

### **SMALL GROUP REFLECTION QUESTIONS**

**Mark 1.0 - "Close Encounters", a series through Mark's Gospel**  
(Mark 1:1-15; et al)

1. Q: Do you believe in aliens? Bigfoot? The Loch Ness monster? Why? Why not? How would you feel if you encountered one of them? Who would you tell? How would it affect the way you see the world?
2. see Mk 1:1 ... Q: What does the word "gospel" mean? Is the coming of Jesus "good news"? How? Why? Does it excite you? Scare you? Humble you? Inspire you? How does the coming of the Son of God change the way you see the world?
3. see Mk 1:1-2 ... Q: How do you feel when you realize that the coming of Jesus was part of a big, long-term plan that God is working in the world? What does it mean to "prepare" for Him? What does it mean to "make straight paths"? Why does it matter?
4. see Mk 1:4-8 ... Q: How would you describe the purpose of John's ministry? What did he seek to achieve? Why did he seek to achieve it? Did he want to call attention to himself, or someone else? Who? How? Why? Do you seek to draw attention to yourself, or someone else? How? Who? Why?
5. see Mk 1:9-13 ... Q: Was Jesus led into the desert, or did He go there accidentally? Why did God lead Him there? What happened there? What does this tell you about the agenda God has in your life? See 1 Cor 10:3 – does God want me to escape temptation, or learn to overcome it? Or both? When can we discern which? What kind of help can we count on in the desert of temptation? What kind of challenges?
6. see Mk 1:14-15 ... Q: When Jesus says, "*the kingdom of God is near*", what does He mean? What is the kingdom of God? Consider Luke 17:20-21 on the same subject.
7. see Mk 1:15 ... Q: What does it mean to "repent"? How do you do it?
8. GOING DEEP ... Q: In His preaching, is Jesus offering us a way to get what we want, or something else?
9. COOL DOWN ... Q: Have you allowed God to be your ruler, as well as savior? What part of your life has not yet been surrendered to Him? Pray and ask God to take leadership in your life.