

Series: Goodnews
Passage: Mark 1:1-8
Sunday: January 4, 2026

Over the next two years, we will be working out way through the Gospel of Mark. We will be following Jesus' footsteps, seeking to learn from our savior in word and action.

Mark 1:1-8 (ESV)

1 The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

² As it is written in Isaiah the prophet,

“Behold, I send my messenger before your face,
who will prepare your way,

³ the voice of one crying in the wilderness:

‘Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight,’ ”

⁴ John appeared, baptizing in the wilderness and proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁵ And all the country of Judea and all Jerusalem were going out to him and were being baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. ⁶ Now John was clothed with camel's hair and wore a leather belt around his waist and ate locusts and wild honey. ⁷ And he preached, saying, “After me comes he who is mightier than I, the strap of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. ⁸ I have baptized you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

1. How would you prepare for a visit from a really important person? Why is it important to prepare for the coming of an influential person?

2. What are the implications of the Son of God becoming human (verse 1)?

3. What is the significance of the titles “Christ” and “Son of God”?

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4. Reread verses 6-7. Describe what John the Baptist was like. What can we learn from him?

5. How does John go about sharing or preparing the way for the Goodnews of Jesus?

6. What was the purpose of John's baptism? How was John's baptism different from the baptism that Jesus would bring?

7. How can we prepare the way for Jesus in the heart of those around us?