**Mark 1:1-15**

1. Can you recall a time when something wonderful and unexpected happened to you? How did you feel?

**Read Mark 1:1-15**

**Understanding Scripture**

1. John the Baptist was the herald of good news (1:2-3). What did he say and do to get things ready for Jesus’ arrival? (v.4-8).
2. How might going out into the ‘wilderness’ for baptism connect with the story of God’s people in the Old Testament and a renewal of faith? (see Ex. 14)
3. What did Jesus see and hear as he emerged from the waters of his Baptism? (v9-11). Read Isaiah 42:1 (Introducing Nthe suffering servant), Psalm 2:7 (God greeting the messianic King as his Son) and Genesis 22:2 (God’s command to Abraham regarding his son). Considering these, what impact might his Father’s words have had on Jesus?
4. What did the Spirit do and what happened in the desert? (v12-13) How does this help us understand the battle Jesus was drawn into?
5. Mark 1:15 sums up Jesus’ message. What do you understand it to mean?

**Living it out**

1. How does Mark’s introduction to Jesus, his identity, and his purpose in this passage help you be confident and courageous in your everyday life under God?
2. What, if anything, seems a battle on your frontline?
3. How might Jesus’ announcement of the in-breaking kingdom of God shape your response to this battle?
4. We repent and believe when we become Christians and continue to do so throughout our discipleship. How might you need to repent and believe today?

**Pray in response**

**Mark 1:1-15**

1. Can you recall a time when something wonderful and unexpected happened to you? How did you feel?

**Read Mark 1:1-15**

**Understanding Scripture**

1. John the Baptist was the herald of good news (1:2-3). What did he say and do to get things ready for Jesus’ arrival? (v.4-8).
2. How might going out into the ‘wilderness’ for baptism connect with the story of God’s people in the Old Testament and a renewal of faith? (see Ex. 14)
3. What did Jesus see and hear as he emerged from the waters of his Baptism? (v9-11). Read Isaiah 42:1 (Introducing the suffering servant), Psalm 2:7 (God greeting the messianic King as his Son) and Genesis 22:2 (God’s command to Abraham regarding his son). Considering these, what impact might his Father’s words have had on Jesus?
4. What did the Spirit do and what happened in the desert? (v12-13) How does this help us understand the battle Jesus was drawn into?
5. Mark 1:15 sums up Jesus’ message. What do you understand it to mean?

**Living it out**

1. How does Mark’s introduction to Jesus, his identity, and his purpose in this passage help you be confident and courageous in your everyday life under God?
2. What, if anything, seems a battle on your frontline?
3. How might Jesus’ announcement of the in-breaking kingdom of God shape your response to this battle?
4. We repent and believe when we become Christians and continue to do so throughout our discipleship. How might you need to repent and believe today?

**Pray in response**