead, He offered evidence to set John's mind at ease. However, even believing that evidence required faith on John's part.

MEMORIZE

Try reciting Mark 1:11 from memory. Ask a friend or family member to help you by reminding you of any words you've forgotten.

PRAY

Ask God to give you the courage to live out your faith in Jesus, no matter the cost. Pray that He would help you with any doubts you may have along the way.