

## The Christmas Story According to Mark - Lifegroup Questions

- Icebreaker: What are some of the ways you like to prepare for Christmas?

*Read Mark 1:1-8*

- Why do you think Mark chooses to begin his gospel this way and not with the birth of Jesus?
- What information does Mark reveal about Jesus in this passage? (It might be more than you think!)
- Mark tells us that John's job was to prepare people to meet with Jesus (also see Luke 1:11-17) in what way do people need to prepare to meet Jesus - back then and today?
- On Sunday day Dan said "Christmas has become a celebration of Christ coming into the world that fails to notice that Christ came into the world" Do you agree? What can we do about this?
- Mark 1:4 tells us that John preached "...a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins" What does this mean? How is it different from the baptism we practice in Christian churches today?
- 'Metanoia' (translated as repentance in our Bibles) refers to a transformative change of heart. Why do you think that repentance is so important for us as Christians?
- Compare Mark 1:7 to John 1:1-12, in what ways do Mark and John highlight the greatness of Jesus in these texts?
- Why do you think it is so important for us to have a sense of Jesus majesty and power? In what way does worship help with this?
- Mark 1:8 tells us that Jesus brought about baptism in the Holy Spirit (also see John 14:16-17, Acts 1:4-5, Acts 2:16-18, 38-41) What do you think it means to be baptised in the Holy Spirit?
- How might you prepare for Christmas now that you have read Mark's version of the Christmas Story?