

## Day 1

# The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. 1.1



The four gospels are described by scholars in a variety of ways, but most commonly as biographies – of Jesus of Nazareth.

A biography is an account of somebody's life. You read a biography to find out more about that person.

The four gospels are more than mere biographies, however. They were written for a specific purpose – to announce something wonderful and important! The word gospel means, literally, 'good news'. Certainly, we get to know more about Jesus by reading the gospels. In fact they are our primary source of information about him. But the gospel writers don't write simply to inform but to transform. They want us to meet Jesus in a life-changing way, so that after reading their gospel we will never be the same again.

John expresses this most clearly when he writes, near the end of his gospel:

*Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name. (John 20.30-31)*

So the good news is not simply that Jesus lived, but that his life has significance for everyone. Believe in him, and your whole life will change. More than that, you will begin a new life in him!

? How has knowing Jesus changed your life?  
? In what ways has it been 'good news'? Count your blessings one by one...



Heavenly Father, I thank you for what you have already done in my life. As I read through Mark's account of the good news of your dear Son Jesus Christ this Lent, open my eyes anew to its life-giving power, and my ears afresh to your speaking life-giving words to me. This I ask in Jesus' name. Amen.