

Discussion Guide for Mark 1:1-20

By: Pastor Tim Dodson, August 19th 2026

Part 1: The Preparation (Mark 1:1-8)

- **Read the passage:** *Have someone read Mark 1:1-8 aloud.*
- Mark starts his book by calling Jesus the "Son of God" and quoting Old Testament prophets. Why do you think he links Jesus's story so heavily to ancient promises?
- John the Baptist preached a message of repentance and attracted massive crowds out into the wilderness. What do you think made his message so compelling to people at that time?
- **Application:** John's clothing and lifestyle were incredibly simple, and his main goal was pointing people away from himself and toward Jesus. How can we practice that kind of humility in our own lives?

Part 2: The Baptism and Temptation (Mark 1:9-13)

- **Read the passage:** *Have someone read Mark 1:9-13 aloud.*
- Right after the Father affirms Jesus at His baptism ("You are my beloved Son"), the Spirit immediately drives Jesus into the wilderness to be tempted. Why do you think these two events happen back-to-back?
- Mark's account of Jesus's temptation is very short compared to Matthew or Luke, but he mentions Jesus was "with the wild animals, and the angels ministered to him." What kind of picture does this paint about Jesus's experience?
- When you experience a "wilderness season" (a time of testing, isolation, or trial), where do you typically look for comfort or strength? How does Jesus's response challenge or encourage you?

Part 3: The Call of the Disciples (Mark 1:14-20)

- **Read the passage:** *Have someone read Mark 1:14-20 aloud.*
- Jesus begins His ministry with a clear message: "The kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel." In your own words, how would you explain what it means that God's kingdom is "at hand"?
- Look at the response of Simon, Andrew, James, and John. They left their nets, their livelihoods, and their families "immediately" to follow Jesus. What strikes you most about their radical response?
- Jesus tells the fishermen He will make them "fishers of men." Where and when in your everyday life are you...*can you*, intentionally "fish" for those you engage? Is this a reality in your life, or is it merely a nice bible story? *Prove your answer.*