

The Beginning of the Good News

Mark 1:1–11

Main Idea

Mark wastes no time. Jesus doesn't slowly build credibility—**He just shows up**, backed by powerful references:

- **John the Baptist**, the prophetic forerunner
- **God the Father**, who publicly affirms Him

From the very first lines, Mark wants us to know: *This is good news—and it's worth paying attention to.*

Opening Question (Icebreaker)

- When you hear the phrase “*good news*,” what usually comes to mind?
- What makes news feel believable or trustworthy to you?

The Passage

Tell it, rebuild it, then read **Mark 1:1–11** aloud together.

Observation & Discovery

1. What stands out to you in this passage?
2. How does Mark introduce Jesus differently than you might expect?
3. What do we learn about **John the Baptist** and his role?
4. What happens at Jesus' baptism—and why do you think it matters?

Understanding Mark's Perspective

- Mark doesn't include a birth story or long background. Why do you think he starts this way?
- How do **John's words** and **God's voice** help establish who Jesus is?
- What does this tell us about what Mark wants readers to focus on?

- *Key Insight:*

Mark's gospel begins with action, authority, and affirmation. Jesus arrives already identified as the Son of God.

Making Disciples: The Good News Begins

Mark opens with a declaration: "*The beginning of the good news about Jesus the Messiah.*"

Before Jesus says or does anything, people are being prepared to encounter Him.

- John's role is not to draw attention to himself but to point people toward Jesus.
- Discipleship often begins when someone helps us notice who Jesus is.

Discussion

- Who has God used to help you first hear or notice the good news about Jesus?
- Who in your life might God be inviting you to gently point toward Him?

Growing Disciples: Identity Before Activity

At Jesus' baptism, the Father speaks and the Spirit descends. Before Jesus begins His public ministry, His identity is affirmed.

- Growth flows from knowing who we are and whose we are.
- Faith deepens as we trust what God says about Jesus—and about us.

Discussion

- Why do you think Mark shows God's affirmation before Jesus does any ministry?

- How does understanding who Jesus is help you grow in faith or obedience?
- Where do you sense God inviting you to grow right now?

Unleashing Disciples: The Mission Moves Forward

Immediately after this passage, Jesus steps into His mission. The good news is not meant to stop with one person—it moves outward.

- Those who encounter Jesus are sent to live out and share the good news.
- God often uses ordinary people to prepare the way for others.

Discussion

- What might it look like for the good news to move through you this week?
- How could your story of encountering Jesus encourage someone else?

Personal Application

Choose one or two:

- What does “*the beginning of the good news*” look like in your own life?
- How did you first experience Jesus?
- If you’re unsure about faith:
 - o What would it look like to honestly explore who Jesus is?
 - o What questions would you want answered?

Next Step

- One way I will respond to this passage this week is:

- o Learning more about Jesus
- o Growing in trust or obedience
- o Sharing or living out the good news with someone else

Closing Prayer

Thank God for making Himself known.

Ask for openness—to see, hear, and respond to the good news of Jesus.