

The Savior Appears

Lesson 01 of the series "Jesus in Action"

1. Mark wrote his gospel so that by seeing Jesus in action we would believe that Jesus is the Messiah and the Son of God.

"This is the Good News about Jesus the Messiah, the Son of God." Mark 1:1 (NLT)

Note: "Messiah" = "Christ" = "Savior."

"...the angel reassured them. 'Don't be afraid!' he said. 'I bring you good news that will bring great joy to all people. The Savior—yes, the Messiah, the Lord—has been born today in Bethlehem..." Luke 2:10-11 (NLT)

2. When Jesus was baptized a voice from heaven identified him as the Son of God.

"It began just as the prophet Isaiah had written: 'Look, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, and he will prepare your way. He is a voice shouting in the wilderness, 'Prepare the way for the LORD's coming! Clear the road for him!' This messenger was John the Baptist. He was in the wilderness and preached that people should be baptized to show that they had turned to God to receive forgiveness for their sins. All of Judea, including all the people of Jerusalem, went out to see and hear John. And when they confessed their sins, he baptized them in the Jordan River. His clothes were woven from coarse camel hair, and he wore a leather belt around his waist. For food he ate locusts and wild honey. John announced: 'Someone is coming soon who is greater than I am—so much greater that I'm not even worthy to stoop down like a slave and untie the straps of his sandals. I baptize you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit!' One day Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee, and John baptized him in the Jordan River. As Jesus came up out of the water, he saw the heavens splitting apart and the Holy Spirit descending on him like a dove. And a voice from heaven said, 'You are my dearly loved Son, and you bring me great joy.'" Mark 1:2-11 (NLT)

Note: It matters that Jesus is the Son of God.

"Because God's children are human beings—made of flesh and blood—the Son also became flesh and blood. For only as a human being could he die, and only by dying could he break the power of the devil, who had the power of death." Hebrews 2:14 (NLT)

Life Application: We must repent of our sins, believe the Good News and be baptized.

"Later on, after John was arrested, Jesus went into Galilee, where he preached God's Good News. 'The time promised by God has come at last!' he announced. 'The Kingdom of God is near! Repent of your sins and believe the Good News!'" Mark 1:14-15 (NLT)

"Each of you must repent of your sins, turn to God, and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ to show that you have received forgiveness for your sins. Then you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit." Acts 2:38 (NLT)

"For God is working in you, giving you the desire and the power to do what pleases him."

Philippians 2:13 (NLT)

3. When Jesus called his first disciples he promised to make them "fishers of men."

"As Jesus walked beside the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the lake, for they were fishermen. 'Come, follow me,' Jesus said, 'and I will make you fishers of men.' At once they left their nets and followed him. When he had gone a little farther, he saw James son of Zebedee and his brother John in a boat, preparing their nets. Without delay he called them, and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men and followed him." Mark 1:16-20 (NIV)

Note: Jesus called his disciples to join him in his mission.

"Then he appointed twelve of them and called them his apostles. They were to accompany him, and he would send them out to preach, giving them authority to cast out demons." Mark 3:14-15 (NLT)

Life Application: Jesus is calling us to join him in his mission, too!

"As the Father has sent me, so I am sending you." John 20:21 (NLT)

Life Application: Jesus' mission must be our top priority.

"If any of you wants to be my follower, you must turn from your selfish ways, take up your cross daily, and follow me. If you try to hang on to your life, you will lose it. But if you give up your life for my sake, you will save it. And what do you benefit if you gain the whole world but are yourself lost or destroyed?"

4. Jesus didn't allow anything to distract him from his mission.

“...they went to Simon and Andrew's home. Now Simon's mother-in-law was sick in bed with a high fever. They told Jesus about her right away. So he went to her bedside, took her by the hand, and helped her sit up. Then the fever left her, and she prepared a meal for them. That evening after sunset, many sick and demon-possessed people were brought to Jesus. The whole town gathered at the door to watch. So Jesus healed many people who were sick with various diseases, and he cast out many demons. But because the demons knew who he was, he did not allow them to speak. Before daybreak the next morning, Jesus got up and went out to an isolated place to pray. Later Simon and the others went out to find him. When they found him, they said, “Everyone is looking for you.” But Jesus replied, “We must go on to other towns as well, and I will preach to them, too. That is why I came.” So he traveled throughout the region of Galilee, preaching in the synagogues and casting out demons.” Mark 1:29-39 (NLT)

Life Application: For us to stay on mission we must spend daily time with God.

“This is what the Sovereign LORD, the Holy One of Israel, says: ‘Only in returning to me and resting in me will you be saved. In quietness and confidence is your strength. But you would have none of it.’”

Isaiah 30:15 (NLT)

“Don't worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank him for all he has done. Then you will experience God's peace, which exceeds anything we can understand. His peace will guard your hearts and minds as you live in Christ Jesus.” Philippians 4:6-7 (NLT)

Note: Jesus was too busy NOT to pray.

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Discussion Group Questions

1. What is the best news you have ever received? What made it such good news?
2. Read Mark 1:1-11. What happened at Jesus' baptism? Why did John the Baptist say he was unworthy to untie the straps of Jesus' sandals? What do you remember most about your baptism? What circumstances led you to get baptized?
3. Discuss the following excerpt from the Centerpoint Statement of Beliefs: "As the Bible teaches, there is one God, infinite, almighty, and eternally existing in three persons – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Each fully possesses all the attributes of deity – they are co-equal and one God." (Deuteronomy 6:4, 2 Corinthians 13:14) Why does it matter that we believe in God as He reveals himself in the Bible? Why do many people reject what the Bible teaches us about God?
4. Read Mark 1:16-20, 3:14-15. What does it mean to be a "fisher of men"? How good are you at fishing for people? How did Jesus train his disciples to do this? How can we help each other become better at this kind of fishing?
5. Read John 20:21 & Luke 9:23-25. Whose responsibility is it to make disciples? Why does Jesus say this will cost so much?
6. Read Mark 1:29-39. Why was everyone looking for Jesus? Why didn't Jesus go back with Simon Peter and the other disciples after they found him? Now read Isaiah 30:15 and discuss how you observe daily devotions/quiet times. Share one thing God has revealed to you in your devotional time recently.
7. Discuss the following quotations:

"The Kingdom of God is near! Repent of your sins and believe the Good News!" Jesus in Mark 1:15

"We've drifted from being fishers of men to being keepers of the aquarium." Paul Harvey

"...if any person in the world said to you, 'I am a fisherman, but I have never caught anything,' you would wonder how he could be called a fisherman. A farmer who never grew any wheat, or any other crop—is he a farmer? When Jesus Christ says, 'Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men,' he means, that you will, really catch men and women—that you really, will save some..." C.H. Spurgeon

"Baptism is a conclusive act of obedience and witness to the world that we are Christ's. I believe in it wholeheartedly. In our crusades we don't baptize because we feel that this should be done by the local pastors—and that if I baptized, some people would say they had been baptized by me, and that would be putting the emphasis on the wrong person. To one who has received Christ, baptism is a necessary and meaningful experience. But, I must say with Paul: 'Christ sent me not to baptize, but to preach the gospel' (1 Corinthians 1:17)." Billy Graham