

LINK group Homework

Week of January 15, 2012

Mark 1:1-13

Jesus' Baptism and Temptation

MY STORY

1. What did you most enjoy over the Christmas break? What did you least enjoy?
2. Did you make any New Year's Resolutions this year? What would you like to commit to doing in 2012?
3. What do you remember about your baptism?

QUICK REVIEW: What insight, principle or observation from this week's message did you find to be most helpful, eye-opening or troubling? Explain.

DIGGING DEEPER

1. On Sunday, Pastor Phil spent time talking about John the Baptist. Read through the gospel passages again describing his ministry and jot down your thoughts about his style, message and effectiveness. What can we learn about ministry from him?

Matthew 3:1-17

Mark 1:1-11

Luke 3:1-20

John 1:14-36, 3:22-36

2. There is much discussion in theological circles about what is called Jesus impeccability (sinless-ness). Some argue that He was not able to sin because He is God; others argue that He could not be human if He could not sin. Think through scripture and attempt to explain if He was able not to sin (emphasizing His deity) or was not able to sin (emphasizing His humanity).

3. One of the points Pastor Phil emphasized on Sunday was the place of the wilderness. What does it represent in Israel's history? What does it mean in your life? What lessons can we learn from history to help in our present and future?

4. Mark presents Jesus as "the way" but Jesus' way is not the one of ease and comfort. He starts in the desert and it goes from bad to worse (the cross). He compels us to follow Him, so why do we prefer health and wealth to deserts and crosses? Why are we tempted by shortcuts?

Can you believe we are halfway through the first month of 2012? Time flies by quickly! I hope you will commit yourself to your LINK group this year. Come prepared to share, the more prepared each of us are, the better our groups will be. Pray for each other throughout the week, get to know your group better over the next 11 weeks. Look for opportunities to serve one another and minister together. I hope and pray that we will be a stronger church because we are committed to grow together...

Prayer requests: