

# Into the Life of Jesus

a study in the gospel of Mark

study #1

## Intro – Getting into Mark

1. As we think back to the introductory message on Sunday, what stands out to us – was there something that hit home for us, challenged us, encouraged us, got us thinking or praying? Explain.
2. Before reading the text together, take a few minutes to share together some of your initial perceptions, ideas, and/or experience of the gospel of Mark.
  - What do we know about Mark's gospel as a whole? (How is it different to the other gospels? When was it written and for whom?)  
→ *How does any of this inform our reading and appreciation of Mark's gospel?*
  - *Deeper: What are we longing for in this study?*
3. What role do you think **the gospels** have played in our discipleship (for example, in contrast to Paul's letters)?
  - How have they helped us? How do they challenged or confounded us?

→ If interested, take a few minutes and watch the Bible Project's 6-minute overview of Mark's gospel ([thebibleproject.com](http://thebibleproject.com)). Share together what was most helpful for you.

## Mark 1:9-13

**Introductions matter, don't they?** They set the scene and sew core ideas and themes. Although not the opening text, Mark 1:9-13 is still a part of Mark's introduction of Jesus and his gospel.

4. Read the passage aloud twice as a group – first, just taking in the scene, but in the second pass, with an ear to the unique and personal experience of Jesus.
  - The descent of the Spirit like a dove, the Voice of God from heaven, and the temptation by Satan in the wilderness – *Why might each of these dramatic experiences have each been important for Jesus at the outset of his ministry? How might they have not only foreshadowed things to come, but prepared Him for things to come?*
  - *What experiences in our lives (mountain tops or harrowing valleys) have been formative and preparatory for us?*

**PRAY:** Take a few minutes to pray together for one another and for our church as we begin into this study in Mark's gospel – **Into the Life of Jesus.**