

1. Opening Prayer

2. Intro: Mark

Who is the author? According to the old tradition, it is John Mark.

Read Acts 12:12, 12:25, 13:13, and 15:37-40, 2 Tim. 4:11, and 1 Peter 5:13

What is a Gospel? (from *Interpretation Bible Studies*)

More than a story, more than a biography, more than a history,
and more than a hero-tale.

in Greek, *euangelion*, which means “glad tidings” that carry emotional content
of a cry of joy.

Outline of Gospel Mark (from *Interpretation Bible Studies*)

Mark 1:1 – 15	Beginning
Mark 1:16 – 8:26	Galilee
Mark 8:22 – 10:52	Between Galilee and Jerusalem
Mark 11:1 – 15:47	Jerusalem
Mark 16:1 – 8	Ending

Literary Techniques in Mark (from *Interpretation Bible Studies*)

- a. Suddenness: “Immediately” occurs more than 40 times in Mark.
- b. Action oriented Jesus rather than teaching oriented
- c. A vivid and detailed (but clumsy) narrative prose (6:6, 31, 5:41, 7:34, 1:20, 2:27, 12:30)
- d. Juxtaposition (10:13-31, 10:35-52, and 12:38-44)
- e. Sandwiched stories (5:21-43, 6:7-30, 11:12-21, 14:53-72)
- f. Mark reveals Jesus by hiding Jesus (1:34, 44-45, and 8:29-30)
- g. Jesus’ character becomes fuller while those of disciples diminish
- h. Jesus’ public ministry in Galilee and His private ministry in Jerusalem

3. Let us read Ch. 1

4. Discussion

- a. It begins with the title, “the beginning of the good news.” What does it mean? What is that good news? Is it still good news today? Read verse 14.
- b. Why do you think this Gospel begins with John the Baptist?
- c. Jesus’ journey in chapter 1 from Galilee to Jordan, wilderness, and back to Galilee may be suggesting a theological significance. Read Mark 16:7, and talk about those locations’ theological importance.
- d. How do you understand the baptism of Jesus? What is baptism to you?
- e. Why do you think the first disciples, Peter, Andrew, James, and John, followed Jesus so easily with a quick and brave decision? What was their motivation to follow Jesus? Do you think they understood what it means to be fishers of men?
- f. In verses 24 and 25, why do you think Jesus rebuked the man with the evil spirit to be quiet? Read also verses 34, and 44 – 45.
- g. How do you understand the conversation between the disciples and Jesus in verses 37 and 38?

5. Closing Prayer