

# JOHN

**servant king**  
the gospel of mark

## ✦ week 1: jesus the messiah - mark 1:1-20

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The beginning of the good news about Jesus the Messiah, the Son of God, 2 as it is written in Isaiah the prophet:

“I will send my messenger ahead of you,  
who will prepare your way”—  
3 “a voice of one calling in the wilderness,  
‘Prepare the way for the Lord,  
make straight paths for him.’”

4 And so John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. 5 The whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem went out to him. Confessing their sins, they were baptized by him in the Jordan River. 6 John wore clothing made of camel’s hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. 7 And this was his message: “After me comes the one more powerful than I, the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. 8 I baptize you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

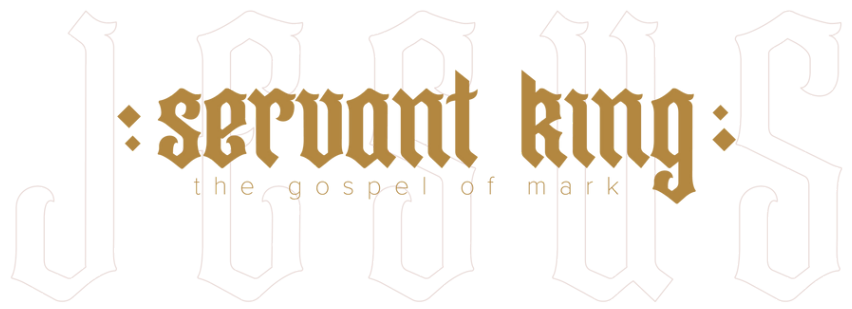
9 At that time Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. 10 Just as Jesus was coming up out of the water, he saw heaven being torn open and the Spirit descending on him like a dove. 11 And a voice came from heaven: “You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased.”

12 At once the Spirit sent him out into the wilderness, 13 and he was in the wilderness forty days, being tempted by Satan. He was with the wild animals, and angels attended him.

14 After John was put in prison, Jesus went into Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God. 15 “The time has come,” he said. “The kingdom of God has come near. Repent and believe the good news!”

16 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. 17 “Come, follow me,” Jesus said, “and I will send you out to fish for people.” 18 At once they left their nets and followed him.

19 When he had gone a little farther, he saw James son of Zebedee and his brother John in a boat, preparing their nets. 20 Without delay he called them, and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men and followed him.



## ✦ personal study sheet

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**DIRECTIONS:** Use the questions below to spend time in Scripture, dig deeper into the weekly sermon message, and to worship and pray. Each day, begin with prayer, asking the Holy Spirit to help you learn and apply what you read. Then, read **Mark 1:1-20** and answer the day's questions.

### ◆ DAY 1: FOCUS ON PEOPLE AND THEIR NATURAL, WORLDLY TENDENCIES

- What are some leadership styles you've seen or experienced? Why do you think people often end up feeling disillusioned with their leaders, regardless of their leadership style?

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- The world says, "Follow your heart."

a. How much influence do you think the world's narrative has on people's decisions and choices? Can you provide examples from your own experiences or observations?

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b. Identify biblical stories and/or Scripture verses highlighting the consequences of following the heart. What can we learn from these stories about the dangers of following our hearts? (Suggestions: Gen. 3:6, Prov. 14:12, Jas. 1:14-15)

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### ◆ DAY 2: FOCUS GOD, JESUS, HIS PLAN AND EXAMPLE

- What is Jesus asking when He says, "Follow me? What does that mean/look like for you personally? What challenges or obstacles do we face when trying to follow Jesus

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- Jesus **completes the puzzle, connects us with our Creator, and conquers our enemies.**

a. Read **Mark 1:1-3**. Talk about the analogy of the missing puzzle piece. In what ways do you feel that something essential is missing until you encounter Jesus? Share thoughts or experiences related to this concept.

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# JOB

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b. Read **Mark 1:9-10**. How does Jesus, being fully human and fully God, make Him the perfect bridge between us and our Creator? In what ways does His humanity help us to relate to our Creator? \_\_\_\_\_

c. Read **Heb. 2:18**. What are some areas in which you have been/are being tested? How does the truth of Heb. 2:18 encourage and help you? \_\_\_\_\_

## ◆ DAY 3: APPLICATION

- Reflect on Jesus' leadership: the king who's never arrogant, and the servant who's never weak. How can you personally apply this balance in your life? \_\_\_\_\_
- In a world that says, "Follow your heart," Jesus says, "Follow me." Identify a specific area in your life where you are following your own desires. What adjustments can you make to re-align with Jesus' call? Share with a trusted friend/small group. \_\_\_\_\_
- God sometimes "tears open" aspects of our lives (health, relationships, or finances) to get our attention. Are there any recent moments of "tearing" in your life? How might God be inviting you to draw closer to Him through these experiences? \_\_\_\_\_

## ◆ DAY 4: WORSHIP & PRAYER

**Use the words of Psalm 16 in a time of worship and prayer.**