



# Mark 1:1-8

## INTRODUCTION

Mark begins his gospel with the ministry of John the Baptist, who prepares the way for the Lord.

## INSTRUCTIONS

This guide is meant to facilitate discussion which will lead to a response to God's word. Therefore please use it as tool that best fits the needs of your small group.

## OPENING DISCUSSION

- Read **Mark 1:1-8**
- What do you find interesting/compelling/confusing about this passage?

## REVIEW

- What do we learn about the prophecies from Malachi and Isaiah in vv2-3?
- What is repentance? Why does it have "fruit?"
- Why is repentance necessary to prepare for Jesus?
- What does counterfeit resistance look like?
- What role does baptism play in John's ministry? Can't they get ready for the Lord without baptism?
- Is John saying that in order to receive Jesus you need to fix your life and get rid of your sin? Explain.

## APPLICATION

- How do John and his preaching style compare with current notions of how to gain a following and grow a church?
- What role does repentance have in the Christian's life (as opposed to the non-believer)?
- What religious acts are we tempted to trust in? How can we repent from "religion?"
- Martin Luther said that "All of a Christian's life is one of repentance." Discuss that statement. Is that true in your life?
- Have you repented this week? Why or why not?
- How can we grow in repentance?
- How could these verses help you explain to a non-Christian friend what you believe about Jesus and why?

## PRAYER (divide the group based on gender if desired)

- What action/repentance does God want you to take according to the truths of this text?
- Are there any other prayer needs?