

MARK STUDY GUIDE

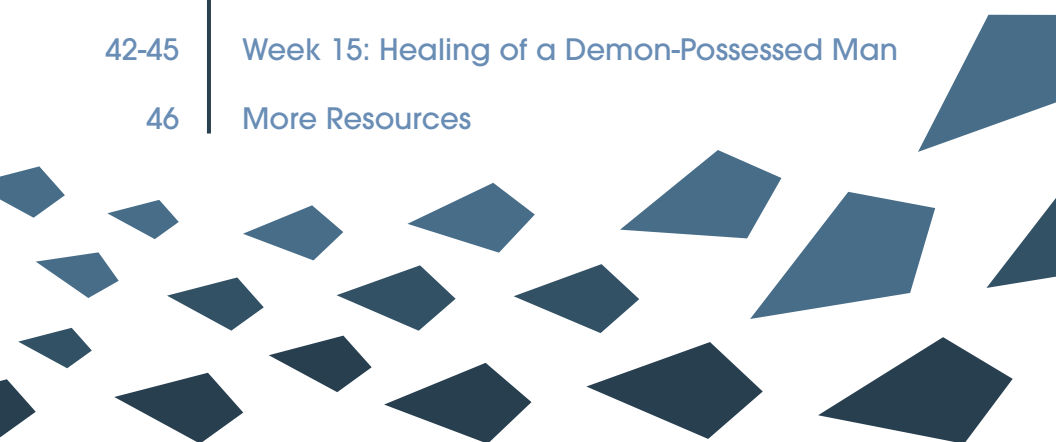
Volume 2



The material in this booklet covers weeks 7-15 of our sermon series in the Gospel of Mark. To access volume #1 of this study guide, visit **chapel-pointe.org/mark** or request additional physical copies by emailing us at **info@chapel-pointe.org**.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

4	How to Use This Guide
5	Share Your Feedback
6-9	Week 7: Jesus and the Sabbath
10-13	Week 8: Opposition & Expanding Ministry
14-17	Week 9: Blasphemy of the Holy Spirit
18-21	Week 10: Parable of the Sower
22-25	Week 11: Parables of the Kingdom
26-29	Week 12: Jesus Calms the Storm
30-33	Week 13: The Triumphal Entry
34-35	Last Supper, Betrayal, Arrest, and Trial
36-37	Good Friday
38-41	Week 14: The Resurrection of Jesus
42-45	Week 15: Healing of a Demon-Possessed Man
46	More Resources



HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE

As we journey through 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. Do a 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.

Share Your Feedback

How are you living differently as a result of the Gospel of Mark? We are passionate about providing resources like this to help you grow in your walk with Jesus. Help us improve future resources by sharing your feedback.

Scan the QR code



Week 7:

JESUS AND THE SABBATH

Overview

This week, we will explore two separate stories that occur on the Sabbath. Keeping the Sabbath is one of the Ten Commandments (Exodus 20:8-12). Because of this, in the time of Jesus the Jewish people had developed strict instructions about how the Sabbath should be kept. Jesus and His disciples disregard these traditions in order to keep the Sabbath as God intended. The religious leaders seek to kill Jesus because of His apparent disregard for God's law.

Prepare and Meditate

Before Sunday, take time to prepare your heart to receive God's Word for the upcoming message. Passages to read and memorize are included below. As you read and reflect, we encourage you to pray and ask the Holy Spirit to reveal God's truth to you during this time.

- **Read:** Mark 2:23-3:6
- **Memorize:** And he said to them, "The Sabbath was made for man, not man for the Sabbath." (Mark 2:27)

Prepare and Meditate Notes

Sermon Notes

Discuss

In Mark 2:23-28, Jesus refers to a story found in 1 Samuel 21:1-6. In that story, David breaks God's law to provide for his men while they were fleeing from King Saul. How does this story apply to Jesus and His disciples?

Explain the meaning of Mark 2:27 and how it relates to the passage as a whole.

In Mark 3:1-6, why is it important that Jesus performed this miracle in front of the Pharisees and on the Sabbath?

How do people display having hard hearts in Mark 3:1-6?

Apply

What are ways you justify disobedience to God perhaps even in the name of religion?

Are you more concerned about outward displays of religiosity or doing good to others?

How can you keep the Sabbath today in the way Jesus intended?

FAMILY ACTIVITY

Read Together

- Mark 3:1-5

Kindness Jar

- Talk about what it means to have a hardened heart.
- Write or draw 7 kind actions on strips of paper. Put the actions in a jar and randomly select an action you can do as a family each day of this week.

Week 8:

OPPOSITION & EXPANDING MINISTRY

Overview

Jesus shifted the paradigm. At every turn, Jesus seemed to subvert the expectations of the Pharisees, the disciples, and everyone He came in contact with. The first few paragraphs of Mark 3 detail not only some examples of this, but the “why” behind it all. He is the Son of God and He is beginning to build His church—not on tradition but on truth. This forces us to evaluate: What do we believe about Jesus and are we committed to His mission?

Prepare and Meditate

Before Sunday, take time to prepare your heart to receive God’s Word for the upcoming message. Passages to read and memorize are included below. As you read and reflect, we encourage you to pray and ask the Holy Spirit to reveal God’s truth to you during this time.

- **Read:** Mark 3:7-22
- **Memorize:** And whenever the unclean spirits saw him, they fell down before him and cried out, “You are the Son of God.” (Mark 3:11)

Prepare and Meditate Notes

Sermon Notes

Discuss

In verses 7-11, what do we learn about Jesus' authority that the unclean spirits would recognize Him as the Son of God?

In verses 13-19, Jesus assembles His disciples. What does Jesus, knowing Judas would betray Him, teach us about grace?

In verse 21, we see Jesus' family have unmet expectations about who Jesus was. In what areas of your life do you have unmet expectations about Jesus?

Apply

It's interesting that the unclean spirits knew who Jesus was and yet they were still unclean spirits. While 2 Timothy 3:14-15 reminds us that knowledge is part of the process, it has to go beyond information to transformation. How does knowing Jesus is the Son of God force you to change the way you think about every area of your life this week?

Like the disciples, we have been activated by the finished work of Christ and the empowering of the Holy Spirit, to live missionally where we are. Pull your address up on a map and draw a circle, including every house in a one-mile radius. Whether you know those people or not, begin to pray for them, and as you meet them, share with them how God is transforming your life.

FAMILY ACTIVITY

Read Together

- Mark 3:13-19

Discuss

- In verse 13, Jesus calls His disciples by name. Talk about how Jesus knows us intimately and we are called to put our identity in Him.

Activity

- Have each child write down "Transformed Follower of Jesus" on a 3x5 index card and have them put it somewhere where they will see it every day.
- Each day this week, remind them of their identity in Christ and speak this truth over everyone in your house.

Week 9: BLASPHEMY OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

Overview

This week, we will learn about Jesus' response to accusations from the religious leaders who claim He casts out demons by the power of Satan. Jesus explains that a kingdom divided against itself cannot stand. He warns against blasphemy of the Holy Spirit, showing it as an unforgivable sin because it attributes God's work to evil. In Mark 3:22-35, Jesus outlines what identifies members of the family of God.

Prepare and Meditate

Before Sunday, take time to prepare your heart to receive God's Word for the upcoming message. Passages to read and memorize are included below. As you read and reflect, we encourage you to pray and ask the Holy Spirit to reveal God's truth to you during this time.

- **Read:** Mark 3:22-35
- **Memorize:** Jesus said, "For whoever does the will of God, he is my brother and sister and mother." (Mark 3:35)

Prepare and Meditate Notes

Sermon Notes

Discuss

Who do you think Jesus is referring to in verse 27 as the “strong man”? How might the strong man be bound?

What is blasphemy of the Holy Spirit? How does one commit this sin that will receive eternal punishment? (Use Acts 7:51 for further reference)

Who is our true family according to Mark 3:35?

Apply

In verse 28, Jesus says, “Truly, I say to you, all sins will be forgiven the children of man, and whatever blasphemies they utter,” (Mark 3:28). How does this passage give us confidence and freedom to ask for forgiveness of our sins? Take the time to confess your sins to Jesus and invite accountability from a friend or family member.

How should verse 35 challenge the way we respond to other followers of Jesus? How do you need to grow in seeing other Christians as your family?

Jesus calls us His family whenever we “do the will of God”. What is one way you can passionately respond to God and do His will from this week’s passage and message?

FAMILY ACTIVITY

Read Together

- Mark 3:22-30

Activity: Word Choice Challenge

Step 1: Draw or Write

Give each family member a piece of paper and markers or crayons.

Ask them to draw or write down the following:

- A positive word (e.g., kind, helpful, loving)
- A negative word (e.g., angry, mean, hurtful)

Step 2: Talk About the Words

Once everyone is done, gather together and talk about the words you've chosen.

Discuss:

- How do these words make others feel?
- How does God want us to use our words?

Explain that we show God's love to others when we speak kind and loving words. But when we speak hurtful or negative words, it can lead to broken relationships and hurt feelings. Our words show what's in our hearts, and God cares about both!

Week 10: PARABLE OF THE SOWER

Overview

This week, we learn from the Parable of the Sower where Jesus explains the significant difference between a positive and a negative response to His kingdom message. In order for Jesus' message to take root and bear fruit in our lives, an immediate and deep response is necessary. This week, we are challenged to respond to the truth of who Jesus is and His teaching with our whole lives—heart, soul, mind, and strength.

Prepare and Meditate

Before Sunday, take time to prepare your heart to receive God's Word for the upcoming message. Passages to read and memorize are included below. As you read and reflect, we encourage you to pray and ask the Holy Spirit to reveal God's truth to you during this time.

- **Read:** Mark 4:1-20
- **Memorize:** But those that were sown on the good soil are the ones who hear the word and accept it and bear fruit, thirtyfold and sixtyfold and a hundredfold." (Mark 4:20)

Prepare and Meditate Notes

Sermon Notes

Discuss

Who are the two audiences in this passage that Jesus is speaking to and how are they different?

Why do you think Jesus explained His parable to the second group and not to the first group?

What does each type of ground represent? What significance does this story have to the original audience?

What are the 3 negative influences Jesus says will keep the seed from taking root in a person's life?

What do you think characterizes a heart/life that is bearing fruit, according to Jesus' words in verse 20?

Apply

What is this passage challenging you to change in your life? Write it down and create an action plan to move from hearing God's Word to living it out.

Who is God calling you to share the gospel with? Are there people in your life with whom you are hesitant to share the good news? If so, why? Take time right now to pray for an opportunity to share with them.

Good listeners welcome the Word of God immediately, deeply, and exclusively so that it won't get choked out by the distractions of the world. What are the thoughts, habits, and actions that are keeping you from responding to God wholeheartedly? Spend time this week praying and asking God to reveal areas of your life that are being held back from Him and to renew your heart so that it's responsive and fruitful for His kingdom purposes.

FAMILY ACTIVITY

Read Together

- Mark 4:1-20

Discuss

- What happens when seeds fall on different types of ground?
- What does "good soil" represent?
- How can we make our hearts like good soil?

Activity

- How can we serve each other this week?
- Come up with ways that each family member can serve each other this week. Make sure to check in at the end of the week to see how everyone did.

Week 11: PARABLES OF THE KINGDOM

Overview

In Mark 4:21-34, Jesus speaks in parables. This week, we learn about several of these parables, including a lamp, a seed, and a mustard seed. Parables in the New Testament are defined as short, vivid stories or analogies used by Jesus to illustrate moral, spiritual, or theological lessons. The purpose of a parable is to teach through comparison, often by using familiar, everyday situations to reveal deeper truths about the Kingdom of God, the nature of humanity, and how individuals should live in relation to God and one another.

Prepare and Meditate

Before Sunday, take time to prepare your heart to receive God's Word for the upcoming message. Passages to read and memorize are included below. As you read and reflect, we encourage you to pray and ask the Holy Spirit to reveal God's truth to you during this time.

- **Read:** Mark 4:21-34
- **Memorize:** And he said to them, "Is a lamp brought in to be put under a basket, or under a bed, and not on a stand?" (Mark 4:21)

Prepare and Meditate Notes

Sermon Notes

Discuss

In verses 21-25, Jesus talks about the purpose of a lamp. When are the times in your life that you need a light (Example: On a campout with no moonlight)? If you don't have a light, but someone else does, how important is it for them to share their light?

In verses 26-29, Jesus talks about a seed growing. What is true about the process of farming a crop, from seed to harvest, that Jesus is saying is true about the Kingdom of God?

In verses 30-32, Jesus talks about the mustard seed. What is the condition of the mustard seed at its beginning compared with its mature condition? What does this tell us about the Kingdom of God? How does this increase your faith and hope?

How do verses 21-34 help us have clarity on our responsibility compared to God's responsibility when it comes to the gospel, the Kingdom of God, and the salvation of others?

Apply

Share one way that God has worked in your life or one thing you are thankful for about God today with one person.

Pray for opportunities to share Jesus with people in your neighborhood.

Write down three ways you can be a light in your areas of influence this week.

FAMILY ACTIVITY

Read Together

- Mark 4:21-25

Activity:

Supplies: candle, lighter, flashlight

1. Bring the family into a dark room.
2. Light a candle.
3. Shine a flashlight.
4. Turn on the lights.

While doing this, discuss:

- The more you welcome God in, by listening to His message, the more you will understand and see Him. Things become clearer and clearer.
- Does darkness make the things in the room disappear? Discuss how God sees everything. Nothing is hidden from Him.

Week 12:

JESUS CALMS THE STORM

Overview

In Mark 4:35-41, Jesus and His disciples are caught in a treacherous storm while crossing the Sea of Galilee. Despite the disciples' fear, Jesus calmly rebukes the wind and waves, and the storm immediately halts. He then questions their faith, highlighting their lack of trust in His power. This week, we will discover the power of Jesus over nature and be invited to trust Him—regardless of our circumstances.

Prepare & Meditate

Before Sunday, take time to prepare your heart to receive God's Word for the upcoming message. Passages to read and memorize are included below. As you read and reflect, we encourage you to pray and ask the Holy Spirit to reveal God's truth to you during this time.

- **Read:** Mark 4:35-41
- **Memorize:** He said to them, "Why are you so afraid? Have you still not faith?" And they were filled with great fear and said to one another, "Who then is this, that even the wind and the sea obey him?" (Mark 4:40-41)

Prepare and Meditate Notes

Sermon Notes

Discuss

How does Jesus' calming of the storm show that God is present in the midst of chaos?

What does this passage teach us about how following Jesus involves trust?

Discuss a time when you were fearful. How does this Scripture encourage you?

What does it mean to live out your walk with Jesus, and how does this passage challenge us to reflect on how we follow Jesus?

Apply

Pray for greater awareness of God's presence in your daily life, particularly when facing challenges or crises.

How does the example of the disciples in this story prompt you to think about your role as a disciple?

What changes can you make to integrate following Jesus more deeply into your daily routine, ensuring it's a way of life, not just a set of beliefs? Write them down and take action this week.

FAMILY ACTIVITY

Read Together

- Mark 4: 35-41

Discuss

- Discuss how the disciples were afraid but Jesus showed He cared by calming the storm.

Storm & Calm Game

- Play a quick game:
 - Call out "Storm!" and everyone pretends to be in a wild storm (rocking, swaying, shouting).
 - Call out "Calm!" and everyone freezes in a peaceful position.
- End by discussing how Jesus brings peace into our lives.

Week 13:

THE TRIUMPHAL ENTRY

Overview

The stage is set. Jesus is about to enter Jerusalem, and everything is falling into place—right down to the miraculous provision of a donkey. Imagine the disciples following Jesus' instructions and finding the donkey just as He said they would. Then, picture the overwhelming sound of the crowds. Excitement fills the air as people shout, "Hosanna! Save us! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!" Palm branches wave, and cloaks are laid down in honor of Jesus. He is at the center of it all—Jerusalem's long-awaited King has arrived!

Prepare & Meditate

Jesus came to save. His arrival in Jerusalem was met with joy, but many in the crowd misunderstood what kind of King He was. They wanted a political rescuer, but Jesus came to bring salvation through the cross. This moment invites us to consider where our own hearts stand—are we truly surrendered to Jesus as King?

- **Read:** Mark 11:1-11
- **Memorize:** And those who went before and those who followed were shouting, "Hosanna! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the LORD!" (Mark 11:9)

Prepare and Meditate Notes

Sermon Notes

Discuss

Read Psalm 118 and discuss why the words of the crowd were so significant.

How do you think Jesus felt knowing that some of the same people shouting "Hosanna" would soon turn against Him?

What does this passage teach us about who Jesus is and what kind of King He came to be?

Apply

Do you currently feel like you have submitted everything in your life to Jesus as King of your life? If not, what are you holding back and why?

Can you recall a time when you have been excited about Jesus, only to later experience doubt or struggle?

In what ways do you see people today following Jesus for what they can get from Him rather than out of true devotion?

FAMILY ACTIVITY

Palm Sunday Activity

Supplies: Construction paper, scissors, markers, and a Bible.

- 1. Read Mark 11:1-11 together.** Talk about the excitement of the people welcoming Jesus.
- 2. Make palm branches** by cutting green construction paper into palm leaf shapes. Let kids write "Hosanna! Jesus is King!" on them.
- 3. Reenact the Triumphal Entry.** Have one family member play Jesus (maybe on a toy horse or bike) while others wave their homemade palm branches and shout, "Hosanna! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!"
- 4. Talk about what it means to welcome Jesus into our lives.** Ask: "How can we show Jesus that He is our King every day?"

LAST SUPPER, BETRAYAL, ARREST AND TRIAL

Overview

Throughout Holy Week, we encourage you to read and reflect on key events. This section is designed to equip you to study God's Word leading into Easter Sunday!

We so often mistake proximity to the things of God as intimacy with Him but that isn't always true. The disciples have spent the last 3 years closely observing Jesus' ministry and here they are, with Him in His final moments, and they still don't get it. Arrogance, betrayal, and abandonment are on full display in Mark 14:1-72. In spite of their sin, and ours, Jesus willingly marches on to His death and our redemption.

Last Supper Video

Join us on YouTube for a special video on Thursday of Holy Week to equip you to reflect on the Last Supper and the journey Jesus takes to the cross. You'll be able to access the video by visiting YouTube and searching 'Chapel Pointe' or by following this link:

<https://www.youtube.com/@ChapelPointe>

Read: Mark 14:1-72

Reflection Questions:

What is the significance of Jesus and His disciples celebrating the Passover?

The Lord's Supper represents Jesus' body broken and blood spilled for the forgiveness of sins. How does it illustrate His love for you?

How did Jesus respond to His betrayal and arrest?

What did Jesus declare in verse 62? Why would the high priest tear his garments as a result of this declaration?

Reflection Notes

GOOD FRIDAY

Overview

Throughout Holy Week, we encourage you to read and reflect on key events. This section is designed to equip you to study God's Word leading into Easter Sunday!

Good Friday is the day when we remember Jesus' betrayal, beating, and death. We invite you to take time to read about the crucifixion and death of Jesus to prepare your heart for Good Friday.

Read: Mark 15:1-47

Reflection Questions:

Take a moment to consider the betrayal, beating, and crucifixion of Jesus. What stands out to you the most?

How does the suffering of Jesus help you recognize God's love for you?

Why did Jesus die for you? What was accomplished through Christ's death on the cross?

What is the significance of the curtain of the temple being torn in two?

The death of Jesus wasn't the end. Sunday is coming. How will you prepare your heart to celebrate the resurrection?

Reflection Notes

Week 14:

THE RESURRECTION OF JESUS

Overview

Jesus has been crucified. The disciples have spent the last two days mourning. Some of the women who followed him go to his tomb to anoint His body. Jesus had foretold His death, and yet his disciples were still shocked at His crucifixion. The women are even more shocked and confused to find an angelic messenger at his tomb announcing that Jesus has risen from the dead!

Prepare and Meditate

Consider how the followers of Jesus must have felt in this moment. Jesus has been crucified. They have been mourning not only the death of their teacher but the destruction of their hope. They are likely confused, afraid, and questioning. This passage invites us to experience the power of Jesus' resurrection.

- **Read:** Mark 16:1-11
- **Memorize:** And he said to them, "Do not be alarmed. You seek Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has risen; he is not here. See the place where they laid him." (Mark 16:6)

Prepare and Meditate Notes

Sermon Notes

Discuss

What emotions would these women have been feeling leading up to the moment in this passage? What emotions do these women have in this passage?

What are the women commanded to do?

How do the women respond to the angel? Why do you think they responded in this way?

Apply

How is the reality of Jesus' resurrection transforming your life? List a few ways you see God at work in your life.

In what areas of life are you more driven by fear than hope?

What is holding you back from declaring the hope of the resurrection to others?

FAMILY ACTIVITY

Supplies Needed:

- 1 can of crescent roll dough
- Large marshmallows
- Melted butter
- Cinnamon sugar
- Baking sheet

Instructions:

1. **Preheat oven** to 375°F (190°C).
2. **Tell the Story:** Explain that the marshmallow represents Jesus, and the dough represents the tomb.
3. **Wrap Jesus in the Tomb:** Dip a marshmallow in melted butter, roll it in cinnamon sugar (representing burial spices), and wrap it inside a crescent roll dough triangle, sealing the edges completely.
4. **Bake for 10-12 minutes.**
5. **The Surprise!** When the rolls are done and cooled, break one open—the marshmallow is gone! Just like Jesus, the tomb is empty!

Discussion Questions:

- How do you think the disciples felt when they saw the empty tomb?
- Why is it important that Jesus rose from the dead?
- How can we share the good news of Jesus' resurrection with others?

Week 15: HEALING OF A DEMON-POSSESSED MAN

Overview

In Mark 5:1-20 Jesus demonstrates His power over demons by casting demons out of a man and into nearby pigs. This is a vivid reminder that Jesus has the power to redeem anyone, from anything, at any time. The man responds in obedience by telling everyone how much Jesus had done for him.

Prepare and Meditate

Before Sunday, take time to prepare your heart to receive God's Word for the upcoming message. Passages to read and memorize are included below. As you read and reflect, we encourage you to pray and ask the Holy Spirit to reveal God's truth to you during this time.

- **Read:** Mark 5:1-20
- **Memorize:** Jesus said, "Go home to your friends and tell them how much the Lord has done for you, and how he has had mercy on you." (Mark 5:19b)

Prepare and Meditate Notes

Sermon Notes

Discuss

Describe the demon-possessed man before he met Jesus.

When Jesus met a man not safe to Himself, or others, and an outcast in his community, how did He engage this man differently?

What was the response the town had to this miracle Jesus performed?

How did the man obediently follow Jesus?

Apply

How does the compassion and power of Jesus influence my relationship with Him and others?

Think of people you have treated the same way the townspeople treated the demon-possessed man before he met Jesus. This week, take intentional steps to reach out and interact with them.

Take some time to talk with family or friends about what God has done in your life this week, this month, and this year.

This week, tell others (outside of your family and small group) the great things God has done for you.

FAMILY ACTIVITY

Color Changing Bottles (Transformation)

Objective: A fun science experiment to visually show transformation, helping children connect the concept with the story.

- **Materials:** Clear plastic bottles or jars, food coloring, baking soda, vinegar, a spoon.
- **Directions:**
 - Fill each bottle with water and a few drops of food coloring (use dark colors to represent "before").
 - In a separate bowl, mix baking soda with a little vinegar to create a fizzy reaction.
 - Slowly add the fizzy mixture into the bottles with food coloring and watch the color change as the reaction takes place. The color will transform and lighten, symbolizing how Jesus brings change.
- **Discussion:** Just as the color of the water transforms, Jesus can change our hearts. How can we allow Jesus to change us like that?

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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.

