

A note of introduction...

Are you hungry for a life filled with meaningful worship and purpose instead of busyness and empty activity? Are you looking for peace instead of chaos? Are you searching for answers that go beyond what you grew up with? May I suggest the gospel of Mark. It holds promise in all these areas as a book for women serving God and others in the new Millennium...and forever. I pray that God can use this study to make his timeless principles come alive all over again in a new and fresh way that will change your life and grow your faith.

The lessons have been written using the New International Version of the Bible. Even if you use a different version you should have little trouble answering all the questions. Note that it may not be necessary to look up every reference listed to find your answer but they are given for those of you having difficulty or with a special interest and desire for deeper study. Remember that completing a few questions is better than none so don't be discouraged if you are not able to finish each lesson. If you can glean just one principle or new idea, God will use it to benefit you. Bear in mind however, that you may be missing a blessing if you give up too quickly or allow the opposition to convince you there is not enough time.

Are you ready to learn how to be a servant in the style of Jesus? Let's get started...after you say a prayer to ensure you receive what God has prepared for you.

Paula Rhodes

Lesson 1

Mark 1:1-46

I. Read Mark 1:1-8.

1. What verses that prophesy about John is Mark quoting from the Old Testament?

2. a. What was John's purpose in life? (vs. 3)

- b. Who prepared the way for you to know the Lord? How could God use you to prepare the way for a friend or relative to know the Lord?

3. List the similarities of John to Elijah as seen in these verses regarding the following areas: (2 Kings 1:8, Malachi 4:5, Matthew 17:10-13 and Luke 1:13-17).
Dress _____
Manner of Life _____
Message _____

4. T or F Locusts are listed in the Bible as "clean" food.

5. What do you learn from John's attitude about his relationship to Jesus? (vs. 7)

II. Read Mark 1:8-13.

6. a. How was John's baptism different from the baptism Christ would offer? (Also see John 1:26,33)

- b. What promises did the Jewish people already have about the Holy Spirit? (Isaiah 44:3; Ezekiel 36:26-27; Joel 2:28-29)

7. Since Jesus had nothing to repent of (I John 3:5), why do you think he was baptized?

8. a. How did God affirm Jesus as his beloved son?

- b. How have you recognized Jesus Christ as God's son in your own life?

9. a. In view of the upcoming challenges, what was the purpose of the desert getaway?
9. b. How does one prepare for a physical or mental challenge? (Think Olympics, trek, finals)

- c. How can you be spiritually prepared for everyday challenges as well as the unexpected major crisis? (Share verses that help you if applicable.)

10. Who was protecting Jesus in the desert? Who or what can you count on to protect you during times of temptation?

Psalm 125:1-2 _____

Romans 8:13-16 _____

Hebrews 1:14 _____

I Peter 1:5 _____

III. Read Mark 1:14-28.

11. What two actions did Jesus require as a response to the coming kingdom of God?

12. a. What are the results of repentance without belief in the promise of salvation? (See Matthew 27:3-5; II Corinthians 7:8-10)

b. How does this affect your desire to let others know about true repentance of sins?

13. a. What did the disciples leave behind to follow Jesus?

b. Read I Corinthians 7:17-24 and consider Mark 1:29; 10:28. Would Paul disagree with the disciple's actions in Mark 1:18-19?

14. Do you believe Satan is active today? Upon what evidence do you base your answer? (Please support your answer with scripture.)

IV. Read Mark 1:29-34.

15. a. How did Peter's mother-in-law respond to being healed by Jesus?
- b. What can you do, or what are you doing to show gratitude for Jesus' healing in your life?

V. Read Mark 1:29-45.

16. What impresses you about Jesus' prayer life and how can you apply it to your own habits?
17. a. What did Jesus focus on to avoid numerous distractions by other people? (vs. 38)
- b. When feeling pulled in all directions, how can a focus on Jesus keep your priorities in order?
18. What two passages in this chapter describe Jesus using touch while showing compassion?
19. a. Think of the most loving, Christ-like people you know. How many are huggers?
- b. Describe times when you may be reluctant or uncomfortable to touch or be touched while ministering to others?
- c. How does being touched by another believer affect you?
- d. Who will you reach out to with a loving touch this week?