



Warm up question:

- What are the various ways that people form an understanding of Jesus?
- What is the best way to form an understanding of Jesus?

Read Mark 1:1-8

1. What are the various names attributed to Jesus? What do they mean?
2. Why has Mark used this passage from Isaiah to explain John the Baptist's ministry?
3. What does it mean that John was "*preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins*"?
4. Who was going to John for baptism? Why is this important?
5. What does it mean to confess your sins?
6. How would you summarise John's message from verses 7-8?
7. What might the people in the 1st century have thought / how might they have understood – *baptism with the Holy Spirit*? (Remember that Pentecost had not happened yet)

Read Mark 1:9-13

8. If Jesus was without sin, why did he receive a baptism of repentance?
9. What is the significance of verse 10? (see Isaiah 64:1, Mark 15:37-39, Genesis 8:6-12, Luke 2:22-24)
10. In verse 11, God says 3 things about Jesus. Why is each one significant?
11. Why would the Spirit send Jesus into the wilderness to be tested? What does this tell us about Jesus?
12. What is the symbolism of Jesus being in the wilderness for 40 days? (see Gen 7:12, Ex 34:28, 1 Kings 19:8)
13. If Jesus received a baptism he did not need, willingly faced temptations that were beneath his lordship, and died a death he did not deserve; how does this compare to other heroes or leaders in our world?

Rubber hits the road:

- How will you help someone see Jesus more clearly this week?
- How will you ensure that you continue to see Jesus more clearly throughout 2021?

PRAYER

Jesus, you are the best news! You are what the world waited for from Adam and Eve to John the Baptist. And you are what the world needs right now. As we seek to make you known this year, please start by helping us to see you clearly ourselves. Rend and shape our hearts that they might become like yours, and fill us with your Spirit that we might be transformed into true image bearers of your name, Amen.

