

MARK STUDY GUIDE

Volume 1



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HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE

As we journey throughout the Gospel of Mark as a church, we want to help you engage with God's Word, reflect on the servanthood of Jesus, and apply it to your life. We encourage you to journey through this study guide alongside your small group, family, or friends.

Each week, you will have the opportunity to:

1. Prepare & Meditate

Each week, you will have the opportunity to set aside time to prepare your heart to receive God's Word for the upcoming message on Sunday. This is an opportunity to be still, read and memorize Scripture, and meditate on God's Word before Sunday morning.

2. Take Message Notes

Use the provided space to capture notes from the message. Write down anything that stands out, questions you want to explore further, or practical ways the message both sharpens and encourages you.

3. Engage in Discussion

Spend time cultivating discussion in your small group, at the dinner table, or with your friends through the questions provided. Focus on observing the text, understanding its meaning, and reflecting on your walk with Jesus through these sections.

4. Apply God's Word

Move from hearing to doing (James 1:22-25) by identifying next steps you can take in your walk with Jesus. Each week, we encourage you to consider how the Holy Spirit is speaking to you and how God is calling you to engage in a deeper relationship with Him.

5. Family Activity

Each week includes a section for families to continue conversations throughout the week. These activities provide opportunities for your family to grow together in Christ and apply biblical truths in your home.

Overview of the GOSPEL OF MARK

The Gospel of Mark is one of four accounts of the life and ministry of Jesus Christ. Likely Mark's Gospel was the first to be written, it is also the shortest—nearly half the Gospel of Luke. Mark moves from miracle to miracle with very little transition, worth noting his use of the word “immediately” is repeated at least 35 times. The book of Mark is unique in that Mark constantly presents Jesus as Messiah meaning Anointed One (also translated as Christ). In the first half of the book (Mark 1-8), Jesus is rejected by religious leaders and the crowds are amazed at the miracles He performs. One-third of the book is dedicated to Jesus' final week.

More Resources

Use the camera app on your smart phone to scan the QR code or visit chapel-pointe.org/mark to access additional resources, next steps, and more.



Discuss

What is the significance of Mark beginning his book by quoting from the Old Testament (Isaiah 40:3)?

What area(s) of life do you need to repent and allow God to have full authority?

Like John the Baptist, how can you prepare others to meet Christ?

How can you model a life of serving to your family, coworkers, and neighbors this week?

Apply

Take inventory of your life over the last week. Are there any relationships that have lacked unity because you have thought more highly of yourself?

Take action by demonstrating humility and seeking forgiveness and restoration to that relationship.

When tempted this week, take 'the way out' (1 Corinthians 10:13) and tell a friend where God is giving you victory over temptation.

FAMILY ACTIVITY

Read Together

- As a family, read Mark 1:1-13. Highlight the parts where Jesus' actions and John the Baptist's role fulfill Old Testament prophecies.
- Compare these passages with Old Testament verses, Isaiah 40:3 and Malachi 3:1. Discuss how Jesus' coming was part of God's big plan.

Create a "Promises Fulfilled" Scroll

- On one side of a paper, write the Old Testament prophecy (e.g., Isaiah 40:3).
- On the other side, write how Jesus fulfilled that prophecy as described in Mark 1.
- Families can decorate the scrolls with drawings or symbols that remind them of the story, such as a dove for Jesus' baptism or a flame for the Holy Spirit.

Discuss

- Talk about what it means that God keeps His promises. Ask each family member to share a time when they felt God fulfilled a promise in their own life.

Discuss

Where do you need to submit to the authority of Jesus?

What is one thing that regularly distracts you from following Jesus?

What are the biblical qualities of a “fisher of men”?

What are some ways you can live into the calling of being “fishers of men” (Matthew 28:19, 20)?

Apply

Where will you shift focus this week from the temporary to the eternal?

How are you passionately responding to God's call to be a "fisher of men"?

Who is someone that you are building a relationship with in your community to bring to Jesus? Give them a call or send them a text.

FAMILY ACTIVITY

Read Together

- Read Mark 1:14-34 together as a family. Discuss how Jesus showed His authority by teaching, calling disciples, healing the sick, and casting out evil spirits. Talk about how people trusted and followed Him because of His power and love.

Play "Follow the Leader"

- Take turns being the leader while the rest of the family follows. Make it fun by including creative movements (e.g., hopping, clapping, walking backward). After a few rounds, discuss what it was like to follow the leader.

Discuss

- What made it easy or hard to follow the leader?
- How does following Jesus require trust, even when we don't fully understand His plan?

Discuss

What details does verse 35 give about Jesus' pursuit of prayer and what do these details show us about Jesus' mentality towards prayer?

Where in your life do you see the same approach towards prayer that Jesus had? Where is it lacking?

What does verse 41 teach us about Jesus' heart towards those He ministered to? Why do you think Mark ensured we saw the heart of Jesus in this passage?

How would you summarize the charge Jesus gave the man who was healed?

Apply

In your life, what circumstances or opportunities do you need to pursue prayer with greater intentionality? What does greater intentionality look like?

Jesus lived His life with great compassion towards those He encountered. Who do you encounter regularly that you need to extend greater compassion to? What does that compassion look like?

Spend time asking God to show you those in your life who need greater compassion and ask for the strength to extend that compassion through the power of the Holy Spirit in you. Write down what God reveals to you during this time.

FAMILY ACTIVITY

Read Together

- Read Mark 1:35-45 as a family. Discuss how Jesus served others by healing the sick and showing compassion to everyone, even those who were often avoided by others.
 - Who did Jesus help in the story?
 - How did Jesus show that He cared for everyone?
 - What are some ways we can serve others like Jesus did?

Family Service Plan

- On the large piece of paper, write “Ways We Can Serve” at the top.
- Brainstorm ideas as a family for serving others (e.g., helping a neighbor, donating to a food bank, writing kind notes to someone who is sick or lonely.)
- Pick one (or many) to do as a family this week!

Discuss

What is the setting of the story and why is the house so crowded?

Why was Jesus' response so shocking to the scribes?

How does Jesus demonstrate His authority to forgive sins?

Compare and contrast the reaction of the crowd and the scribes.

Apply

How do you need to step out in faith in this season?

Identify one person you can encourage this week by demonstrating faith and persistence, like the friends in the story. Give them a call or text them right now.

FAMILY ACTIVITY

Which characters do you resonate with most within the story: the paralyzed man, his friends, or the scribes? Act out the story as a family and take turns being the different characters.

Discuss

Why do you think Levi the tax collector wanted to follow Jesus? Why do you think many sinners followed Him?

Why were the religious leaders concerned about who Jesus was eating with?

What was Jesus' purpose in coming to earth?

Apply

What sin do you need to bring to Jesus so that he might heal you of it?

With an awareness of your own sin, to whom do you need to show grace and compassion? Write down one way you can show grace through your actions.

Who is one person you can befriend to share Jesus with them? Reach out to them this week.

FAMILY ACTIVITY

Read Together

- Read Mark 2:13-17 together as a family. Discuss how Jesus welcomed Levi, a tax collector, and ate with people others looked down on. Emphasize how Jesus loves everyone, no matter who they are or what they've done.

Create a "Welcome Challenge"

- Create a "welcome challenge" for the week. Each family member can choose one way they will intentionally welcome or include someone, just like Jesus did.

Discuss

- At the end of the week, come back together to share your experiences. How did it feel to make someone feel welcome?

Discuss

Talk about an aspect of life where a relationship with Jesus can be replaced by tradition.

When was the last time you fasted?

What are your normal rhythms of Sabbath? How are you directing your thoughts and actions toward God?

How can you begin or begin again in the practice of fasting and Sabbath?

Apply

Identify and make course corrections if you have replaced a relationship with Jesus with any substitute.

Take time to recognize Jesus' work in your life.

As you recognize Jesus' work, celebrate through prayer and tell someone about what God is teaching you this week.

FAMILY ACTIVITY

Read Together

- Read Mark 2:18-28 together as a family. Discuss how Jesus explains that He came to bring rest, not just from work, but rest for our souls. Talk about how Jesus is like a shepherd who cares for His sheep, giving them safety and peace.

Create a Rest Basket

- Pass out slips of paper and ask each family member to write or draw things that sometimes make them feel stressed, tired, or overwhelmed.
- Place the slips into the basket, symbolizing giving those worries to Jesus.

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