

THE PASTOR'S ESSENTIALS®

OUR LIVES IN THE BIBLE - THE BIBLE IN OUR LIVES

¹³ "ENTER THROUGH THE NARROW GATE. FOR WIDE IS THE GATE AND BROAD IS THE ROAD THAT LEADS TO DESTRUCTION, AND MANY ENTER THROUGH IT. ¹⁴ BUT SMALL IS THE GATE AND NARROW THE ROAD THAT LEADS TO LIFE, AND ONLY A FEW FIND IT.
MATTHEW 7:13-14

es-sen-tials (ĭ-sĕn'shəlz) – *noun* – those things that are necessary and basic to life. In biochemistry essentials are substances that are required for normal functioning but cannot be synthesized by the body and therefore must be included in the diet. Essentials are those things that are fundamental to the spiritual health of the professing Christian.

The Gospel of Mark A BIBLE STUDY

SESSION TWO

Mark 1:1-1:45

Questions for Session Two

1. Compare *Isaiah 40:3* to *Mark 1:3*. Why does it seem strange to begin Mark's gospel with the introduction of John the Baptist?
2. Why does *The Gospel of Mark* have us meet John, prior to the introduction of Jesus, for whom this gospel is written? Suppose you interviewed John during the time he was baptizing people in the Jordan River. What would you ask him, and what do you suppose John would have to say about Jesus?
3. Why is repentance of our sins necessary? During what sacraments do we recognize the fact that we are all sinners and repent of our sins? Why is this important?

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4. What is the significance of Jesus' baptism? After all he was Jesus, the Son of God! What was God's response to Jesus' baptism?

5. What happened to Jesus immediately after his baptism by John in the Jordan River? What is the significance of Jesus' time in the desert, and what did he gain from this time of fasting?

6. What event triggered the beginning of Jesus' ministry and the calling of the first of the twelve disciples? Who were the first four disciples called? What ultimately caused these four to leave everything and follow Jesus?

7. How did Jesus display his authority and glorify God in the very first miracle in Mark's gospel? What was the reaction of the crowd to Jesus' authority? Did word spread about this man called Jesus?

8. What did Jesus do after driving out the many demons of the demon possessed people of the town? Why was it important for Jesus to find a solitary place and pray to his Father in heaven? Why is it important for us to have a special relationship with our Father in heaven as well?

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9. Describe the healing of the leper? Why did Jesus tell the healed leper to keep his healing quiet and not to tell anyone what had happened? Why was it important for the healed leper to go and show himself to a priest?

10. What does healing mean? How are we healed, and what are the different kinds of healing that can take place in us? What ultimately heals us?

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