

## BIBLE DISCUSSION GROUP STUDY QUESTIONS

In preparation for Sunday, January 18, 2015

Passage: Mark 1:9-11

Memory Passage: Mark 1:10-11

### DAY 1 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

### READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Mark 1:9-11.** Why does Mark not include the genealogy or birth and early life stories we find in Matthew & Luke?
- (b) To what “days” does Mark refer in the phrase, “in those days?”
- (c) Why does Mark tell the people what region Nazareth was in, and what does this tell you about his audience?
- (d) Given the nature of John’s baptism (cf. 1:4-6) why would Jesus need to be baptized?

### DAY 2 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

### READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Mark 1:9-11.** Does v. 10a tell you anything about the mode (i.e. method) of John’s baptism, and if so, what?
- (b) What does Mark intend us to understand by his use of “immediately” (a very common word for him) in this verse?
- (c) Mark tells us the Spirit descended on Jesus “like a dove.” What do you think the witnesses to this event actually saw?
- (d) Why did Jesus, the sinless Son of God, need the Holy Spirit?

### DAY 3 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

### READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Mark 1:9-11.** Why did God see fit to announce that Jesus was His “beloved Son” and what does this convey to us?
- (b) In what sense was God “well pleased” with Jesus, and why did God choose this time to make this pronouncement?
- (c) What do you learn about the Trinity in these verses, and why is the truth of the Trinity important to you?
- (d) How do verse 9-11 fit into the surrounding context (i.e. how do they connect with what comes before and what follows)?

### DAY 4 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

### READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Matthew 3:13-17, Luke 3:21-22, & John 1:32-34.** What differences and similarities do you notice between Mark’s account of Jesus’ baptism when compared to the other gospels? What clarity is gained from combining the accounts?
- (b) Why did John think he needed to be baptized by Jesus?
- (c) Explain Jesus’ reason for being baptized by John (Matthew 3:15).
- (d) Does the fact that Jesus convinced John to baptize Him rather than the other way around mean that John was not in need of baptism? Explain your answer.

**DAY 5 – ASK FOR INSIGHT**

**READ THE PASSAGE**

(a) **Read Mark 1:9-11.** I have saved all of our application questions for today: What does the fact that Jesus presented Himself for baptism tell us about the importance of being baptized? Is baptism a necessity? If you are a professing believer: have you been baptized, and if not, what should you do next?

(b) Jesus received the Holy Spirit at the beginning of His earthly ministry and immediately (cf. v. 12) the Holy Spirit was active in His life. In what ways is the Holy Spirit active in your life? In what ways do you need to improve on listening for and heeding His leading?

(c) Meditate on the fact that Jesus said he must be baptized and record your thoughts. Think through how His baptism related Him to the sinners He came to save, how it foreshadows the cross, what it means for your daily life, how it teaches us about the importance of baptism, how John's baptism was different from Jesus' baptism, what we learn from the Father's response, etc.

**DATE: January 18, 2015**

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*Jesus' Baptism*