

IF YOU WANT TO LEARN MORE:

A. Scriptures (Parallel Gospel Accounts)

John the Baptist:

Matt 3:1-12

Luke 3:1-18

John 1:19-23

Baptism of Jesus

Matt 3:13-17

Luke 3:21-22

John 1:29-34

Jesus' Temptation

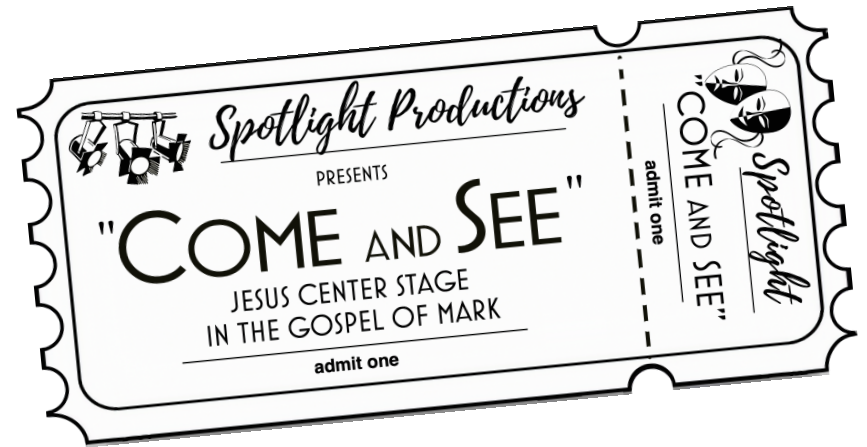
Luke 4:1-13

Next Week: "It Begins"

Mark 1:14-45 - 2:11

Jesus Makes a Name for Himself

You won't want to miss it!



LESSON 1

"Preparation"

Mark 1: 1-13

- John the Baptist Prepares the Way
- Jesus is Baptized and Tested

Focus Scripture:

"Beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ
Son of God." Mark 1:1

FOOD FOR THOUGHT:

Think of a time when you embarked on a new phase of life, i.e. began a new career, got married... What kind of preparations did you have to make ahead of time, and what success would you have had without preparation?

YOU ARE THERE: Brief Historical and/or Cultural Context

1st century Middle East: Palestine is occupied by Rome. Jews are heavily taxed, and persecuted. The practice of Judaism is allowed only so long as the religious Jewish leaders keep the Jewish people quiet and in line. Jewish expectations for a Messiah are intense. Several militant uprisings with prophets claiming to be the Messiah have already been squelched, either by arrest, or outright massacre. The Messianic expectation is for a leader/prophet who will rise up against Rome and restore Israel to its former glory of an independent, powerful nation.

Vocabulary Definitions:

Gospel – (Ευαγγέλιο, Evangelio): “Good News”

Repentance – (μετάνοια, Metanoia): “Changing one’s mind”

SCENE I: Mark 1:1-8

THE STAGE: Read the passage aloud

1. YOU ARE THERE. What are your 5 senses experiencing?
(note the surroundings, place, people, etc.)

THE SCRIPT:

2. What is John's repentance about?
3. What does John say about Jesus?

SCENE II: Mark 9-12

THE STAGE: Read the passage aloud

4. YOU ARE THERE. What are your 5 senses experiencing?
5. How does a dove descend? Was it a dove, or like a dove?
6. How is God's voice manifest?

THE SCRIPT:

7. What does God say about Jesus?
8. Who drives Jesus into the wilderness?

SCENE III: Mark 1:12-13 & Matthew 4:1-11

THE STAGE: Read the passage aloud

9. YOU ARE THERE. What are your 5 senses experiencing?
10. According to Matthew, who leads Jesus into the wilderness?
11. How might “The Tempter” have approached Jesus?

THE SCRIPT:

11. With what is Jesus is being tempted?
12. How might these be real temptations for Jesus?
(What is more tempting, and encounter with a tempter you can see, or if the tempter is in your head?)
13. What does Jesus rely on for strength during the temptation?

THE REVIEWS:

14. How has Jesus been revealed to you in these texts?

