

## Sermon Based Study - Gateway Groups, Merced

*"Bond Together/Grow Together"*

For the week of 8-27-2023

### For you as the Teacher/Host

Remember to begin each Small Group session with a word of prayer. Please keep in mind that the purpose of this curriculum guide is to cultivate a deeper relationship with the Lord and each other through conversation that intentionally engages the weekly message.

**Quick Review** Discuss the message briefly. Did anything challenge or confuse you?

**Opener Question or Activity:** When was the last time you were genuinely excited to be doing something? What was exciting about it?

**Sunday's Main Scripture Text:** Mark 1:9-15

**Digging Deeper:** *(Teachers/leaders, feel the freedom to not ask every question.)*

Pick out your most dramatic reader. The rest of you begin softly to hum the Raiders of the Lost Ark (da da dun dun), After 3 seconds the reader jumps in. Mark 1:9-15.

1. Here, we see John baptizing Jesus and after hearing the words, "You are my beloved Son, with You I am well pleased." What would you be thinking or feeling if you were John the Baptist here?
2. Think about these words, "You are my beloved Son, with You I am well pleased." What is God saying about Jesus here, in your own words?
3. Can you think of anything significant about Jesus being driven into the wilderness to be tempted? How does it make you feel that He did this?
4. Vs. 13 says He was being ministered to by angels. What does this say to you about Jesus? Have you ever considered this about Him?
5. Jesus shows up preaching the Good News, also known as the Gospel. What clues, if you were one of John's disciples, would lead you to now following Jesus? Would this be an easy or difficult decision, do you think?
6. The baton is passed to Jesus(from John) and what is it Jesus now is instructing people, then and now, to do(vs. 15)? How are you doing at it?

**Apply it today:** Looking back over this week's teaching, what is most important for you to remember and why? How will you grow in the area you have identified?