**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 1:9-13)**

**Context:** John the Baptist, the herald of the coming King is preaching about the coming kingdom—prepare yourself, confess you sins, repent and be baptized.

**Big Idea:** Only the King has the right to sit on the throne of our life. Until we get the wrong things off our throne, we will struggle to live as kingdom citizens.

**Bridge:** Jesus comes to be baptized by John in the River Jordan. The imagery of water and a bird have great significance in this passage.

**Main Point #1 – Freedom is found in the Baptism of Repentance**

The first thing that we see is that Jesus submits to baptism. He undergoes the baptism of John, "a baptism of repentance"—different than Christian baptism. Its focus was on the need for the people of God to repent of their sins. The people of Israel were in a breech of covenant with God. They'd broken their word; they'd broken their promises. The waters of John's baptism were symbolic of the need for cleansing. It was a sign of judgment.

The apostle Paul picks up on this and applies it to Christian baptism in *1 Corinthians 10 1 For I do not want you to be unaware, brothers, that our fathers were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea, 2and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, 3and all ate the same spiritual food, 4and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the spiritual Rock that followed them, and the Rock was Christ. 5Nevertheless, with most of them God was not pleased, for they were overthrown in the wilderness.* Paul is talking about the baptism of the people of God as they passed from Egypt, through the Red Sea, and into the wilderness. They passed on dry land and they were baptized "into Moses and in the cloud and in the sea"? The Egyptians were destroyed. It was a sign of judgment. The baptism saved them the Israelites, but it was also a sign of judgment.

Jesus had no need for a baptism of repentance: He had nothing to repent of. He was the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world. But Jesus is standing in the waters of the Jordan and is baptized—SHOCKING. Thousands were coming to be baptized and now Jesus is standing in the River Jordan? **King Jesus has left His throne to identify publicly with sinners, to take on our sin and be judged in our stead.**

Whatever is on our throne in our life, me, someone, sin, idol… it needs to come off. It needs to be repented of; baptized and washed away so the King of Kings can take His place on that throne in your life.

How can we repent when our days seem to fly so fast and full… What can we do to know the freedom that comes when we repent? *Hit the pause button on the day’s events.* God knows our heart and would gladly receive from us a two- or three-second whispered, "O Lord, I’m so sorry. Please help me. Please forgive me." *Psalm 103 13As a father shows compassion to his children, so the Lord shows compassion to those who fear him. 14For he knows our frame; he remembers that we are dust.*

**Main Point #2 – Power is received in the Baptism of the Spirit**

First the promise of a herald to announce the coming King, God’s Promises continue. The Holy Spirit is a fulfilment of prophecy, a promise:

* *Joel 2:28: "And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh."*
* *Isaiah 44:3: "I will pour water on the thirsty land, and streams on the dry ground; I will pour my Spirit upon your offspring, and my blessing on your descendants."*
* *Ezekiel 36:27: "And I will put my Spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes and be careful to obey my rules."*

In John’s baptism, he was the baptizer, sinners were the baptized, water was the element, and repentance was the result. In Spirit baptism, Jesus is the baptizer, new believers are the baptized, the Spirit is the element, and incorporation into Christ’s body is the result.*1 Cor. 12 13For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and all were made to drink of one Spirit.*

If you’re not born again, you need to be plunged into the Spirit of God to be saved… If you *are* born again, but you are languishing in a season of weakness and fear and defeat, one way to describe what you need is to be baptized in the Spirit. That is, you need a fresh outpouring of His Christ-revealing, heart-awakening, sin-defeating, boldness-producing power.

In Acts 1:5 Jesus I says, “This is going to happen in just a few days—you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit. John immersed you in water; I am going to immerse you in the Holy Spirit. John drenched you in water; I am going to drench you in the Holy Spirit. This is the first thing you need in order to be effective instruments of my life in the world. You need to be baptized in the Holy Spirit.”

**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. Describe the difference between John’s baptism and Jesus’ baptism. What does Jesus’ baptism symbolize?
2. What does it mean to be baptized in the Spirit? What are evidences this has happened in our life?
3. What or who do you often find on the throne of your life? How can I know what is truly on the throne of my life?
4. If believe that I am living a fairly good Christian life, is it possible that I am still missing the mark as a Christian? What things tend to blind us to the need for repentance?

Announcements:

1. 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.
2. Oct 28th is Baptism Sunday