



## 40 DAYS WITH JESUS



### DAY 1 MARK 1:1-8

The beginning of the Gospel about Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

<sup>2</sup> It is written in Isaiah the prophet:

"I will send my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way" – <sup>3</sup> "a voice of one calling in the desert, 'Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him.'"

<sup>4</sup> And so John came, baptising in the desert region and preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. <sup>5</sup> The whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem went out to him. Confessing their sins, they were baptised by him in the Jordan River. <sup>6</sup> John wore clothing made of camel's hair, with a leather belt round his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey.

<sup>7</sup> And this was his message: "After me will come one more powerful than I, the thongs of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. <sup>8</sup> I baptise you with water, but he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit."



**GOSPEL.** This is another word for good news. Think about the different kinds of good news you can get. God's good news is much better. God's good news for us is that our sins can be forgiven and that he loves us. Through Christ's death we can be saved from the punishment of sin. God sets his people free and God keeps them safe – for ever.

Words: Anointed; Baptised. Pages 126–130.

Who's Who: John the Baptist; Jesus Christ. Pages 131–134.

Boot Camp: Introducing Jesus. Pages 135–141.





## A JOURNEY THROUGH THE GOSPEL OF MARK



### DAY 1 MARK 1:1–8. GOOD NEWS ALL THE WAY.

Mark's book is good news from God. God's good news is not really about being religious; it's not about trying to be good enough. God's good news is about Jesus Christ.

Mark wants us to know, right at the start of his book, that Jesus is God. He quotes from Isaiah chapter 40, where God begins to give his people hope because of his unfailing love. Because he loves them he will send a saviour. It is Jesus who is the Christ: God's anointed King and Saviour. He is the Lord.

So we cannot ignore Jesus. We must never forget him. Mark tells of John the Baptist. John made it clear that the right response to King Jesus is first to repent so that sins might be forgiven. Before any other problems can be sorted, we have to get our sins dealt with.



#### READ THIS THEN PRAY:

"Wash away all my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin."  
Psalm 51:2

Prayer: Lord Jesus, I know that you came because you love me and because I need you to save me from my sin. Please forgive my sin; wash it away. Thank you that you are with me on this journey through life. Amen.





## 40 DAYS WITH JESUS



### DAY 2 MARK 1:9–11

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



**SIN.** We have to have our sin dealt with. Sin is a problem. Jesus deals with the problem. One of the ways to explain how he does this is by using the word covering. He takes his goodness and covers our badness with it. When God looks at us he sees Jesus' goodness. Our sin is no longer there. All our sin is covered. This is not Jesus pretending to God the Father in order to trick him. God the Father is fully aware of what is happening. He has planned it all.

Words: Confess; Baptise; Gospel; Faithful; Father. Pages 126–130.  
Who's who: God the Father; God the Son. Pages 131–134.  
Boot Camp: Getting Started with God. Pages 135–141.  
Maps: Nazareth; River Jordan. Pages 142–143.





## A JOURNEY THROUGH THE GOSPEL OF MARK



### DAY 2 MARK 1:9–11. BAPTISED FOR YOU.

We learn from Matthew's Gospel that baptising people in the River Jordan had to do with confessing sin and repenting of it – turning away from sin. So why was Jesus baptised? He hadn't any sins to confess so he didn't need to be forgiven. He was baptised for you. When you or I repent, we don't do it very well. Even our repentance is full of selfishness; and there might be many things that we never even think need to be forgiven. So Jesus 'did' repentance for you and for me – getting it right for us where we get it wrong. We can trust Jesus to cover all our sin: even our sinful repentance. What a wonderful Saviour! And the Father wants everyone to know that Jesus is the faithful and much loved Son, who has pleased him by his obedience. He speaks from heaven so that we might be in no doubt that Jesus is God for us.



### READ THIS THEN PRAY:

"He who conceals his sins does not prosper, but whoever confesses and renounces them finds mercy." Proverbs 28:13

Prayer: Thank you, Father, that when I confess my sins you are faithful and just and will forgive my sins. Thank you that you make it clear that Jesus is more than simply a good man – he is God the Son. Help me to confess my sin and to follow Jesus today. Amen.

Got a bit of extra time? Take a look at the map feature on Pages 142–143 and keep a note of the places you visit through Mark's Gospel.





## 40 DAYS WITH JESUS



### DAY 3 MARK 1:12-13

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



**JESUS KNOWS.** If someone gives you advice about a trip you plan to take it is quite possible that he can't really help you. He may not have done the journey for himself.

It's not like this with Jesus. He is fully human and fully God. He knows about our struggles. Jesus has walked our road – he knows what it is like to be human. Yet, because he is God he is also able to defeat sin. He did this on the cross!



**REPRESENTATIVE.** If a person is accused of a crime he needs someone to speak up for him or represent him in a court of law. Jesus represents those who trust in him.

He represents them to the Judge of all the earth: God. Because Jesus represents his people in heaven his people are free from the punishment of sin.

