

# Coming Into Focus: Fit for the Job

## Small Group Discussion Guide—1/6/2019

Think about a time when you've watched something again, looked at something again, etc and you noticed something you hadn't noticed previously. Was it a movie, a song, a piece of art, maybe even something about a person?

*Just for fun if you have the time: Pull up this website and as a group take a closer look at these famous logos to see if you can spot the hidden images!*

<https://www.cnn.com/2015/05/01/13-famous-logos-that-require-a-double-take.html>

### Read Mark 1:1-8

- Why did Mark choose to start his story with John the Baptist?
- Why do you think Mark, who is famously brief and fast-paced in his writings, choose to tell us about John's attire and diet in this passage?
- What does John's message in verses 7-8 tell us about his character?

### Read Mark 1:9-11

- Read Isaiah 64:1-5, keeping in mind this was written ~700 years before Jesus
  - Which specific lines from this passage do we see coming to fruition at the beginning of Mark's Gospel? (there are many!)
  - What three words would you use to describe God in light of these passages?
- Going back to Mark 1, verse 11, to whose benefit do you think God spoke those words – for Jesus, or for the crowds?
  - Why would Jesus acutely need to remember these words in the events that followed?
  - How do these words show Jesus' unique qualification for the rescue mission we needed him to accomplish?
- What do we learn about Jesus through the words God speaks to him? How does this apply for you and me today?

### Read Mark 1:12-13

- Have you ever experienced this pattern in your life – a spiritual high followed by a season of spiritual attack or temptation?
- Verse 13 tells us that angels attended Jesus during his temptations. Do you think this applies to us today as well? If yes, how so?
- How does Jesus's baptism and temptation tie with Isaiah's question in Isaiah 64:5?

### Bringing it Home

- Why do you think Jesus began his ministry by being baptized? (Pastor Josh said that it was a picture of the ultimate work he came to do on the cross—he was immersed in God's judgment so that we could receive credit for his righteousness.)
- Because Jesus withstood Satan, we get the privilege of hearing God say to us the words of v. 11: "You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased." Do you believe that God says this to you, in Christ, or is it hard for your heart to accept? What might look different about your life if you truly heard God say these words to you?

Spend some time sharing prayer needs. Pray as a group, that we would all see Jesus more clearly, appreciating Him in a new light, and thanking God that He sent just the right person, fit for the job, on our behalf!