

LESSON ONE | MARK 1

SUGGESTED SCHEDULE

WELCOME

Four Gospels
2–3 mins.

DRILL TIME

The birth of Jesus
5 mins.

W.O.W!

Authority
5 mins.

HISTORICAL CONTEXT

Timeline
2–3 mins.

BIBLE INVESTIGATION

Mark 1
20–30 mins.

LESSON-AT-HOME

Matthew 28:18
2–3 mins.

OVERVIEW

The Gospel of Mark opens with John the Baptist preparing the way for Jesus, in fulfillment of Isaiah's prophecy. He calls people to repent and be baptized. Jesus is baptized by John in fulfillment of God's Word, initiating the descent of the Spirit like a dove and words of love and grace from the Father in heaven.

The rest of Mark 1 reads like a high-action motion picture. Jesus calls His first four disciples, and they immediately leave their nets and follow Him. He drives out evil spirits in Capernaum and amazes the people with his authoritative preaching. At the home of Simon and Andrew, Jesus heals Simon's mother-in-law and shows His authority over the sick and demon-possessed. He prays early in the morning in a solitary place and resumes His preaching ministry in the afternoon. Jesus travels all over Galilee, preaching in synagogues and driving out demons.

Mark 1 ends with Jesus healing a man of leprosy, who then tells the world of the miracle. His testimony forces Jesus out to the desert, where crowds still pursue Him.

PREPARATION

Read and meditate on Mark 1 this week. **Use flannelgraph figures or other pictures to illustrate the lesson.**

TEACHING ENCOURAGEMENT

The Gospel of Mark is so engaging to children since the stories are told in almost rapid-fire sequence, especially in the beginning. In one sense, you just need to get out of the way and let God's Word speak to your students! From the very beginning of Mark, Jesus is shown to have absolute authority over the lives of people. Show your children this authoritative Jesus and how He demands that they submit to Him. Your authority to teach your students about Jesus actually comes from Jesus Himself. He grants you the power to authoritatively read and teach the Bible to your children. Then, we pray that He will work by His Spirit through the Word to do powerful things in our children's lives, starting with conversion. Praise God for the authoritative Word of God!



WELCOME

THE **WELCOME** SERVES AS BOTH AN OPPORTUNITY TO GREET THE CHILDREN AS WELL AS AN EFFORT TO HELP THEM GET FOCUSED.

EACH WEEK, YOU WILL BEGIN WITH QUESTIONS OR AN ACTIVITY THAT WILL ENGAGE THE CHILDREN AND HELP THEM THINK ABOUT GOD AND HIS WORD.

DRILL TIME GIVES THE CHILDREN THE OPPORTUNITY TO RECALL AND REHEARSE WHAT THEY HAVE BEEN TAUGHT IN THE PAST—AT HOME, SCHOOL AND/OR CHURCH.

THIS ELEMENT ALLOWS THE INVESTIGATING GOD'S WORD... CURRICULUM TO COVER MUCH MORE BIBLICAL "GROUND," SINCE TIME IS NOT EXPENDED REPEATING THE SAME BIBLE STORIES OVER AND OVER AGAIN FROM YEAR TO YEAR.

Greet the students. Welcome visitors.

Say: *Who can tell me what a GOSPEL is? Allow answers. A Gospel is a book of the New Testament that tells the story of the life of Jesus Christ on earth. The word GOSPEL simply means "Good News." So GOSPELS are books about the Good News of our Lord Jesus Christ.*

How many GOSPEL books are there in the New Testament? Allow answers. There are four GOSPELS in the New Testament. We investigated the Gospel of Matthew last year. This year, we will study the next GOSPEL—the GOSPEL of Mark!



DRILL TIME

Let's move on to DRILL TIME. Remember that this is our weekly opportunity to review what we have learned in the past!

Today's questions: *Who is the mother of Jesus? Who was Mary married to? Where was Jesus born? Who came to worship Jesus because they saw a star in the east? Who wanted to kill Jesus after he found out He had been born?*

Call on volunteers or select students to make attempts.

Answers:

1. Mary.
2. Joseph.
3. In a stable in Bethlehem.
4. The wise men (or Magi).
5. King Herod.

Say: *We learned all about the amazing birth of Jesus in the Gospel of Matthew. He was conceived by the Holy Spirit. He was given the name Immanuel—which means, "God with us." He was born to bear the sins of His people. What amazing Good News it is that Jesus was born into our world as fully God and fully man! We'll study more about Jesus today.*

THE **W.O.W!** IS THE WORD OF THE WEEK. THIS ELEMENT IS INCLUDED TO HELP THE CHILDREN BUILD THEIR THEOLOGICAL AND BIBLICAL VOCABULARIES. THESE WORDS ARE VITAL TO THE CHRISTIAN'S UNDERSTANDING OF GOD AND HIS WORLD.

EACH WEEK, THE BIBLE LESSON WILL BE PLACED IN **HISTORICAL CONTEXT** BY USE OF A TIMELINE.

IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT THE CHILDREN LEARN HOW THE STORY OF REDEPTIVE HISTORY FITS TOGETHER. BIBLE STORIES MUST NOT BE VIEWED AS DETACHED SCENES—THEY ARE TO BE SHOWN AS A PART OF A MUCH BIGGER PICTURE. THE TIMELINE IS A USEFUL TOOL TOWARD THAT END.



W.O.W!

Make sure the students can see the board.

Our W.O.W! (Word of the Week) this week is **AUTHORITY**. Write the word on the board. Who can tell me what this word means? Allow answers.

AUTHORITY is the power and the right to command people's behavior. This power and right is given by God to certain people who then become our AUTHORITIES. An AUTHORITY is another name for a person in charge!

So what people have AUTHORITY over you? Allow answers. Parents, teachers, police officers, judges, governors, presidents, have all been given AUTHORITY to rule over others. Typically, your brothers and sisters and friends don't have AUTHORITY over you (unless an adult has given them some AUTHORITY).

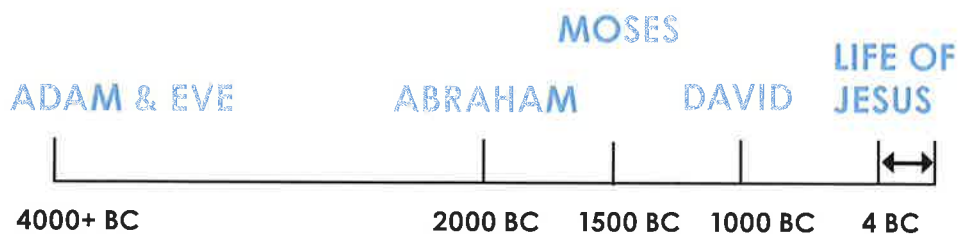
Who is the highest AUTHORITY in the universe? [God.] Since God is the AUTHOR of life, He has all AUTHORITY. That's why we say that people can only have power to rule and command because He gives it to them. Watch for our W.O.W! as we read...



HISTORICAL CONTEXT

Introduce this timeline to the students so they can see how the stories fit in historical context.

This Week's Timeline





BIBLE INVESTIGATION

THE BIBLE INVESTIGATION TIME IS THE HEART AND SOUL OF THE WEEK'S LESSON. IT PLUNGES THE STUDENT DIRECTLY INTO GOD'S WORD, NOT SIMPLY A PARAPHRASE OF A BIBLE STORY.

ALL SCRIPTURE TEXT INCLUDED IN THE CURRICULUM IS FROM THE ENGLISH STANDARD VERSION (ESV).

THE BIBLE READING IS TAKEN IN SHORT SECTIONS, SEPARATED BY TIMES OF DISCUSSION, QUESTIONS, AND APPLICATION POINTS.

THIS FORMAT ALLOWS AMPLE OPPORTUNITIES TO STOP, THINK ABOUT AND DISCUSS WHAT IS BEING READ.

Introduction: *Now we begin our study of the Gospel of Mark. What is a GOSPEL again? [A book of Good News about Jesus.] How many GOSPELS are there in the New Testament? [Four.] God inspired a man named John Mark to write the book of Mark. He was a friend of the Apostles Peter and Paul.*

Let's begin reading. Read Mark 1:1.

¹ The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

Discussion: *That's just what we said! The Book of Mark is a Gospel of Jesus Christ. Who does Mark say that Jesus is? [The Son of God.]*

Let's read on. Read verses 2-3.

² As it is written in Isaiah the prophet, "Behold, I send my messenger before your face, who will prepare your way, ³ the voice of one crying in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight,' "

Discussion: *Mark says that the prophet Isaiah spoke about a messenger who would prepare the way for Jesus. Does anyone know the name of this messenger? Allow answers. His name is John the Baptist, and we will read about him in the next verses.*

Read verses 4-8.

⁴ John appeared, baptizing in the wilderness and proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁵ And all the country of Judea and all Jerusalem were going out to him and were being baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. ⁶ Now John was clothed with camel's hair and wore a leather belt around his waist and ate locusts and wild honey. ⁷ And he preached, saying, "After me comes he who is mightier than I, the strap of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. ⁸ I have baptized you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

Discussion: *What is John doing in the desert region? [Baptizing people and preaching repentance and forgiveness.] Did lots of people go to hear John preach? [Yes.] What did he wear and eat? [He wore camel's hair clothing and a leather belt; he ate locusts and wild honey.] More importantly, who is John talking about that will follow him and baptize people with the Holy Spirit? [Jesus!]*

THE **GREY SIDEBAR**
FOUND ON ALL PAGES
IS FOR THE TEACHER
TO WRITE NOTES AS HE
OR SHE PREPARES THE
LESSON.

OTHER TEACHING TIPS OR
IMPORTANT EXEGETICAL
INFORMATION WILL ALSO
APPEAR ON THE SIDEBAR.



*Listen to what happens next. **Read verses 9-11.***

⁹In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. ¹⁰And when he came up out of the water, immediately he saw the heavens being torn open and the Spirit descending on him like a dove. ¹¹And a voice came from heaven, “You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased.”

Discussion: *Who did John the Baptist baptize? [Jesus.] We read in the Gospel of Matthew that Jesus was baptized to fulfill God’s Word, not because He needed to repent of sin. What happened as Jesus was coming out of the water? [The Spirit descended on Jesus like a dove; a voice from heaven spoke.] We actually see all three persons of the Trinity on display here: The Father speaks from heaven, the Son is baptized, and the Holy Spirit descends. What a powerful point in history this is. Jesus is announced to the world as the Son of God!*

*Let’s see what happens next. **Read verses 12-13.***

¹²The Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. ¹³And he was in the wilderness forty days, being tempted by Satan. And he was with the wild animals, and the angels were ministering to him.

Discussion: *Where did the Holy Spirit lead Jesus? [Out into the wilderness.] What happened to Jesus in the wilderness? [He was tempted by Satan for forty days.] The other Gospels tell us that Jesus perfectly resisted the temptations of Satan, with the Word of God as His powerful weapon. Satan tried to take AUTHORITY over Jesus, but could not!*

*Let’s read more. **Read verses 14-15.***

¹⁴Now after John was arrested, Jesus came into Galilee, proclaiming the gospel of God, ¹⁵and saying, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel.”

Discussion: *What was Jesus doing in Galilee? [He was proclaiming the good news of God.] Jesus declared that the kingdom of God is near. What did He tell people to do about it? [Repent and believe in the gospel.]*

Application: *Boys and girls, that’s what Jesus calls on you to do: To repent and believe in the good news. To repent means to turn away from your sins. To believe in the gospel means to put your faith in*



APPLICATION POINTS ARE
WOVEN INTO THE FABRIC
OF THE DISCUSSION,
RATHER THAN BEING
LEFT TO THE END OF THE
LESSON.

Jesus as your Savior. The only way to be a member of the kingdom of God is to repent and believe in Jesus!

*Let's continue reading. **Read verses 16-20.***

¹⁶ Passing alongside the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and Andrew the brother of Simon casting a net into the sea, for they were fishermen. ¹⁷ And Jesus said to them, "Follow me, and I will make you become fishers of men." ¹⁸ And immediately they left their nets and followed him. ¹⁹ And going on a little farther, he saw James the son of Zebedee and John his brother, who were in their boat mending the nets. ²⁰ And immediately he called them, and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired servants and followed him.

Application: *Now we read about the first men who followed Jesus. What are their names? [Simon, Andrew, James and John.] What did these four men do for a living? [They were fishermen.] Jesus called them to leave their nets and follow Him as His disciples. Did they follow Jesus? [Yes.] What does it mean to be "fishers of men?"*

Allow answers. *To be a fisher of men means to be someone who "catches" people in the gospel net. Jesus calls all of His disciples to make disciples of other people!*

*Let's move on. **Read verses 21-22.***

²¹ And they went into Capernaum, and immediately on the Sabbath he entered the synagogue and was teaching. ²² And they were astonished at his teaching, for he taught them as one who had authority, and not as the scribes.

Discussion: *What did Jesus do first when he arrived at the city of Capernaum? [He began to teach in the synagogue.] Did you hear our Word of the Week? The people were amazed at His teaching, as Jesus spoke as one with AUTHORITY. Does Jesus have AUTHORITY over the lives of people? [Yes.] Why? [Because He is the Son of God!]*

*Now listen to what Jesus does. **Read verses 23-26.***

²³ And immediately there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit. And he cried out, ²⁴ "What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are—the Holy One of God." ²⁵ But Jesus rebuked him, saying, "Be silent, and come out of him!" ²⁶ And the unclean spirit, convulsing him and crying out with a loud voice, came out of him.



Discussion: *Jesus also has AUTHORITY over evil spirits! All He had to say was “come out,” and the evil spirit came out of the man.*

Listen to what the people say. Read verses 27-28.

²⁷ And they were all amazed, so that they questioned among themselves, saying, “What is this? A new teaching with authority! He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey him.” ²⁸ And at once his fame spread everywhere throughout all the surrounding region of Galilee.

Discussion: *Jesus taught with AUTHORITY, and He showed His AUTHORITY over evil spirits too. This amazed the people, didn’t it? He was the talk of all of Galilee.*

Now listen to what happens. Read verses 29-34.

²⁹ And immediately he left the synagogue and entered the house of Simon and Andrew, with James and John. ³⁰ Now Simon’s mother-in-law lay ill with a fever, and immediately they told him about her. ³¹ And he came and took her by the hand and lifted her up, and the fever left her, and she began to serve them. ³² That evening at sundown they brought to him all who were sick or oppressed by demons. ³³ And the whole city was gathered together at the door. ³⁴ And he healed many who were sick with various diseases, and cast out many demons. And he would not permit the demons to speak, because they knew him.

Discussion: *We see Jesus’ AUTHORITY on display again, don’t we? Jesus has all AUTHORITY over sickness and demons. Can you imagine the “whole town” gathered at your door? These people were in need of a Savior with power and AUTHORITY over sin and sickness. Jesus is showing that He is that AUTHORITY!*

Let’s read more. Read verses 35-39.

³⁵ And rising very early in the morning, while it was still dark, he departed and went out to a desolate place, and there he prayed. ³⁶ And Simon and those who were with him searched for him, ³⁷ and they found him and said to him, “Everyone is looking for you.” ³⁸ And he said to them, “Let us go on to the next towns, that I may preach there also, for that is why I came out.” ³⁹ And he went throughout all Galilee, preaching in their synagogues and casting out demons.



Discussion: *What did Jesus do very early in the morning? [He went to a solitary place to pray.] Why do you think Jesus needed to be alone? **Allow answers.** Jesus needed to spend time alone with His Father, didn't He? That time equipped Him to go and preach the gospel to people.*

Application: *You and I need to spend time alone praying to God as well. We need to bring our cares and concerns to Him. Are you spending time with God in prayer? His children should meet with Him all the time!*

*Let's finish our reading for today. **Read verses 40-45.***

⁴⁰ And a leper came to him, imploring him, and kneeling said to him, "If you will, you can make me clean." ⁴¹ Moved with pity, he stretched out his hand and touched him and said to him, "I will; be clean." ⁴² And immediately the leprosy left him, and he was made clean. ⁴³ And Jesus sternly charged him and sent him away at once, ⁴⁴ and said to him, "See that you say nothing to anyone, but go, show yourself to the priest and offer for your cleansing what Moses commanded, for a proof to them." ⁴⁵ But he went out and began to talk freely about it, and to spread the news, so that Jesus could no longer openly enter a town, but was out in desolate places, and people were coming to him from every quarter.

Conclusion: *Even though Jesus told this cleansed leper not to tell others about Him, he did anyway, causing great crowds to follow Jesus. That forced Jesus out into the wide open desert. Did people follow Him there too? [Yes.] People were seeking Jesus because of His amazing power and **AUTHORITY**. The question is: Will they submit their lives to Jesus' **AUTHORITY**?*

Will you?



LESSON-AT-HOME

THE LESSON-AT-HOME SECTION IS THE CLOSING TIME EACH WEEK. BOOKMARKS ARE GIVEN TO THE STUDENTS THAT INCLUDE THE SCRIPTURE MEMORY VERSE AND A LESSON REVIEW. THE LESSON REVIEW CONTAINS WORDS AND PHRASES THAT CAN SPARK MEMORIES AS WELL AS CONVERSATION WITH PARENTS.

Distribute the “Lesson-At-Home” bookmarks. Read the Scripture Memory verse (Matthew 28:18) together.

Matthew 28:18 (ESV)

¹⁸ And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.”

Say: *There’s our Word of the Week again! Who has all AUTHORITY on heaven and earth? [Jesus.] Who has all AUTHORITY over your life? [Jesus.] Learn this verse and submit your life to King Jesus!*

Review the verse a couple of times.

Direct the students’ attentions to the bottom half of the bookmark. It includes reminder points of today’s lesson that can be discussed with their parents and reviewed during the week.

Close in prayer and dismiss the students.

Lesson-At-Home

Bookmark

Scripture Memory

Matthew 28:18

And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me."

Lesson Review

Mark 1

John the Baptist prepares the way for Jesus.

Jesus is baptized by John.

Jesus shows His AUTHORITY over sickness and demons.

Year Two

Investigating God's Word.
Summer Quarter ~ Lesson One

Lesson-At-Home

Bookmark

Scripture Memory

Matthew 28:18

And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me."

Lesson Review

Mark 1

John the Baptist prepares the way for Jesus.

Jesus is baptized by John.

Jesus shows His AUTHORITY over sickness and demons.

Year Two

Investigating God's Word.
Summer Quarter ~ Lesson One

Lesson-At-Home

Bookmark

Scripture Memory

Matthew 28:18

And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me."

Lesson Review

Mark 1

John the Baptist prepares the way for Jesus.

Jesus is baptized by John.

Jesus shows His AUTHORITY over sickness and demons.

Year Two

Investigating God's Word.
Summer Quarter ~ Lesson One

Lesson-At-Home

Bookmark

Scripture Memory

Matthew 28:18

And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me."

Lesson Review

Mark 1

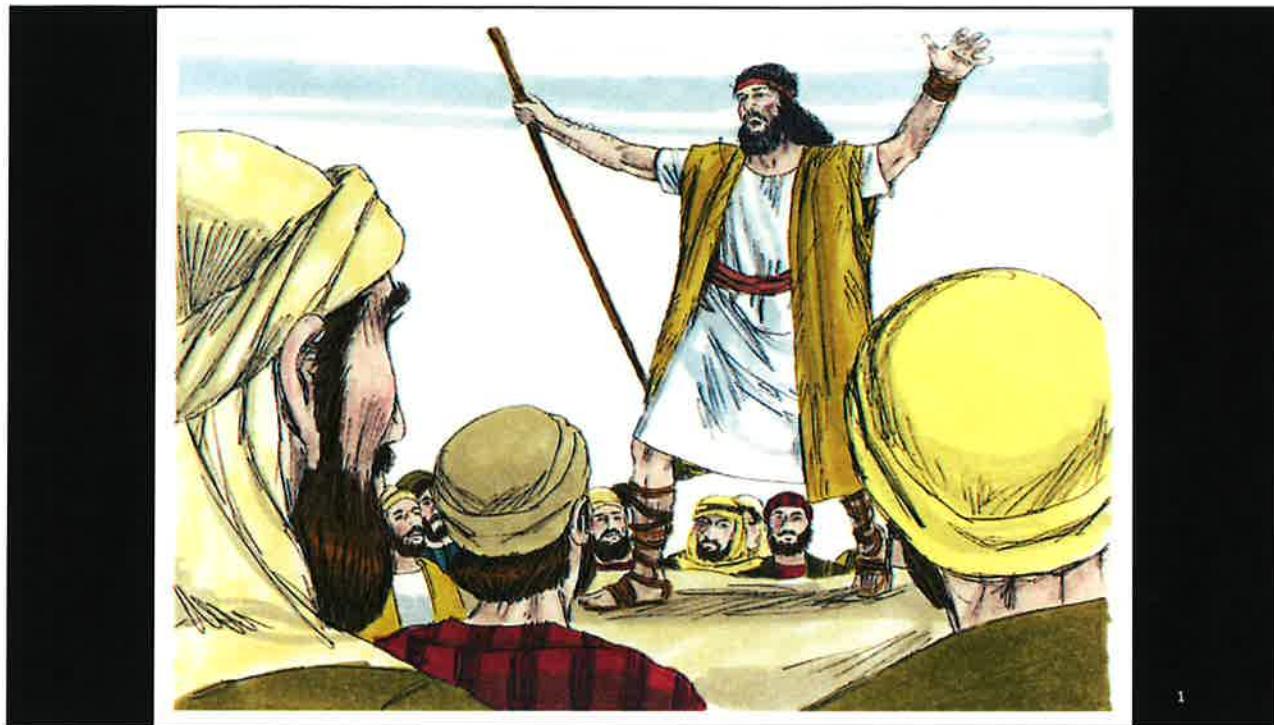
John the Baptist prepares the way for Jesus.

Jesus is baptized by John.

Jesus shows His AUTHORITY over sickness and demons.

Year Two

Investigating God's Word.
Summer Quarter ~ Lesson One



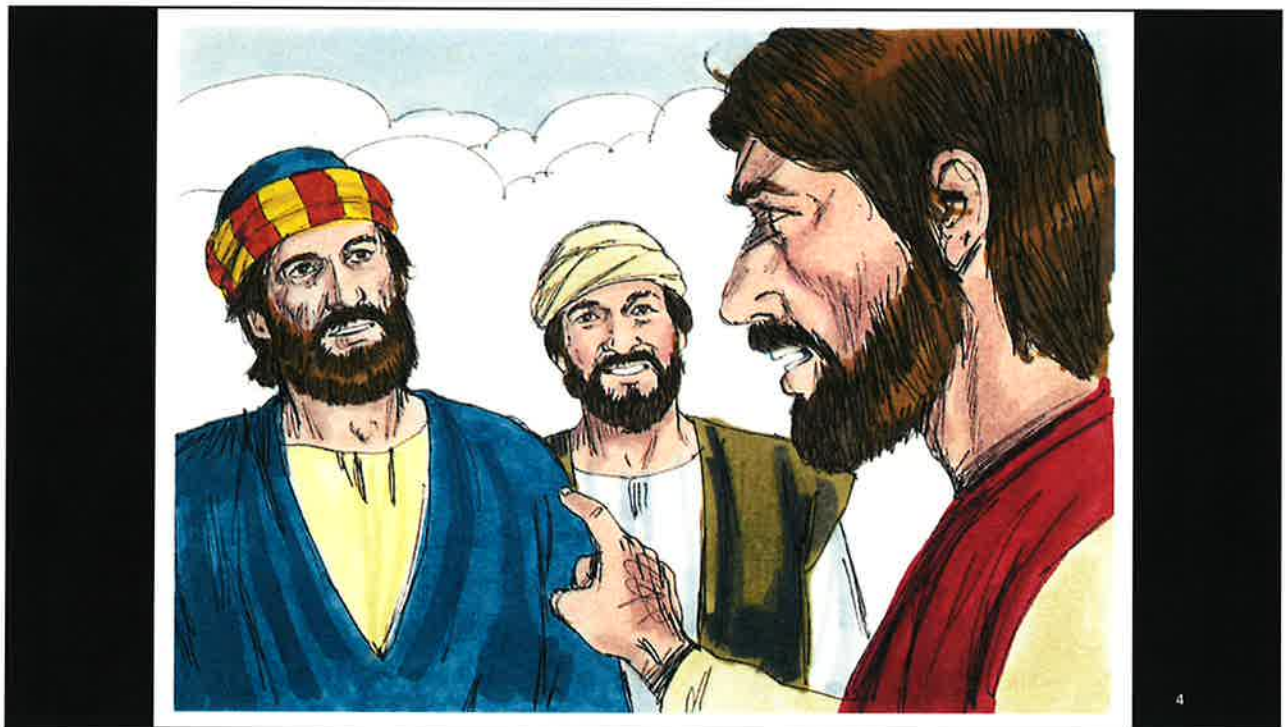
1



2



3



4



5



6



7



8

