

Mark 1

Bible Study

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Our group shared many questions and insights together that we will briefly touch upon here. The beginning of this gospel breezes past the birth of Christ in order to get right into the action of His ministry. However, St Mark does point out that the people of Israel had been waiting in a kind of Advent for hundreds of years, watching for the promised Savior of Isaiah's prophecies.



How much of our lives do we spend waiting? How does that feel? Could it be that God is also waiting for us to come closer?

As Jesus rises from the waters of baptism, the voice of the Father speaks words of affection and approval. This intimacy is the real secret of Jesus' faith and power. And it can be ours too. However, not everyone recognizes this Voice. Sometimes the many voices of the world drown out the true voice of our Father and we feel like spiritual orphans, trying to survive without much love.

What is something good that God might be trying to show you in this time of your life? How is God loving you?

St Mark uses a word like "immediately" quite often, keeping the story moving at a fast pace. For those of us who have been raised in a relatively affluent and intellectual part of the world, our sudden and repeated encounters with all the diseases and demons in the text might seem a bit jarring. However, many parts of the world still experience these overt struggles and many missionaries still testify of the pressing need for a miracle working level of faith.

If Jesus physically walked into our neighborhoods today, what might He say and do? If we still have real demons among us, what is their strategy in our time and culture? Have you ever read, "The Screwtape Letters" by C.S. Lewis? (It's not for the faint of heart.)