

## **Mark 1: 1—The Son of God**

Read John 10: 31-39—Why were they trying to stone Jesus? What was so offensive to them?

In the NIV the term 'Son of God' appears 23 times in the Gospels. What do the following references tell you about what this term means:

Matthew 4: 3-7

Mark 3: 11

Mark 15: 39

There is a similar term used about Jesus 'Son of Man' - Is it important that Jesus was both the Son of God and the Son of Man? Why?

How important to you is it that Jesus was fully, totally and truly God as well as being fully, totally and truly human?

## **Space for Your Sermon Notes:**



ST PAUL'S Sarisbury Green

Sunday 18th January 2009

Introduction to Mark

## **Space for Your Sermon Notes:**

### **Key Passages:**

**Mark 1: 1**

**Mark 1: 14-20**

## Read The Story

The first thing I would encourage everyone to do is to read the book of Mark in one sitting. Read it like any other book and allow God to speak to you through the whole of it.

## Going Deeper

### Reading the book

If anyone in your group has managed to read the whole book before you meet than ask them how they found it. What, if anything did they learn? How was it different from reading a chapter or a few verses?

### Mark 1: 1

### The Beginning and The Ending

Read the first verse in Mark and then turn to the end—Chapter 16 and read verses 1-8

Now look at your copy of the Bible and see what notes you can find about Mark 16: 9-20.

What do these notes tell you about the ending of Mark?

Do you think it ends at verse 8 or verse 20? What difference does it make?

If Mark 1: 1 says it is the beginning when does the story end?

What do you think Mark means when he says the beginning ....”

### Mark 1:1—The Gospel

Gospel literally means ‘Good News’  
What would be ‘Good news for you’?  
We often call the story of Jesus and salvation as ‘The Good News’ what is ‘The Good News’?  
What is ‘Good’ in Mark’s book?

One commentator Cranfield says of the Greek word used for ‘good news’: “means ‘to announce good news’ especially of victory. There is a pagan background to the NT use of ‘good news’. For the inhabitants of the Roman Empire it had special associations with the Emperor-cult, since the Emperor, his coming of age, his accession, were referred to as ‘good news’. There is thus in the Christian use of the word an implicit contrast between the ‘good news’ which may truly be termed ‘good news of God’ and these other ‘good news’ which represent the pretentious claims of self-important men.”

How does the ‘good news’ that Mark speaks about differ from any other ‘good news’ you may hear about?

Do you think what you have said about what the ‘good news’ is would be the same as the way the first readers would have defined ‘good news’?

If someone said that the ‘Good News’ that mark speaks about is better news than hearing that you have just won the lottery would you agree with them?

### Mark 1:1—About Jesus Christ

What does the name Jesus Christ mean to you?

Is the word ‘Christ’ a name, a position, a role, or something else?

The word Christ had the same meaning as Messiah and literally meant ‘The Anointed One.’ Can you think of anywhere in the Old Testament where the Bible talks about the Messiah?

What do you think were the expectations that the Jews at the time of Jesus had as to what the Messiah would be like and what he would do?

How did Jesus differ from those expectations?

What expectations do you have of Jesus?

Has he met your expectations? If not why do you think that he has not met your expectations?