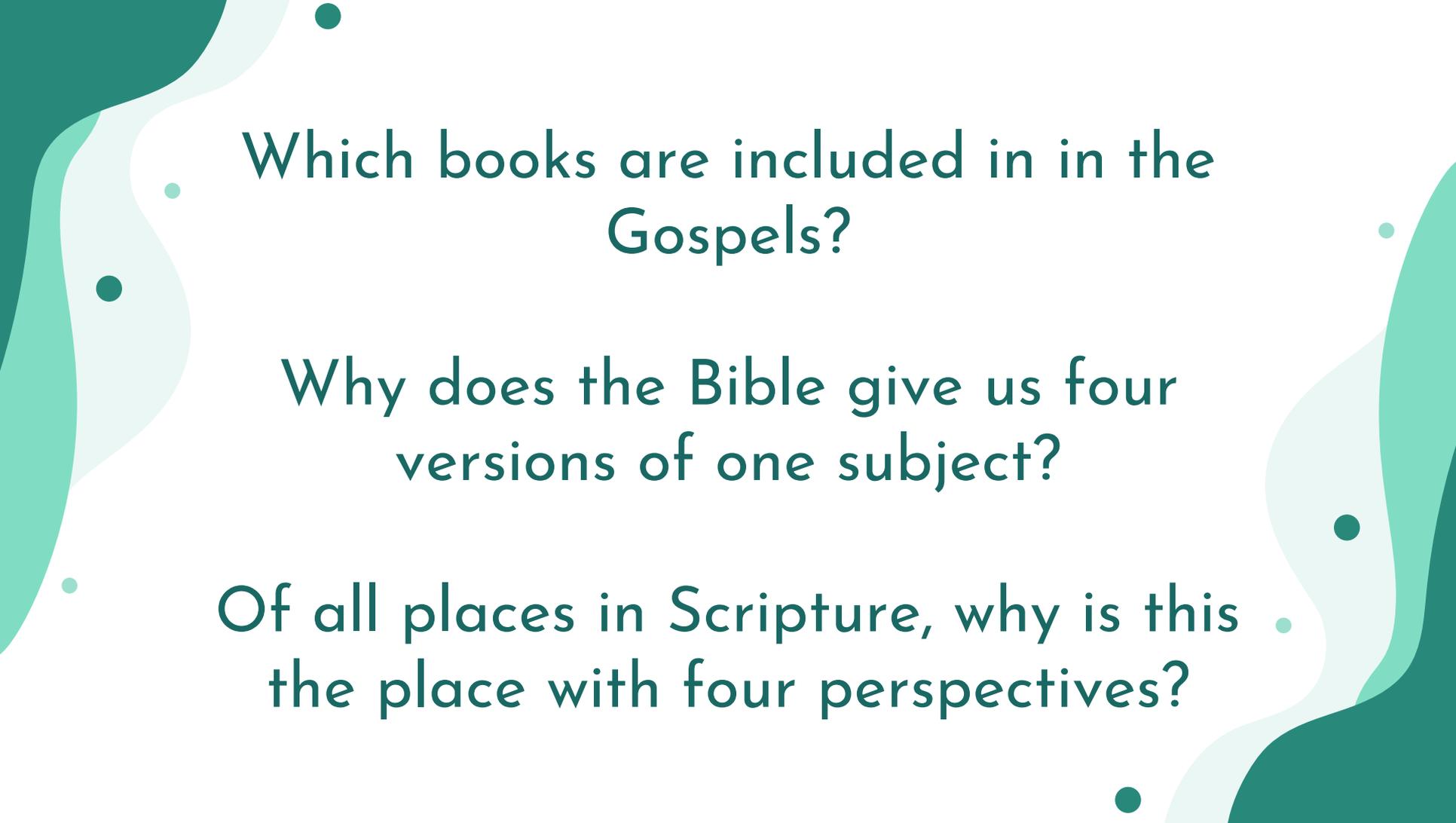


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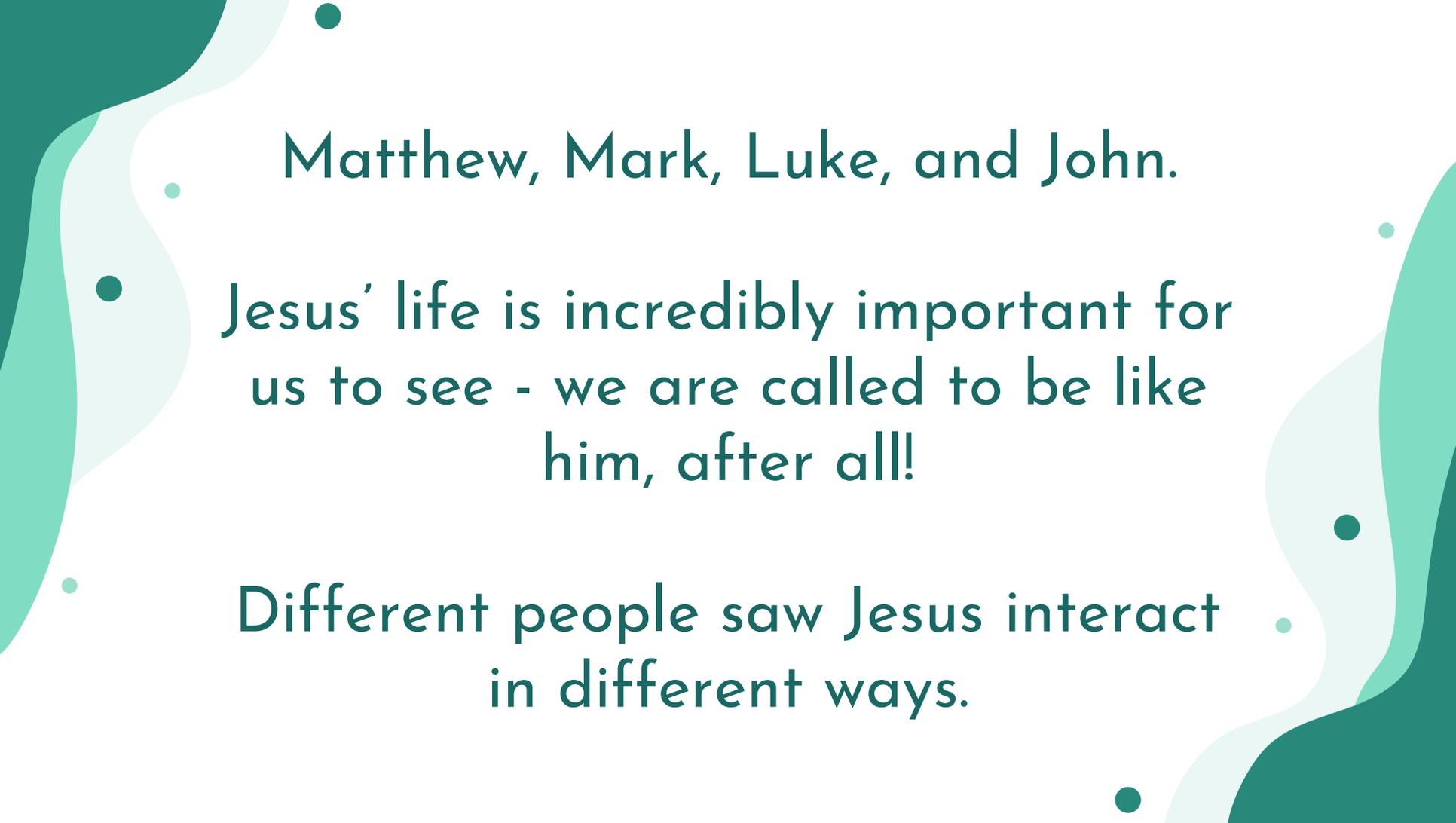
# **Perspective in the Gospels**



Which books are included in in the Gospels?

Why does the Bible give us four versions of one subject?

Of all places in Scripture, why is this the place with four perspectives?



Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John.

Jesus' life is incredibly important for us to see - we are called to be like him, after all!

Different people saw Jesus interact in different ways.

# Word Study:

“Gospel” comes from Latin + Greek meaning “good story” or “good news”

“Perspective comes from the words  
“Per” - for every  
and “spect” - to see

# If the Gospels had first appeared on social media...

Mark was a close friend of the apostle Peter, who after years of hearing Peter preach about Jesus, began tweeting about what Jesus did. Bam! Jesus did this! Then Bam! Jesus did this! He sent out tweets left and right to tell of the amazing actions of Jesus.

Matthew, a disciple of Jesus, and Luke, a doctor and historian, picked up on this and began passing it on. Matthew re-posted nearly every tweet (91%) on the Jewish Facebook page putting them together and adding in many other things that would help his Jewish readers see how Jesus fulfilled the OT. Meanwhile, Luke wrote detailed articles on Wikipedia about Mark's tweets and other parts of Jesus' life, putting in lots of citations and historical references so that Wikipedia would keep his articles up.

Lastly, John came around much later, staying off to the side, seeing God in the way light bounced off bushes, trees, anything. John posted his pictures on InstaGram at his handle #TheWitnessofLifeandLight, mostly avoiding the content of the other three artists.

# Matthew

## Jewish Disciple of Jesus

- The only Gospel written specifically to a Jewish audience.
- How would this author treat the Old Testament, or Hebrew Scriptures?
  - He quotes the OT all the time to show how Jesus fulfilled the prophecies of long ago.
- Matthew is especially focused on how Jesus fulfilled prophecies found in the Hebrew Scriptures.
  - The word “fulfilled” is found 8 times in Matthew.

# Mark

## Action-minder summarizer

- Not a biography. The events are not all in order and mostly focus on the last few weeks of Jesus's life.
- Even the messy grammar suggests it might have been written quickly.
- His favorite phrase is "*and immediately*".
  - "kai euthus"

# Luke

## Doctor-Historian

- Luke gives a historian's careful consideration and consistently brings in outside data to corroborate and date the events of Jesus's life.
- This Gospel has much extra explanation and little details not found in the others, as well as the bulk of Jesus' birth stories.

# John

## Poet Disciple of Jesus

- John has the most *events* that are not mentioned in the others.
- The Jews are fiercely shown as enemies of Jesus.
- The mystery of the Trinity is highlighted.

# Synoptic Gospels

Synoptic mean “seen together”. Three of the Gospels are most similar.  
Which ones?

Matthew

Mark

Luke



# Audience

Matthew	Mark	Luke	John
Jewish			
	Gentile	Gentile	Gentile



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# **The Book of Mark**

# Mark



# Mark 1:1-8

The beginning of the good news about Jesus the Messiah, the Son of God, as it is written in Isaiah the prophet:

“I will send my messenger ahead of you,  
who will prepare your way” —  
“a voice of one calling in the wilderness,  
‘Prepare the way for the Lord,  
make straight paths for him.’”

And so John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. The whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem went out to him. Confessing their sins, they were baptized by him in the Jordan River. John wore clothing made of camel’s hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. And this was his message: “After me comes the one more powerful than I, the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. I baptize you with<sup>[e]</sup> water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

# In your journal:

- Write down a short list of people you look up to: celebrities, people in the community, family etc.
- Write down a reason why you look up to each person/a positive trait that person displays.
- If you can think of one, write down a negative trait of this person.

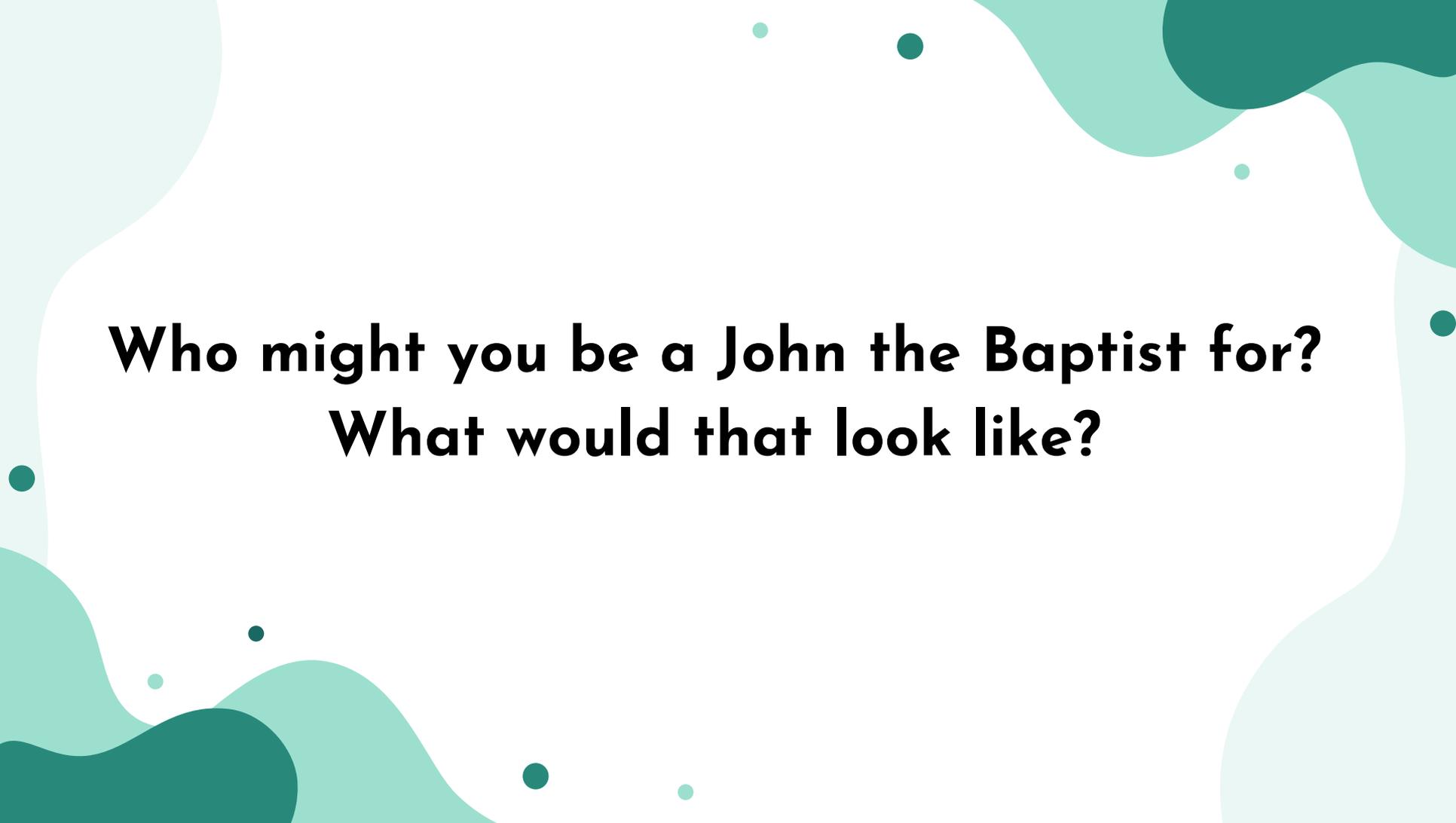


**Let's talk about role models:  
How can they be positive influences in  
our life?**

**When might they be negative  
influences?**

**Who points the way to Jesus for you?  
How tempting is it to want to be like  
that person?**

**What are the positives and negatives to  
this?**



**Who might you be a John the Baptist for?  
What would that look like?**

# Mark 1:9-15

## **The Baptism and Testing of Jesus**

At that time Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. Just as Jesus was coming up out of the water, he saw heaven being torn open and the Spirit descending on him like a dove. And a voice came from heaven: "You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased."

At once the Spirit sent him out into the wilderness, and he was in the wilderness forty days, being tempted by Satan. He was with the wild animals, and angels attended him.

## **Jesus Announces the Good News**

After John was put in prison, Jesus went into Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God. "The time has come," he said. "The kingdom of God has come near. Repent and believe the good news!"

# Mark 1:16-28

## Jesus Calls His First Disciples

As Jesus walked beside the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the lake, for they were fishermen. “Come, follow me,” Jesus said, “and I will send you out to fish for people.” At once they left their nets and followed him.

When he had gone a little farther, he saw James son of Zebedee and his brother John in a boat, preparing their nets. Without delay he called them, and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men and followed him.

## Jesus Drives Out an Impure Spirit

They went to Capernaum, and when the Sabbath came, Jesus went into the synagogue and began to teach. The people were amazed at his teaching, because he taught them as one who had authority, not as the teachers of the law. Just then a man in their synagogue who was possessed by an impure spirit cried out, “What do you want with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are—the Holy One of God!”

“Be quiet!” said Jesus sternly. “Come out of him!” The impure spirit shook the man violently and came out of him with a shriek.

The people were all so amazed that they asked each other, “What is this? A new teaching—and with authority! He even gives orders to impure spirits and they obey him.” News about him spread quickly over the whole region of Galilee.

# Mark 1:29-39

## **Jesus Heals Many**

As soon as they left the synagogue, they went with James and John to the home of Simon and Andrew. Simon's mother-in-law was in bed with a fever, and they immediately told Jesus about her. So he went to her, took her hand and helped her up. The fever left her and she began to wait on them.

That evening after sunset the people brought to Jesus all the sick and demon-possessed. The whole town gathered at the door, and Jesus healed many who had various diseases. He also drove out many demons, but he would not let the demons speak because they knew who he was.

## **Jesus Prays in a Solitary Place**

Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house and went off to a solitary place, where he prayed. Simon and his companions went to look for him, and when they found him, they exclaimed: "Everyone is looking for you!"

Jesus replied, "Let us go somewhere else—to the nearby villages—so I can preach there also. That is why I have come." So he traveled throughout Galilee, preaching in their synagogues and driving out demons.

# Mark 1:40-45

## **Jesus Heals a Man With Leprosy**

A man with leprosy came to him and begged him on his knees, “If you are willing, you can make me clean.”

Jesus was indignant. He reached out his hand and touched the man. “I am willing,” he said. “Be clean!” Immediately the leprosy left him and he was cleansed.

Jesus sent him away at once with a strong warning: “See that you don’t tell this to anyone. But go, show yourself to the priest and offer the sacrifices that Moses commanded for your cleansing, as a testimony to them.” Instead he went out and began to talk freely, spreading the news. As a result, Jesus could no longer enter a town openly but stayed outside in lonely places. Yet the people still came to him from everywhere.