

## The Unexpected King: The Gospel of Mark

*A study for Community Groups to use the week of February 8<sup>th</sup>*

To prepare for your group discussion each week, group members should use the **Series Guide** to complete foundational questions in the book for week 5 using the scripture below.

### Week Two: Mark 1:9-13

#### Overview

Mark doesn't just tell us what Jesus did; he shows us who Jesus is in a way that forces us to rethink the world we're living in and the stories we're being sold every day.

*"Jesus underwent John's baptism to identify with man and man's sin (2 Cor. 5:21). He did not do so because He needed to repent. He did not. He also submitted to baptism because by doing so He identified with the particular group of people that John was baptizing, namely, the Israelites. Jesus associated His baptism with His death (10:38; Luke 12:50). Consequently it is probably proper to conclude that He viewed His baptism as a public acceptance of His role as Israel's Suffering Servant, Messiah. Jesus was about 30 years old then (Luke 3:23)." -Constable's Note*

#### Questions

\*In the Series Guide you will find basic questions we want all to use as they begin to look at the passage. Questions such as; *Who have you had the opportunity to BLESS this week? What does this passage reveal about God? About people? About the life He has planned for us?* These additional questions relate to the passage specifically for your benefit.

- In Mark 1:9, Jesus is baptized not because He needs repentance, but to identify with the people He came to save — showing that His authority would be expressed through humility, not distance. What does this reveal about the kind of leadership and strength Jesus embodies? How might His example challenge the way you see or use influence, status, or responsibility in your own life?
- Mark 1:12 says the Spirit immediately leads Jesus into the wilderness. How does it shape your perspective to see that difficult seasons can follow moments of clarity or spiritual high points? Where might a challenging season in your life be forming something deeper in you?
- During forty days of temptation, Jesus is isolated yet not abandoned — “the angels were ministering to him.” Who or what supports you during difficult or testing moments? Are you intentional about allowing others to walk with you when life feels hard and if not how might you invite community into this?