



## TO BE CONTINUED: The Gospel of Jesus Christ in Mark

Faith Church, Burlington, Winter 2021

*Painting: "The Tearing of the Veil," by Donna Leavens*

### Home Church Questions ~ January 10, 2021

#### Mark 1:1-13 ~ "The Cosmic Prologue"

Our last scheduled Home Church meeting was November 22. Spend some time catching up. Then choose a few questions below to discuss – take special note of #7. And take time to pray together.

1. Opening: As we begin our study of Mark, which is itself "the beginning of the good news" (1:1), share a beginning in your life. Either something you are beginning this year, or a significant beginning from your past.
2. Mark begins his whole account with the phrase, "The beginning of the good news about Jesus the Messiah, the Son of God" (v.1). Many scholars see this phrase as a title for the entire book (although the punctuation for NIV 2011 doesn't follow this interpretation). How would you sum up the "good news" offered in the Bible? Or offered in Mark 1:1-13?
3. Have you ever had an experience where you sensed the tearing open of the division between heaven and earth (v.10), in a good way? Describe.
4. Consider what it means that the Spirit drove / cast / sent Jesus out into the wilderness (v.12). Have you ever experienced that sort of direction by the Spirit? Is that experience something we should individually or corporately pursue? If yes, why and how?
5. How would you describe your relationship with Jesus (distinguished from God the Father or God the Spirit) in a regular, typical day? What practices help you to keep Jesus in view? Or what might you try to deepen this relationship?
6. "Faith Church, we are the baptized body of Christ." What does that mean to you? How might it shape your life personally or our life as a congregation?
7. During our study of Mark, the leadership of Faith Church invites us to reflect on our draft vision statement. This week, read it aloud as a group and share initial reactions. For example: What resonates? What makes you wonder? What makes you anxious or angry? What connections are present, if at all, between this statement and today's Scripture passage?

DRAFT: A vision statement describes who we want to become in the next few years. At Faith Church, we desire to become (more and more) **a community led by the Spirit, where all are invited, all are loved, all are shaped, and all are sent to live like Jesus.**