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?**