

The Book of Mark:

Advice for a successful launch

The beginning of the good news about Jesus the Messiah, the Son of God,² as it is written in Isaiah the prophet:

*“I will send my messenger ahead of you,
who will prepare your way”—
³“a voice of one calling in the wilderness,
‘Prepare the way for the Lord,
make straight paths for him.’”*

⁴ And so John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁵ 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. ⁶ John wore clothing made of camel’s hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. ⁷ 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. ⁸ I baptize you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

Mark 1:1-8 (NIV)

Two pieces of advice when you are starting out...

1. Don’t make the _____ about _____.

*My son, pay attention to what I say;
turn your ear to my words.*

*²¹ Do not let them out of your sight,
keep them within your heart;*

*²² for they are life to those who find them
and health to one’s whole body.*

*²³ Above all else, guard your heart,
for everything you do flows from it.*

*²⁴ Keep your mouth free of perversity;
keep corrupt talk far from your lips.*

*²⁵ Let your eyes look straight ahead;
fix your gaze directly before you.*

*²⁶ Give careful thought to the^lc^l paths for your feet
and be steadfast in all your ways.*

*²⁷ Do not turn to the right or the left;
keep your foot from evil.*

Proverbs 4:20-27 (NIV)

2. Take a _____ from John the Baptist.

His message was about _____, his example was about _____.

*“So the last will be first, and the first will be last.”
Matthew 20:16 (NIV)*

