

Jesus Prepares for Ministry (Mark 1:9-15)

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Teacher Notes

Video Abstract (Author: Wild Stories About Jesus and Max7.org): This episode of WILD STORIES ABOUT JESUS retells Mark 1:9-15, highlighting Jesus' baptism by John the Baptist, his temptation in the desert for 40 days, and the start of his ministry in Galilee. This video is suitable for showing in schools, kids' clubs and churches and could be helpful for family devotions.

Dramatically read Mark 1:9-15:

In those days Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptized in the Jordan by John. As soon as he came up out of the water, he saw the heavens being torn open and the Spirit descending on him like a dove. And a voice came from heaven: "You are my beloved Son; with you I am well-pleased."

Immediately the Spirit drove him into the wilderness. He was in the wilderness forty days, being tempted by Satan. He was with the wild animals, and the angels were serving him.

After John was arrested, Jesus went to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God: "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near. Repent and believe the good news!" (Mark 1:9-15, CSB)

Show the video.

1. To prepare for ministry, Jesus did two things. What did He do?

To help the student, replay the video portion of just the baptism. Explain to the student what a baptism is:

To people watching, baptism is a public acceptance that you believe in God and His Son died for your sins. It is a symbolic act of something that has already taken place.

For the one being baptized, baptism represents a new birth, a regeneration by the Holy Spirit that comes to dwell with you. You can think of going under water as Jesus dying for your sins, and coming out of water as being raised to a new life with Jesus Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Did the student notice what God said right after Jesus got baptized? "You are my beloved Son; with you I am well-pleased."

Teacher, share your personal experience of baptism. What caused you to come to faith? Who baptized you? Etc.

Remind the student of the question: what was the other thing that Jesus did to prepare for ministry? If needed, replay the video portion of just the temptation in the wilderness.

Jesus was being tested to see if He was ready for ministry. For each temptation, Jesus' knowledge of God's word guided Him in the right way to behave.

Teacher, share your personal experience of how you were tested in preparation for ministry.

Replay the whole video clip and ask the question, "now what did Jesus do to prepare for ministry?"