**Lesson 1 Lesson Plan**

**Materials Needed:** Historical background information, Graeco-Roman gods handout, lesson 1 handout.

* PRAYER
* Introduce teachers, brief review of historical background sheet.
* Q1-- Read Acts 12:25, 13:5,13 & 15:37-39; 2 Tim. 4:11—review these passages and discuss Mark.
* Q2—Take answer and explore the culture of Greeks/Romans at that time. Review Graeco-Roman gods list. Write a list on board of characteristics commonly seen in all (or most) of these gods. Discuss which features of these were important in that society—create a value-base for the society that Mark knew this message would reach.
* Q3—use all information gathered above to write a list of relevance for Mark’s audience then tie that in with a list on other side of board listing things relevant to our culture today.
* Q4—don’t read verses but review some of the words used and points made: “immediately”—urgency, “still early”—Servant King and urgency, “compassion”—Servant King and humanity, forgiveness of sins and healing—Servant King, urgency, and humanity, healing on Sabbath—Servant King and urgency…
  + Servant King—Christ not only came to do many wonderful things and serve His people, but He also came to establish the authority that God granted Him; he often accomplishes these both in one single action
  + Humanity—Jesus continually displays emotions and experiences what others are feeling around Him. Mark also mentions many physical responses to His actions: being weary, needing alone time, etc.
  + Urgency of the gospel—Mark uses the word “immediately” over 40 times in his book; he does not discuss Jesus’ early life but rather jumps straight into His ministry and message that “the kingdom of God is at hand”. People also respond to Jesus “immediately” which further emphasizes the urgency of the message He is presenting.
* Q5—Read through case study. If time allows, provide people with 5 minutes to come up with an idea. If anyone would like to share, write it up on board. If no one is willing to share use one of these below:
  + Servant King—Mark wants to make sure that all of the good things Christ does were not only marvelous but also reflect the authority that God gave Him. His miracles are almost always turned into lessons about the kingdom that God sent Him to establish. He provides new rules and standards, along with clarifying the Scriptures that had already been given.
  + Humanity of Jesus—Mark talks about a lot of personal and physical events and their affect on Christ. He shows Him having emotions just like us, getting weary when exerting Himself, and the pain He endured on the Cross. His descriptions leave no doubt about Christ actually being human.
  + Urgency of the gospel—Christ’s message is not all about mercy and compassion: while He heals and helps many in need, He does so with a focus on their spiritual well-being. He preaches messages of being part of God’s kingdom because being separated from God means destruction for your soul. He forgives sins when He could have simply focused on healing. He died to establish a kingdom for His faithful servants but warns of the fate awaiting those who don’t believe in Him.