**Suggested flow:**

1. Read the passage together

2. Facilitator read the sermon summary

3. Ask the broad questions and insert specific questions as they fit with the flow of discussion

4. Close with prayer for one another

**I- Sermon Summary (Mark 1:1-8)**

**Context:** The Gospel is the beginning of a new creation. In the first creation God created Adam, but Adam’s failure caused the world to fall into sin. Mark is signaling the beginning of a new work of God to bring about salvation.

**Big Idea:** The announcement of the coming of the King means we must by be ready to change the direction of our life, realize we are not alone in our wilderness, and live in light of the King’s promise.

**Bridge:** John the baptist was a herald who announced the coming of a king, we too must be ready to respond to this same announcement

**Main Point #1 – The herald announces that we must change the direction of our lives**

The Israelites came out into the wilderness to confess their sins. They were filling conviction about the direction of their lives so they responded with revival when the news came that their was an opportunity to get right with God.

Their actions are an example of genuine repentance. They didn’t just come into the wilderness to to have a powerful emotional and religious experience. They came confessing their sin. They came ready to change the direction of their life. Repentance is about more than having a good cry, although that is a part of it, but a recognition of our deep brokenness and desire to live for God’s Kingdom. It’s a willingness to let the King’s grace define you more than yourself or others. Changing the direction of our lives means letting the King’s love define us… we are in need of forgiveness, and the King grants it and more, if we come with the right heart.

**Main Point #2 - We are not alone in our wilderness**

We all experience wilderness moments where we feel lost, alone, struggling, broken. This passage shows us that’s exactly where King Jesus meets us. He experienced the wilderness even more extremely than we did and we know we are not alone.

When in a wilderness of life, we need to not just lament our circumstances but be willing to confess sin. Most trials in our life reveal our own weaknesses and lack of faith. God is using these times strategically to heal us.

God’s people should understand that they will be in a wilderness in this world. The establishment of man centered religion and worldliness (symbolized by Judea and Jerusalem) is not our home. We will be a bit like wandering exiles in this land, but that’s where we find King Jesus

**Main Point #3 John is heralding a King of Promise**

Jesus is the fulfillment of a promise from many centuries before. The people of God were expected to trust God for it’s fulfillment even when God’s timeline did not match their own. We are to receive God’s promises by faith, meaning patiently, ready to endure through trials in the meantime. We are to look for the beginnings of God’s fulfillment not it’s fulfillment, which is only promised completely at 2nd coming. He is not in a hurry to fulfill promises, but we can trust they are certain.

So we should expect set backs which teach us to cling to promises and strengthens our faith. We should rejoice before fulfillment. God is doing a a good and strategic work in us.

We should always remember we are not alone. There is a King among us.

**II- Questions for discussion**

Broad questions (these are questions you can ask every week)

1. [Light bulb] What stuck out to you about the passage or sermon? What shined?
2. [Question mark?] What confused you or raised questions?
3. [Christ connection] Where do you see Christ in this passage?
4. [Application] What is something the Spirit is leading you to identify and commit to this week in response to this passage and message?
5. [Tell] Who is someone you think would benefit from hearing what you learned in the Bible? (it can be someone inside or outside the church)

Specific questions

1. Why does the heralding of Jesus’ coming require a change in life direction? What does this look like in our lives today? How can we distinguish between an emotional experience and genuine repentance?
2. How does a willingness to confess our sins relate to letting the King’s love define us? Why can’t we have one without the other? Or can we?
3. What kind of wildernesses have you experienced? How did God use that in your life? How might Jesus be calling you to respond to a wilderness you are in today?
4. How does the story of the Gospel help us deal with unfulfilled longings? What about God’s promises help us cling to him when we struggle with failure and disappointment?

Announcements:

1. Sunday Oct 21st 12-2, the TSM youth group invites all seniors 60+ to lunch provided by TSM and a mixer in the fellowship hall.
2. October 27th is Work Day in morning AND Fall Festival. Please sign up to help volunteer on the Serve button on home page of website. Also on 21st, please decorate your car after service to be a roaming advertisement.
3. Oct 28th is Baptism Sunday