

NOTE: This is an excerpt from a group study booklet for inviting those without Christ into your joy in Christ.

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THE GIVER HOLY
ALL WISE
LOVE FAITHFUL
ALL POWERFUL YAHWEH
the SOVEREIGN KING
HOLY TRUTH Father
JUST LOVE Son
ALL WISE Spirit
JOY SHALOM
GOD IS
HOLY YAHWEH the I AM
TRINITY JUST
LOVE ALL KNOWING
PERFECTION GRACIOUS

GRACE for the World

Welcome to part 1 of GRACE - God

You are about to begin a 5 part look into three big ideas that come together in the Gospel of Mark:

1. The Good News Story God is telling the world
2. The beautiful GRACE of God
3. The ultimate word God speaks to all – Christ

As you can see the #3 "idea" isn't just an idea but a Person. He discloses the inner life of Yahweh triune to us so we can be restored to the loving life of Father, Son, Spirit and also be restored to our true human identity. The short Gospel of Mark shows us the way. Enjoy reading it with others.

Let's begin at the beginning. In fact, we should begin before the beginning – God. The GRACE of God begins with God. He is its Source. We begin with God because we see his GRACE mostly beautifully and clearly in Christ. Why does the world need the GRACE of God? Let's find out.

Step One read Mark chapters 1 and 2

Step Two Q&A, search for answers and discuss

1. In 1:3 Mark quotes the prophet Isaiah: "Prepare the way of the Lord." The "Lord" is actually a title for the Hebrew name of God. Yahweh means "I Am." Read Isaiah 40. List markers for the sole supreme Being of Yahweh (LORD).

2. In the opening we hear that Yahweh God has arrived. In the verses that follow how does Jesus Christ embody the sovereign presence of God to mankind? (Mark 1:1-8)

3. At Jesus' baptism see the 3 Persons in the One divine Being of Yahweh (1:9-11). The trinity of Yahweh as Father, Son, Spirit is the only true and eternal source of love. Why? See the tri-personal love of God in 1 John 4:7-19.

4. Jesus announces the approach of the Kingdom of God. If a kingdom is coming near, then the King is here. How does he show his authority as God in the flesh? (1:12-20)

5. Near his hometown Jesus banishes an evil spirit (1:21-28). What does the evil spirit yell about Jesus' identity? How does his pure holiness show he is God come near?