



Hill Cliffe Study Guide Sunday 4 December 2022

1. What struck you most from Sunday's teaching on 'Introducing Jesus' from Mark's Gospel?

Please read Mark 1.1

2. What do we learn about Jesus from the opening sentence of Mark's introduction?

Please read Mark 1.2-3; Isaiah 40.3-11; Mark 1.4-6

3. What is Mark revealing about Jesus' identity from these passages?
4. According to Isaiah 40, what two responsibilities would the 'messenger' have in preparing the way for the Lord when the time came?
5. How does John the Baptist fulfil these two responsibilities as the one who prepares the way for Lord Jesus' coming?
6. In **Isaiah 40.10-11**, we read of what the Sovereign Lord will be like when He comes – mighty and powerful, yet tender and caring. How does Jesus fit the bill perfectly?
7. What is the 'reward' that Jesus brings with Him when he comes as the Messiah/ Christ? (See **Mark 1.7-8; 15** . What enables Jesus to offer this reward to us?
8. In your own words, how would you summarise Mark's introduction of Jesus from these verses?

Following the publishing of the Census results on religion this past week, the Most Rev Stephen Cottrell, Archbishop of York said: "It's not a great surprise that the census shows fewer people in this country identifying as Christian than in the past, but it throws down a challenge to Christians not only to trust that God will build his kingdom on Earth, but also to play our part in making Christ known."

9. Please pray for one another that you may have opportunity to share what you've learned about Jesus from Mark's introduction with someone else this week – and the boldness to do it.

In 1986 this photo emerged – taken by a Chinese environmental survey team. One of a series of photographs taken from a plane flying over the snowy and rocky peaks of the Himalayas. When one of the team – a Christian - saw this image it looked to him like the classic image of the face of Christ. He showed it to others – some could see it, others couldn't until he pointed it out, and revealed it to them.

It struck him as a metaphor for how Jesus is present in our society – yet is obscured or hidden in plain sight. He needs revealing to people – introducing to people, and that is our part. Have another go at helping your whole group 'see' the image of Christ.

