

# JESUS

#JesusSpotting

WATCH  
LISTEN  
FOLLOW

A SERIES IN THE BOOK OF MARK

YOUTH  
GROWTH  
GROUP  
LEADERS  
RESOURCE



## KICK OFF

The Chocolate Game.

Dress up at John the Baptist (a leather belt, a few tea towels and maybe a beard- please photograph!)  
*Game – you have a block of chocolate, a dice, and maybe a fork each. Each person rolls in turn. Every time someone rolls a 6 they have to get the costume off the previous person & then can start eating the chocolate block with their fork. Until someone else rolls a 6...*

*In helping the youth to understand the concept of this series a little more, we aim to help them literally get into character. Use this opening to help them understand the idea of Jesus spotting and how John points towards Jesus. Think about the idea of through someone's eyes.*

## WATCH.

Read Mark 1:1-15

*\*Note about baptism, remember that it is only a sign. It doesn't mean you are saved but it is a public display of our promise to follow Jesus (even though we will fail at this). The only thing that can save us is the blood of Jesus on the cross and his resurrection.*

Imagine you see John in the wilderness. What are some of the words you would use to describe him?  
 Now imagine you are John the Baptist

What am I doing when people come and see me (v.4)?  
*Preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins.*

How would I have felt seeing so many people on the countryside?  
*Lots of different answers here. Scared, anxious, popular etc. Ask why they picked an answer.*

What was my message to all the people who came to see me?  
*He was pointing towards Jesus, some people may have thought John was the Messiah himself - but he smashes this by pointing towards someone who would bring a greater, perfect baptism. Who would baptize them not with water, but with the Holy Spirit and make them clean from their sins, not just cleaned as a sign with water.*

How would I have felt baptising Jesus?  
*Overwhelmed? Privileged? Unworthy? etc... Ask why?*

What did I see after this baptism?  
*Here there is a show of God's power. And an identification of who Jesus really is. Calling down from Heaven to Earth (God doesn't actually speak like this too much in the New Testament). And not only this, God identified Jesus as his Son, whom he loved. This is God reaching out to everyday people so that we might get to know him. Then Jesus left to go to the wilderness where he was tempted.*

## LISTEN.

Vs 14/15 is the first time in Mark's Gospel where we hear Jesus talk. What is the first thing that he says?  
*"The time has come... The kingdom of God has come near. Repent and believe the good news!"*  
*It is a lot like a summary of what Jesus came to do. To call people to repent, believe in him and join the kingdom of God. The rest of Mark shows how Jesus goes about declaring this same thing through his teachings & actions. You will see the kingdom of God keep coming up in Mark. Jesus is announcing himself as the promised king from God.*  
*Mark doesn't give us a whole lot of greetings. We don't even get the birth and childhood of Jesus. This gives us a real sense of urgency about what is happening. And Jesus' words confirm this. Think about what is said and how we should listen to this section of the gospel right at the start.*

## FOLLOW.

The beginning of Mark gives us very clear and simple instructions. What are they?  
*Repent and believe!*

What does this actually look like in our lives?  
*Repentance is like doing a U turn in our lives – turn from sin & turn to following Jesus.*  
*Belief is showing faith. A faith that is willing to trust Jesus with our whole lives.*  
*We need to realise who Jesus is and our need for his salvation. Repentance is the idea of doing a U-Turn and leaving our life behind. To change our habits and actions it takes a long time. We need to consider our posture towards Jesus. The more we are focused on his example, we will see the change in our lives. If we focus on reading, praying, committing to church and youth we will start to see our posture change towards Jesus and all he has done. The opposite is also true. If we focus on worldly things, we will be distracted from the cross.*

STUDY ONE JESUS  
GIVES  
NEW  
STARTS  
CONT.

How does meeting together as a group help us follow Jesus?

*Learn more about Jesus, Encouraging, Accountability, Praying together*

What are some practical ways that might help you follow Jesus more?

*Coming to growth group regularly.*

*Getting into God's word – and not just at youth.*

*Going to church to learn together in community.*

*Try to get each member of your youth growth group to think of one practical way that they will commit to following Jesus more. It is important to get personal & practical in this application section (FOLLOW).*

SAMPLE