

Adult Catechesis at St. Dunstan's Anglican Church, Largo, FL
The Gospel of Mark – Week 2

Mark 1:1–13

Week 2: August 18–22, 2025

Monday: Read Mark 1:1–13 in one sitting. If you can, read the entire first chapter of Mark as well. Do not pause to dwell on any specific part. Focus on the big picture and familiarize yourself with the text.

1. After reading the text, summarize the verses. What do these verses convey? What is Mark expressing about the beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ?

2. N. T. Wright compares the beginning of Mark's gospel to an alarm clock that wakes people from sleep. Where do you see areas of spiritual sleepiness in your life, community, or church? How might God be calling you to wake up?

Prayer Prompt: Ask God to awaken your heart to his presence and his kingdom, and to give you ears to hear the good news of the Gospel according to St. Mark.

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Tuesday: Read Mark 1:1–3 slowly. Make a note of any words or phrases that resonate with you. Consider also reading Exod 23:20–22; Isa 40:1–5; and Mal 2:17–3:5.

3. Why does Mark begin his gospel with references to Exodus, Isaiah, and Malachi? What do these texts contribute to our understanding of Mark's portrayal of Jesus?

4. Mark's introduction is filled with the language of the Exodus and New Exodus. How does this connection to Israel's past shape the meaning of baptism and repentance in John's ministry?

Prayer Prompt: Thank God that he continues to fulfill his promises in Scripture. Pray for the grace to live as one who has been brought out of slavery to sin and into the freedom of Christ.

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Wednesday: Read Mark 1:4–8 slowly. Consider reading these verses in different translations. Make a note of any words or phrases that resonate with you.

5. John's baptism was a call to repentance and preparation. How do repentance and forgiveness prepare us for the coming of Christ?

6. John's ministry was like a messenger splashing cold water to wake people up. In what ways does the church today continue John's role of preparing people for Christ?

7. John contrasted his baptism with the greater baptism of the Holy Spirit. How do you understand the difference between water baptism and the baptism of the Holy Spirit?

Prayer Prompt: Pray that the Spirit would renew you daily and empower you to walk in repentance, faith, and readiness for Christ's return.

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Thursday: Read Mark 1:9–11 slowly. Consider also reading Exod 14; Ps. 2; and Isa 42:1–4. Make a note of any words or phrases that resonate with you.

8. Jesus' baptism echoes Israel's Exodus through the Red Sea and God's promises in Isaiah. How do these stories shed light on Jesus' identity and mission?

9. At Jesus' baptism, the heavens are torn open, the Spirit descends, and the Father speaks. What does this Trinitarian moment reveal about who Jesus is?

10. This moment confirmed Jesus as Messiah and Son of God. How does baptism remind us of our own identity as children of God?

Prayer Prompt: Give thanks for your baptism, through which you have been united with Christ and sealed by the Spirit as God's beloved child.

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Friday: Read Mark 1:12–13 slowly. Consider reading Deuteronomy 8:1–10 and Psalm 91. Make a note of any words or phrases that resonate with you.

11. Why does the Spirit drive Jesus into the wilderness immediately after his baptism? What does this teach us about the relationship between spiritual affirmation and spiritual testing?

12. In the wilderness, Jesus faced both wild beasts and ministering angels. How does this imagery capture the tension of life in God's kingdom?

13. In resisting Satan, Jesus replays and reverses Israel's wilderness failures. How does his faithfulness bring hope for us in our struggles?

Prayer Prompt: Pray for strength in times of temptation and trial, and for faith to rely on Christ, who has already overcome the evil one.