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## Daily Bible Reading Notes For Deaf People



from

## The Gospel of St Mark (Book 1: Mark 1.1 - 5.20)

Diocese of Chelmsford  
Chaplaincy among Deaf  
& Deafblind People

SAMPLE

## How to use these notes

- There are 30 days of readings in this booklet, enough for a month, but you can start at any time.
- The first page is a general introduction; you can read it if you would like to.
- Try to look at one page each day if you can.
- First, **pray** that God will help you understand.
- Next, **read the passage from the bible** given at the top of the page. (Choose a Bible version with easy English, such as the Good News Bible.)
- Then **read the notes that explain the passage**, a few verses at a time.
- Next, look at the 'To think about' section – and **think about the question or statement**, relating God's word in Mark to your own life and thinking.
- Finally, **use the short prayer** (or pray one of your own).

### Cover picture:

The lion with wings is a symbol that is often used for St Mark.  
This one is on a clock tower in Venice.

### **Day 3: Read Mark 1:9-13**

v.9 Jesus grew up in Nazareth, near Lake Galilee. Now he comes south to the River Jordan, and asks John to baptise him. (Jesus didn't need to be baptised because of sin, because he never sinned. But he was going to take the sin of the world on him, on the cross, so here he identifies with sinful people in baptism.)

v.10-13 As Jesus comes up from the water of his baptism he experiences something special: God's Spirit confirms that he is God's Son in a special way. But then the same Spirit led Jesus into the desert. For a long time, Satan was allowed to tempt Jesus to change his mind about doing God's work. (See Matt 4:1-11)

#### To think about:

Sometimes after a special experience of God we have a time of testing or temptation. God leads us this way to strengthen our faith.

#### Prayer:

Lord, help me to resist temptation, like you did. Amen.

### **General introduction to Mark's Gospel**

The word 'gospel' means 'good news'. Mark tells the good news that the Kingdom of God is near (1:15). This means that God wants to be Israel's king again. In the Old Testament, Israel had rejected God, and the relationship between God and his people had broken down. Now, in Jesus, God was coming to mend that relationship. Jesus is indeed 'good news' (1:1) – for non-Jews as well.

Mark's Gospel is full of action. Things happen quickly. It does not try to give a detailed account of Jesus' life and work. Mark focuses on who Jesus is. He shows that people who met Jesus did not fully understand him, and there is a lot about secrecy in this Gospel. People could not properly understand Jesus and his work until he had completed it by his death on the cross. Mark shows that Jesus is more than just a prophet and a man. He is the Son of God. Mark emphasises Jesus' conflict with demons; he brings God's Kingdom into a world troubled by evil powers, and as the divine Son he does God's work of destroying those powers.

And Mark is also a book about discipleship – what it means to follow Jesus, which includes his sufferings. We too live in a world that has rejected Jesus, so we have much to learn from Mark.

## **Day 1: Read Mark 1:1-3**

v.1 Mark starts by introducing Jesus as God's Son and as Good News for the world. (There are no Christmas stories in Mark.)

v.2-3 Using words from Old Testament prophets, Mark introduces the person who will prepare the people to receive Jesus' teaching and actions. (Tomorrow we will see that this person's name was John.)

### To think about:

How can we make ourselves ready to receive what Jesus teaches us? Is there anything in your life which stops you from being receptive to Jesus?

### Prayer:

Thank you, Lord Jesus, that you are God's Son and you came to give us good news. Help us to be ready to receive it. Amen.

## **Day 2: Read Mark 1:4-8**

v.4-5 People had to turn away from their sin (we call that 'repentance') and turn to God, so that he could forgive them. Baptism is a sign of that repentance and forgiveness.

v.6 John must have looked like one of the Old Testament prophets! Perhaps this was to show people that his preaching was important?

v.7-8 John tells people that someone else (Jesus) was coming, who was much more important than he was. In comparison, John was not good enough even to do the slave's job of removing Jesus' shoes. Jesus' baptism would be with God's Spirit, not just with water.

### To think about:

Is there any sin in your life that you need to turn away from?

### Prayer:

Lord Jesus, I'm sorry that so often I sin against you and against other people. I turn away from my sin. Please forgive me. Amen.