



## Scripture

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

<sup>2</sup> *As it is written in Isaiah the prophet,  
“Behold, I send my messenger before your face,  
who will prepare your way,  
<sup>3</sup> the voice of one crying in the wilderness:  
‘Prepare the way of the Lord,  
make his paths straight,’”*

<sup>4</sup> *John appeared, baptizing in the wilderness and proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. <sup>5</sup> 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. <sup>6</sup> Now John was clothed with camel’s hair and wore a leather belt around his waist and ate locusts and wild honey. <sup>7</sup> 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. <sup>8</sup> I have baptized you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”*

<sup>9</sup> *In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. <sup>10</sup> And when he came up out of the water, immediately he saw the heavens being torn open and the Spirit descending on him like a dove. <sup>11</sup> And a voice came from heaven, “You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased.”*

<sup>12</sup> *The Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. <sup>13</sup> And he was in the wilderness forty days, being tempted by Satan. And he was with the wild animals, and the angels were ministering to him.*

<sup>14</sup> *Now after John was arrested, Jesus came into Galilee, proclaiming the gospel of God, <sup>15</sup> and saying, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel.” (Mark 1:1-15 ESV)*

## Outline

Big Idea: God kept His promise to send a Messiah, who is Jesus Christ, the Son of God

Point 1. We must be baptized because we trust God

Point 2. We must be submissive to the Holy Spirit

Point 3. We must share the good news we believe

# Discussion Questions

**Icebreaker:** What is the main thing that stands out to you in this passage?

## **Point 1: We must be baptized because we trust God**

- John's baptism was a baptism of repentance. How does Jesus' baptism fit into this context? Why was Jesus, who was without sin, baptized?
- What is the connection between baptism and trust in God? What does baptism symbolize?
- Have you been baptized? If so, share your experience. If not, is this something you've considered? What might be holding you back?
- Why was it important for God to keep His promise to send a Messiah? What does this tell us about God?

## **Point 2: We must be submissive to the Holy Spirit**

- How does the Holy Spirit's presence in Jesus' baptism (the dove) and his experience in the wilderness (driven by the Spirit) illustrate the importance of the Spirit in our lives?
- What does it mean to be submissive to the Holy Spirit? How can we cultivate this submission in our daily lives?
- What are some practical ways we can recognize and respond to the leading of the Holy Spirit?

## **Point 3: We must share the good news we believe**

- What is the "good news" that Jesus proclaims in verse 15?
- How does Jesus' statement, "The time has come... the kingdom of God has come near. Repent and believe the good news!" challenge us today?
- How can we share the good news effectively with others? What are some practical steps we can take? What fears or hesitations do we have about sharing our faith?
- What is one concrete action you can take this week to respond to what God is saying to you through this passage?

# Your Prayer

Write out a three-sentence prayer based off this passage.