**Discussion Questions Mark 1:1-20**

Read verse 1. What do you normally think of as “Good News”?

What is Mark expecting readers to conclude about Jesus? How should this change the way we engage with this book?

Mark actually quotes both Isaiah and Malachi. As you read the following consider: What is the role of the messenger? What is expected to come after the messenger? How are these fulfilled in John and Jesus?

* Malachi 3:1-4
* Isaiah 40:1-11

What does John’s declaration about Jesus imply about Jesus (especially concerning the Holy Spirit)?

What does Jesus’ Baptism tell us about Jesus?

After Jesus’ baptism, he is sent by the Spirit into the wilderness for forty days, tempted by Satan. The full account can be found in Matthew 4. Why does Mark not go into detail of this? What point do you think he is making by including it here so briefly? Read Deut 8:1-6 – how does this help us understand what Mark is portraying?

What does Jesus proclaim? What does Jesus expect people to do?

After this proclamation, Jesus calls some fisherman.

Why do you think they just dropped everything like this to follow Jesus? What expectation does this set up for us if we are to follow Jesus?

Think back over the whole of verses 1-20. What is Mark communicating about Jesus? What does Mark say about responding to Jesus?

What are some things in your life that you have changed/been called to change because of Jesus?