



**Background to Mark’s Gospel**

The Gospel of Mark was possibly written by Mark the son of Mary, mentioned in Acts 12 v 12. He accompanied Paul and Barnabas on their first missionary journey. He would have known the disciples who were involved in the ministry of Jesus. The Gospel is dynamic, words like “immediately” occur frequently.

**What we will see in this chapter:**

- Why John was sent to preach to the Jews and what he did
- What Jesus’ message was
- The reaction of people to his miracles
- What Jesus spent his time doing and what his main aim was

**1 Read the chapter**

**2 Questions** to help us in our understanding of this chapter. Look at the chapter verses in your Bible and use the questions to help you make your notes.

Chapter verse(s)	Questions (to help with your notes)	Your notes
1	1. Who is the “*Good News” about?  Text note v 1 “Good News” is “Gospel” in some translations.	
2 and 3	2. What did the Old Testament prophets foretell? Text note : Mark quotes Malachi 3 v 1 and Isaiah 40 v 3	
4 to 8	3. What did John do and say?	
9 to 13	4. What did Jesus do after his baptism?	
14 & 15	5. What was his message?	
16 to 20	6. Who did Jesus call to follow him and what were they to become?	



Chapter verses	Questions	Your notes
21 to 28	7. What was the reaction of people to Jesus' teaching and miracles?	
29 to 39	8. What did Jesus spend his time doing and what was his main aim?	
40 to 45	9. What was Jesus' reaction to the leper?	

**3** Related theme from v 4: *Baptism – a first-century practice.*

*To baptise comes from a word meaning to make fully wet. The word is used concerning ships sinking and with reference to a piece of cloth being dyed. Baptisms recorded in the Bible imply that they are full immersions.*

Have a look at these related verses and see this theme running through the New Testament. Make a note of the main point(s) about baptism in the verse(s).

Verse(s)	Main point(s)
John 3 v 23	
Mark 1 v 5	
Matthew 3 v 16	
Acts 8 v 38 and 39	