

Sermon Discussion Guide

Preparing for the Lord's Arrival

Mark 1:1-8

The wilderness messenger (1-3)

Jer 2:2-3; Hos 2:14-15; Mal 3:1; Ex 23:20; 2 Ki 1:8

- Why is it important for us to have a good understanding of what Jesus said and did while he was here on earth?
- Why is it not an error on Mark's part to attribute the OT citation to Isaiah?
- What is significant about the setting of the wilderness and the arrival of the messenger?

The coming of the Lord (6-8)

Isa 40:3, 10

- In what ways does Mark make it clear that the arrival of Jesus was God's arrival?
- How can Jesus' divinity be presented in an appealing way to unbelievers?

The call to repentance (4-5)

- How is the context of the Malachi passage important for understanding John's message?
- What was John calling the Jewish people to do?
- How does John's call apply to unbelievers?
- How does John's wilderness call encourage us and challenge us as believers?