

The background of the image is a lush, dense forest of evergreen trees, likely spruce or fir, with vibrant green needles. The trees are packed closely together, creating a textured, layered appearance. In the center of the image, there is a large, semi-transparent circular area with a thin green border. Inside this circle, the text is displayed in a dark green, serif font. The text is centered and reads: "Introducing Christ" in a large font, followed by "December 6, 2026" in a slightly smaller font, and then "Focus Text: Mark 1:1-11" in an italicized font.

Introducing Christ

December 6, 2026

Focus Text:
Mark 1:1-11

Introducing Christ

Mark 1:1-11



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

² As it is written in the prophets, Behold, I send my messenger before thy face, which shall prepare thy way before thee.

³ The voice of one crying in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.

⁴ John did baptize in the wilderness, and preach the baptism of repentance for the remission of sins.

Introducing Christ

Mark 1:1-11



⁵ And there went out unto him all the land of Judaea, and they of Jerusalem, and were all baptized of him in the river of Jordan, confessing their sins.

⁶ And John was clothed with camel's hair, and with a girdle of a skin about his loins; and he did eat locusts and wild honey;

⁷ And preached, saying, There cometh one mightier than I after me, the latchet of whose shoes I am not worthy to stoop down and unloose.

Introducing Christ

Mark 1:1-11



⁸ I indeed have baptized you with water: but he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost.

⁹ And it came to pass in those days, that Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee, and was baptized of John in Jordan.

¹⁰ And straightway coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens opened, and the Spirit like a dove descending upon him:

¹¹ And there came a voice from heaven, saying, Thou art my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.

Introducing Christ

Mark 1:1-11



Key Verse:

He that cometh after me
is mightier than I,
whose shoes I am not
worthy to bear.

~ *Matthew 3:11* ~

Central Truth:

The purpose of
a Christian's witness
is to exalt Jesus Christ
as Savior.

Introducing Christ

*Christians can easily develop
a “Messiah complex.”*



NEED



STORY



POINT



DIFFERENCE

Christ is the only one who can
rescue and transform us
both individually and
as a society.



Introducing Christ

*John prepared the way
for the introduction of Christ
and His kingdom to Israel.*

- ☐ NEED
- ☒ STORY
- ☐ POINT
- ☐ DIFFERENCE

John was an unforgettable messenger, yet he did not do these things in order to draw attention to himself.



Introducing Christ

*The purpose of a Christian's
witness is to exalt
Jesus Christ as Savior.*

- ☐ NEED
- ☐ STORY
- ☒ POINT
- ☐ DIFFERENCE

I – Preparing the Way

Mark 1:1-3

God uses preaching
to make His truth known.



Introducing Christ

*The purpose of a Christian's
witness is to exalt
Jesus Christ as Savior.*

- ☐ NEED
- ☐ STORY
- ☒ POINT
- ☐ DIFFERENCE

What is the “good news”
in John’s message?
Why is it good news?



Introducing Christ

*The purpose of a Christian's
witness is to exalt
Jesus Christ as Savior.*

- ☐ NEED
- ☐ STORY
- ☒ POINT
- ☐ DIFFERENCE

Why did the people of Israel
need to be prepared
for Christ's coming?



Introducing Christ

*The purpose of a Christian's
witness is to exalt
Jesus Christ as Savior.*

- ☐ NEED
- ☐ STORY
- ☒ POINT
- ☐ DIFFERENCE

* What kinds of “paths” might
need to be made “straight”
among the people?
Why?



Introducing Christ

*The purpose of a Christian's
witness is to exalt
Jesus Christ as Savior.*

- ☐ NEED
- ☐ STORY
- ☒ POINT
- ☐ DIFFERENCE

II – Preaching Repentance

Mark 1:4-6

Pointed preaching
gets people's attention.



Introducing Christ

*The purpose of a Christian's
witness is to exalt
Jesus Christ as Savior.*

- ☐ NEED
- ☐ STORY
- ☒ POINT
- ☐ DIFFERENCE

Read Luke 3:3-14. According to Luke's account, what specific examples did John mention with regard to the fruits of true repentance?



Introducing Christ

*The purpose of a Christian's
witness is to exalt
Jesus Christ as Savior.*

- ☐ NEED
- ☐ STORY
- ☒ POINT
- ☐ DIFFERENCE

Can you think of similar examples
from your own life??



Introducing Christ

*The purpose of a Christian's
witness is to exalt
Jesus Christ as Savior.*

- ☐ NEED
- ☐ STORY
- ☒ POINT
- ☐ DIFFERENCE

Are there any stories or testimonies
you have heard of how true
repentance manifested itself
in the lives of others?



Introducing Christ

*The purpose of a Christian's
witness is to exalt
Jesus Christ as Savior.*

- ☐ NEED
- ☐ STORY
- ☒ POINT
- ☐ DIFFERENCE

What was the significance of
“the baptism of repentance
for the remission of sins”
(Mark 1:4)?



Introducing Christ

*The purpose of a Christian's
witness is to exalt
Jesus Christ as Savior.*

- ☐ NEED
- ☐ STORY
- ☒ POINT
- ☐ DIFFERENCE

Why do you think Mark (and other
gospel writers) felt it important
to mention John's unusual
clothing and diet?



Introducing Christ

*The purpose of a Christian's
witness is to exalt
Jesus Christ as Savior.*

- ☐ NEED
- ☐ STORY
- ☒ POINT
- ☐ DIFFERENCE

What might be the significance
of the fact that his ministry took
place primarily in the wilderness,
rather than in
towns and cities?



Introducing Christ

*The purpose of a Christian's
witness is to exalt
Jesus Christ as Savior.*

- ☐ NEED
- ☐ STORY
- ☒ POINT
- ☐ DIFFERENCE

Have you ever known a servant of
God who seemed rather odd,
and yet God used him or her
in a powerful way?



Introducing Christ

*The purpose of a Christian's
witness is to exalt
Jesus Christ as Savior.*

- ☐ NEED
- ☐ STORY
- ☒ POINT
- ☐ DIFFERENCE

III – Prophecy of Christ

Mark 1:7-11

Only one God exists eternally
as three distinct persons.



Introducing Christ

*The purpose of a Christian's
witness is to exalt
Jesus Christ as Savior.*

- ☐ NEED
- ☐ STORY
- ☒ POINT
- ☐ DIFFERENCE

In Mark 1:7, what single word might
best describe John the Baptist
and his witness to Christ?



Introducing Christ

*The purpose of a Christian's
witness is to exalt
Jesus Christ as Savior.*

- ☐ NEED
- ☐ STORY
- ☒ POINT
- ☐ DIFFERENCE

How might this influence our
posture and approach to
witnessing of Christ
to others?



Introducing Christ

*The purpose of a Christian's
witness is to exalt
Jesus Christ as Savior.*

- ☐ NEED
- ☐ STORY
- ☒ POINT
- ☐ DIFFERENCE

John's message seems to focus on
what Christ would do after His death
and resurrection. Why?



Introducing Christ

*The purpose of a Christian's
witness is to exalt
Jesus Christ as Savior.*

- ☐ NEED
- ☐ STORY
- ☒ POINT
- ☐ DIFFERENCE

Is the goal of soul-winning simply
for people to be saved from
eternal punishment?
If not, then what?



Introducing Christ

*The purpose of a Christian's
witness is to exalt
Jesus Christ as Savior.*

- ☐ NEED
- ☐ STORY
- ☒ POINT
- ☐ DIFFERENCE

From whom does the Spirit
descend, and upon whom
does He descend?
What does this signify?



Introducing Christ

*The purpose of a Christian's
witness is to exalt
Jesus Christ as Savior.*

- ☐ NEED
- ☐ STORY
- ☒ POINT
- ☐ DIFFERENCE

What scriptures describe
the role and work of
the Holy Spirit?



Introducing Christ

*The purpose of a Christian's
witness is to exalt
Jesus Christ as Savior.*

- ☐ NEED
- ☐ STORY
- ☒ POINT
- ☐ DIFFERENCE

*** In what way does the Spirit
work while the Christian is
bearing witness to Christ?**



Introducing Christ

*We should be crystal clear
in how we explain the gospel.*

- ☐ NEED
- ☐ STORY
- ☐ POINT
- ☒ DIFFERENCE

The best way to bear witness to Christ is to be prepared to give an answer to those who first ask you for the reason of your hope.



Introducing Christ

Pertinent Principles



A witness is
“a man whose life and faith
are so completely one that
when the challenge comes to
step out and testify
for his faith, he does so,
disregarding all risks,
accepting all consequences.”

~ *Whitaker Chambers* ~

If a man has a soul –
and he has – and if that soul
can be won or lost for eternity –
and it can – then the most
important thing in the world is to
bring that man to Jesus Christ.

We do not stand in the world bearing
witness to Christ, but we stand in
Christ bearing witness to the world.

~ *A. J. Gordon* ~



Next Week: God's Promise Celebrated

Key Verse:

For mine eyes have
seen thy salvation,
which thou hast
prepared before the
face of all people.
~ *Luke 2:30, 31* ~

Focus Text:

Luke 2:22-38

Central Truth:

An encounter with Jesus Christ
should elicit a response
of praise and worship.

