

Early Events & Insights

“Case for Christ”, part 2, September 19th, 2021
Pastor Bob Johnson, Grace Point Church

Four Early Events: (Mark 1:9-13)

1. Baptized by ...

(Mark 1:9, Matthew 3:14-15, Luke 3:2-3, 21-22, John 1:26-34)

2. Empowered by ...

(Mark 1:10, Matthew 12:24-28, Luke 5:17; John 16:7)

3. Affirmed by ...

(Mark 1:11, Matthew 3:17, Luke 3:22)

(Matthew 17:5, Mark 9:7, Luke 9:35, 2 Peter 1:17)

4. Tempted by ...

(Mark 1:12-13, Luke 4:1-13)

Four Life Lessons: (2 Timothy 3:16-17)

1. It's not sin to be ...

(Mark 1:13, Hebrews 4:15)

2. It's not smart to assume ...

(Colossians 3:15, Psalm 119:11)

3. It's not sunny (always) when ...

(Exodus 14:1-31, Psalm 23:1-4)

4. It's not secure when ...

(John 13:3-5, John 8:14, John 6:38, 1 John 4:19)

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This Week's Discussion Guide:

Welcome to our second week of our 10 week study and discussion of the Gospel of Mark. Our last week meeting will be the week of Sunday, November 14th (the week before Thanksgiving :).

At GPC, we are big on small groups :). May our church family grow warmer together as we meet in small groups to develop friendships and encourage each other as we learn to walk with Jesus and apply God's truths to our everyday lives.

Getting Started:

Last Sunday morning, we read how Jesus was led into a wilderness area for 40 days. Speaking of road trips ... when were you intentionally or unintentionally by yourself for a period of time. What caused it? Did you enjoy it? Would you do it again?

If you were to get away from it all (all by yourself with no financial limitations) ... where would you like to go for a week or two? Why there?

Last Sunday we also reflected on how Jesus' life and ministry was empowered by the Holy Spirit. Speaking of getting powered up ... what do you wish someone invented that would never run out of energy? What has recently run out of juice that caused you to be late or at least a little frustration?

Looking back to last Sunday:

Which of the four 'life lessons' Bob shared in his message would be most surprising to someone not familiar with the Bible?

Looking back at your notes from last Sunday, was there anything you heard for the first time or that caught your attention, encouraged you, challenged you or confused you?

Digging Deeper:

1. This week, we saw through Jesus' example that being in the middle of a wilderness area may actually be right where God has led us.

At times, finding ourselves in the middle of a desert or storm can be hard to understand and even can cause some doubts to our faith.

What can we learn from the following passages about how we might benefit from these seasons of challenge? James 1:2-4, 1 Peter 1:6-7, 2 Corinthians 1:3-6

Which of these three Bible passages are the most encouraging to you and why? Which one is most challenging?

If you were facing a difficulty or challenge, what would you want someone to do (or not do) in their attempt to comfort you or help you?

2. From reading verses like Philippians 1:6, it is reassuring to know that God is still at work in our lives even in the midst of life's challenges.

Thankfully God's Word also gives us guidance on the active role we can play in the process of maturing through messes.

What resources do you find in the following three passages that can help you cope with, handle, and even grow through a hard season of life?

John 14:25-27, Philippians 4:6-7, Ecclesiastes 4:9-12

Can you think of any examples of how these resources have helped you?

Is there one you tend to forget (and not rely on) more than the others?

3. We reflected on some great news this past Sunday that just being tempted or being attracted to something God would not for us ... is not a failure or sin on our part.

But sadly, temptation can lead to sin if we are not careful. And unfortunately, temptation doesn't just go away. We can't just snap our fingers and have temptations disappear.

So ... rather than being passive about battling temptation, let's look over the following verses and identify some strategies that can help us avoid and overcome temptation.

Psalms 119:9-11, 1 Corinthians 10:12, James 4:7-8, Philippians 4:8, Hebrews 10:24-25

Can you think of any examples of how one of the verses above has helped you avoid falling into temptation?

When it comes to resisting temptation and sin, does anything come to mind that you have learned (maybe even the hard way)?

Looking Back and Ahead:

Looking back on this week's message and study, what is most important for you to remember? Are there any temptation avoidance or exit strategies you feel like you need to add to your life?

Praying Together:

One of the benefits of meeting together is praying for one another. Before we wrap up, let's each share one prayer request so that we can lift each other up in prayer.