Here is a group study outline which helps you to look more closely

at this key passage which introduces the ministry of Jesus.

**The time has come! – The kingdom of God is near!**

**Repent! – Believe the good news!**

1 **Why was John the Baptist arrested?**

 Read Mark 1:14-15 & 6:17-20.

 **Why do you think Mark waited until chapter 6 to give us the details?**

2 **What is the cost of witness to Jesus?**

 To answer this, have a look at the description of what happened to John the

 Baptist. The actual word for ‘arrested’ is ‘handed over’. The same word is

 used for ‘betrayed’ later in Mark.

 **Who else would be ‘handed over’ in Mark’s Gospel?**

 Read Mark 3:19, 10:33, 15:1.

 Now read Mark 13:9. Jesus looked to the future.

 **What was his prophecy & warning?**

3 **What did Jesus mean when he said ‘the time has come’ or ‘is fulfilled’?**

 You could explore several questions about ‘time’:

 **Do you see an indication of human pride in the way we try and control**

 **time?**

 **Do we sometimes become impatient with God over time issues?**

 **Why have timed prophecies of the second coming been so common in**

 **Christian history?**

 Read Mark 13:33.

4 **What did Jesus mean by ‘the kingdom of God’?**

 The ‘kingdom of God’ certainly hadn’t come in any complete sense!

 So, attempt to define what Jesus meant by using this phrase!

 **How would the ‘kingdom of God’ be seen in the life & ministry of Jesus?**

 **How do these incidents fill out the meaning of the ‘kingdom’:**

 **Mark 10:15, 10:23, 12:34?**

 **How do you recognise where the ‘kingdom of God’ is visible today?**

5 **What does ‘repent’ mean?**

 **From what is Jesus commanding people to repent?**

 **How do you know if someone, including yourself, has truly repented?**

 Explore these verses to help answer this:

 Matthew 3:8; Acts 26:19-20; 2 Corinthians 7:8-12

6 **What is the ‘good news’?**

 We follow the ‘Bringer of Good News’!

 So, have a brainstorming session to say how you would answer this question.

 **What would you emphasise?**

 **Do you need to talk about sin? How do you do this without feeling**

 **negative?**

 **What is the very best of the ‘good news’ for you?**