

Welcome to Hope Sabbath School—an in-depth interactive study of the Word of God. We are beginning a new series of studies on The Gospel of Mark. Today's topic: THE BEGINNING OF THE GOSPEL.

1. Our first introduction to John Mark

- a) Acts 12:12 How is John Mark connected to the miraculous deliverance of the apostle Peter?
- b) Acts 12:25 Who was Paul? Who was Barnabas? Why did they take John Mark with them? (Colossians 4:10)
- c) Acts 13:1-12 What happened in Antioch and where did they go from there?
- d) Acts 13:13 Why do you think John Mark returned home to Jerusalem after arriving at Perga? (AA 169)
- e) Share a time when a mission assignment seemed too much for you. How did you respond?

2. Given a second chance

- a) Acts 15:36-37 Who was determined to give John Mark a second chance on a missionary journey?
- b) How does this proposal reflect the character of Barnabas, also called Joseph the Levite?
- c) How did Paul respond to this proposal? Acts 15:38-39a
- d) What are your thoughts about Paul's reaction? How does his reaction reflect the mercy of God?
- e) Where did Barnabas take John Mark? Acts 15:39b Why Cyprus? (Acts 4:36)

- f) How do the following verses confirm Barnabas' confidence in young John Mark? 1 Peter 5:13, Colossians 4:10, 2 Timothy 4:11, Philemon 24
- g) Share a time when someone had confidence in you even though you had failed in the past.

3. The beginning of Mark's Gospel

- a) Mark 1:1-8 What impresses you about the way Mark begins his Gospel record under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit?
- b) How does Mark introduce Jesus to the readers of his Gospel account? Mark 1:1,9-11
- c) How does Mark's account of the baptism of Jesus differ from that of the other Gospel writers?
- d) It is unlikely that Mark was present at the baptism of Jesus, so how did he know the details of that important event at the beginning of the ministry of Jesus? (2 Peter 1:19-21, 1 Corinthians 11:23a, Luke 1:1-3, etc.)
- e) What are your thoughts about Mark's description of the temptations of Jesus in the wilderness? Mark 1:12-13 (See also Matthew 4:1-11, Luke 4:1-13)
- f) What important message did Jesus proclaim at the beginning of His ministry? Mark 1:14-15 (Explain the prophecy of Daniel 9)
- g) What important lessons have you learned as we begin our study of the Gospel of Mark?

