

BIBLE / **THE GOSPEL OF MARK**
STUDY
FALL 2020

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Session 1

Study overview

Here is the schedule for the fall semester. Please complete each session's reading prior to attending your small group. (Note: There is no homework for session 1.)

Session 1	Overview Mark 1:1-15
Session 2	Mark 1:16-3:12
Session 3	Mark 3:13-4:34
Session 4	Mark 4:35-5:43
Session 5	Mark 6:1-7:30
Session 6	Mark 7:31-8:30

Bible study format

We have three components to our Bible study: personal study, small group discussion, and large group teaching (in that order). We believe that participants will get the most out of the Bible study by spending time with the Lord and studying the text on their own first. When small groups meet, the discussion will be based on their time spent in God's Word that week. Lastly, the large group teaching serves to deepen the participants' understanding and application of the Bible.

Before group	Personal study
7:00-7:30pm	Small group discussion
7:30-8:00pm	Large group teaching
8:00-8:30pm	Small group discussion

How to use this workbook

This workbook contains passage commentary, study questions, and scripture pages for each session. You will work through the text and questions before coming to small group. Consider this workbook a guide as you journey through the gospel of Mark. Our hope is that each component of this study encourages you to think carefully and deeply about the Word of God.

1. **Read** the text
2. **Make notes** on the text
3. **Answer study questions** about the text
4. **Apply truths** from the text

Read the text: Repetitive reading

Developing the simple habit of reading a passage multiple times will help you to retain the content, see things you missed the first time, and gain clarity as you seek to understand the text. Do not overlook this simple but valuable Bible study skill.

Tip: It may be helpful for you to read the study questions in between your repeated readings of the text to train your eye to be on the lookout for those things.

Make notes on the text: Annotation

You also have scripture pages at the back of this workbook. We encourage you to use these pages with highlighters and/or colored pencils to help you to visually see the elements of context, theme, and purpose throughout the study.



You can annotate, or mark up, your text however suits you best - but we have given suggestions that will help you throughout each session if you choose to follow them. These will be consistent throughout the study so you can see the themes develop over the course of the book.

Why are there separate pages for annotation? The printed scripture pages allow more space and flexibility for you to make notes as you read. This also encourages you to write freely without fear of making a mistake or "cluttering" up the margins of your Bible. You can reprint a page or add blank pages to suit your study needs. After reading the text and making your own initial observations, answer the questions provided in the workbook.

You will remember 10% of what you read, 20% of what you hear, and 30% by watching it modeled. Additionally, you'll remember 50% when you hear it and watch it modeled, 70% when you hear, watch it modeled and write out what you've learned. Finally, you remember 90% when you do all in addition to application or practice.

Tip: As you read the second time, make note of any initial observations - things that stick out to you, questions you have, anything that's repeated or seems significant to the understanding of the text.

Answer study questions about the text: Interpretation

The study questions will build upon your own personal observation work and help provide an accurate interpretation of the text. If you come across a question that you don't know how to answer, feel free to come back to it later. It's okay to not have an immediate answer. You can go back to your Context/Theme/Purpose pages to give you a sense of the "big picture" as you work through the questions.

Apply truths from the text: Reflect and respond

To conclude each session's study, you will work through some application questions. You'll reflect on what you've read: 1) what do we learn about God in this passage and 2) what do we learn about people in this passage? Then you'll write down ways you'll respond to these truths.

Finding time for Bible study

If creating a rhythm of Bible study is new for you, then here is one way you can structure your time. We recommend about 60-90 minutes of study time each week. If you want to a daily reading plan, read through the entire text multiple times throughout the week instead of reading a few verses each day. Reading and studying in context is key!

M	T	W	T	F
		Session 1 Small Group		Session 2 Read entire text (15 minutes)
Session 2 Read & annotate (15-30 minutes)		Session 2 Read & annotate (15-30 minutes)		Session 2 Workbook (15 minutes)
Session 2 Workbook (15-30 minutes)	<i>(Make up/ additional study time)</i>	Session 2 Small Group		

Tip: Talk to others in your small group about how they are planning on doing the study. It helps to have accountability within your group.

Using the Right Tools

Context | Theme | Purpose

Using the right tools will help you as you seek to understand and rightly interpret the text. As you study each passage, we encourage you to keep in mind the overall context, theme and purpose of the book.

Context *Who/when/where?*

Make note of setting elements, like people, places, and events, to help establish context. Keep an eye out for allusions to Old Testament passages to help with historical context.

Questions to help you with context:

Who wrote this book?
Who is the original audience?
Who is mentioned in the opening passage? Who is mentioned throughout the text?
When does this take place in the storyline of the Bible?
Where else is this verse mentioned?

Why is context important? It shapes your understanding of the text.

Theme *What?*

Make note of repeated key words or concepts that point to the main theme(s) of the book.

Questions to help you with theme:

What is the main point of this passage?
What key words point to the main theme of the passage or book?

Why is theme important? Biblical themes helps you to see the "big picture" of the book, and of the Bible, as you study verse by verse.

Purpose *Why? How?*

Look at the context and theme to help determine the author's purpose in writing the particular section of text.

Questions to help you with the author's purpose:

Why did the author write this passage?
How does the overall context and theme help you to identify why the author wrote this?

Why is the author's purpose important? Keeping their purpose in mind will help you as you navigate difficult or confusing passages. It will also guard your own personal application without losing sight of the original intent.

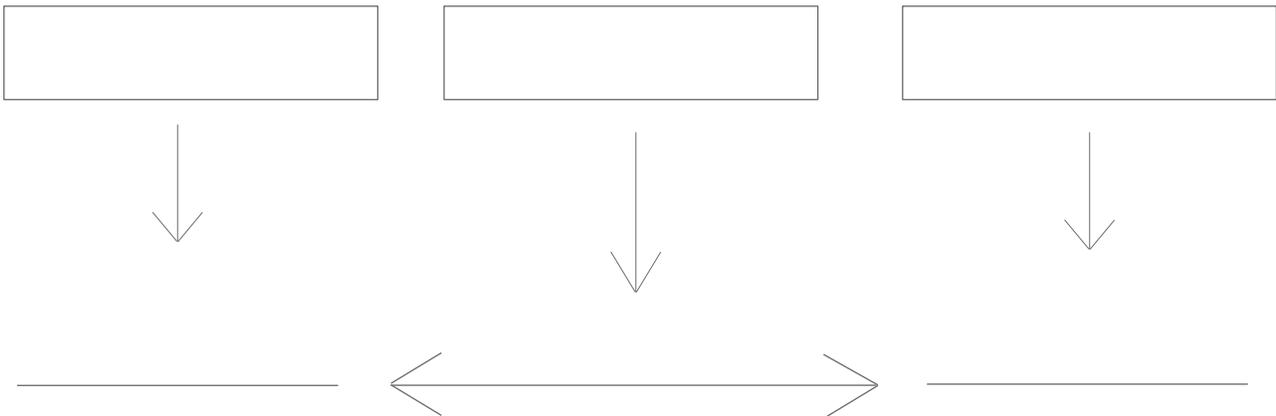
Recommended reading: Dig Deeper by Andrew Sach and Nigel Beynon

Setting the Stage

for studying Mark

Context

- Mark wrote this gospel account to Gentile Christians by recording the eyewitness account of the apostle Peter. Early church tradition places Mark in Rome where there was significant persecution of Christians.
- Three groups in Mark



Themes

- _____ of Christ
 1. He is the _____
 2. He is the _____
- A call to _____
 1. Reflecting Christ's servanthood
 2. Enduring trials and suffering

Purpose

- Mark wrote to Gentile Christians to remind them of who Jesus is and what it looks like to follow him.

Context + Themes = Purpose



Session 2

In the prologue to his Gospel (1:1-15), Mark identified Jesus as the long-awaited King who has come to rescue God's people and wage war on Satan. Jesus' ministry is summed up in verses 14-15: "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel."

With verse 16, Mark begins to give a more detailed account of Jesus' ministry, starting with the call for Simon and Andrew to follow him. In 1:16-3:12, Mark spotlights 1) Jesus' authority through his preaching and healing, and 2) the kinds of responses different people have toward his authority.

Read Mark 1:16-3:12. Using the scripture pages at the back of the workbook, read this week's text in one sitting. Read the text a second time and write down any initial observations you notice. Keep in mind the theme of Jesus' *authority*. There are suggested annotations for each session on the scripture pages.

After you've read the text multiple times and made your own observations, answer the study questions for this section.

1. Summarize your observations and/or your annotations. How did you see the theme of Jesus' authority?

2. Mark 1:28 says that Jesus' "fame spread everywhere throughout all of the surrounding region of Galilee". Read Jesus' response in Mark 1:38 when Simon seeks him out. How does this correlate to what Jesus also said in 1:15?

3. Mark records several significant events that accompany Jesus' preaching in his early days of ministry. Review the verses listed below and write what takes place as well as the response to the events.

1:21-28:

1:29-31:

1:32-34:

1:40-45:

4. What do you notice in the responses, both of the recipients and of Jesus?

There are several instances in Mark where Jesus commands that those who are healed to say nothing about it or to only tell one other person. Some scholars refer to this as the "Messianic Secret" where Jesus' delays the time to fully reveal himself as Messiah. It is thought that this was to prevent further opposition to his mission.

5. There are several conflicts that arise between the religious leaders and Jesus. Record each conflict and the response given.

	What is the conflict?	What is the response Jesus gives?
2:1-12		
2:15-17		
2:18-22		
2:23-28		
3:1-6		

6. What is the main complaint at the center of their questioning Jesus? How does this culminate in 3:6?



Session 2 Application

Reflect and Respond

Use these four questions to pray and reflect on what you've read this week. Ask the Holy Spirit to convict and guide you during this time.

Reflect

What do we learn about God in this passage and how should we respond to God as a result?

Look for:

- *God's character, concerns, and conduct*
- *Things to praise and thank God for*
- *Sin to confess and repent of*
- *Promises and truths to believe*

What do we learn about people in this passage and how should we respond to others?

Look for:

- *How they reflect God's character in the text*
- *How they reject God and his rule in the text*
- *Examples or ways to love, serve, and care for others*

Respond

What will these truths look like in action for you this week?

What questions do I still have? How will I investigate this further?



Notes

Small group discussion | Large group teaching



Session 3

In the last session, we saw how Mark began his account of Jesus' ministry by focusing on both his rapid rise in popularity with the crowds (1:16-45; 3:1-6) and the criticism he faced (2:1-3:12). In Mark 3:13-4:34, Jesus formally appoints twelve disciples to join him in ministry. He also faces serious charges from some teachers from Jerusalem. We close out this section with Jesus describing the nature of the kingdom of God through several parables.

Throughout your study, pay attention to the three different groups Jesus interacts with (crowds, disciples, and religious leaders). As you read the parables (4:1-34), be on the lookout for common themes in each of the four parables. Consider how they explain the different reactions to Jesus' ministry that we see from the three groups throughout Mark's gospel. Also, note the repetition of "He who has ears to hear, let him hear" (vv. 9, 23) as well as the stated reason for the parables.

Read Mark 3:13-4:34. Using the scripture pages at the back of the workbook, read this week's text in one sitting. Read the text a second time, writing down any initial observations you have. Make note of when you see a *response to Jesus's authority*. Also be looking for anything that points to *what it looks like to follow Jesus*. There are suggested annotations for each session on the scripture pages.

After you've read the text multiple times and made your own observations, work through the following questions.

1. Summarize your initial observations and/or your annotations. How did you see the three groups responding to Jesus' authority?

2. What task does Jesus give to the twelve disciples (3:13-19)? In what ways is their ministry an extension of Jesus' ministry? Compare to:

- Mark 1:15
- Mark 1:21-27
- Mark 1:38

3. Mark sometimes utilizes intercalation, or a “sandwich technique”, in telling stories. Throughout the book, there will be a single story split into two halves with a seemingly unrelated story in between. In Mark 3:20-34, you see Mark telling a story about Jesus' family with a story about the scribes sandwiched in between.

Write out a 3 part outline for the “Markan sandwich” found in 3:20-34.

Verses	Summary sentence(s)

4. In the Old Testament, Israel's kings were often anointed with oil as a way of being consecrated for the role God was calling them to. (“Messiah” in Hebrew and “Christ” in Greek means “anointed one”). In Mark 1:8-11, Jesus being anointed by the Holy Spirit demonstrates his kingship. How does this help us see the wider implications of the scribes' accusation against Jesus in 3:22?

5. Mark intentionally chose to “interrupt” his story of Jesus’ family with the story of the scribes. How might 3:34-35 help you to understand verses 22-30?

As you study the next section, keep in mind the shift of genre as Jesus begins teaching through parables. A parable is an illustration rooted in real life situations that leads to an intended spiritual or moral meaning.

6. What is the significance of Jesus teaching in parables? Who is the audience for this type of teaching?

7. Draw a visual representation of each of the seeds found in the parable of the sower, either using illustrations, icons or words. Using Jesus’ explanation in 13-20, write a short caption under each visual representation.

8. How would you summarize the overall message of the parables? How do you see this displayed within each of the three groups?



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