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The Jesus Identity

Studies in Mark's Gospel

Starter

You are a creative director for the *Snappy Slogans Advertising Company*. Your brief is to persuade people to read Mark's gospel. What ideas can you come up with if your target market is (i) people who are not Christians; (ii) new Christians; and (iii) experienced Christians?

Read Mark 1:1-20

- A. **1:1** acts as a title for the whole book. Agree together in your group on working definitions of the following important words:
- gospel:
- Christ:
- the Son of God:
- B. If you were going to tell someone the important news about Jesus the Christ, where would you begin?
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- Where does Mark begin?
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- C. **1:2-3** Mark prefaces his quote from Isaiah with a quote from Malachi. Read Malachi 3:1-5. What is the first thing that Malachi says will happen?
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- What is supposed to happen after that?
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- D. Read Isaiah 40:1-11. What does Isaiah prophesy will happen first?
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- What is supposed to happen after that?
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- E. How would you summarise the promise of these Old Testament verses?
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Optional:
You may like to consider the implications of the following verses for your definition of 'Son of God':
Mt 26:63; Lk 4:41;
Jn 1:49.

Mark's gospel does not begin with a description of Jesus' birth (no star, no stable, no camels and wise men; not so much as a lone singing angel...). Why do you think he begins where he does?

