

THE BEST CHRISTMAS STORY EVER

According to Mark

PERSONAL STUDY HOMEWORK

Week of December 8-13

Mark's Gospel

Mark 1:1-13

- Many Christians in Rome urged Mark to WRITE down what Peter told him about Jesus.
- Mark's gospel was written for ROMANS.
- The main message of the Gospel of Mark was Jesus' DEATH and RESURRECTION.
- Jesus was fully GOD and fully HUMAN.
- Jesus cares about people with EMBARRASSING problems.
- This is the GOSPEL, the Good News of Jesus.
- Don't spoil your Christmas by leaving out the story of Jesus' LIFE.

Getting Started

1. There are many great Christmas stories from literature and film – books like A Christmas Carol & Polar Express and films like White Christmas, It's a Wonderful Life and Elf. What is your favorite Christmas book or film? Why do you like this one? How is it a part of your Christmas celebration traditions?

Getting Into God's Word

Read Mark 1:1-13

1. What are some of the unique aspects of Mark's life and Mark's gospel? How is Mark's background important to his telling of the story of Jesus' life? What is the significance of Mark not being an eye witness to Jesus' life and ministry?
2. What key elements of Jesus' story did Mark choose to include in his gospel? How are these different than the other gospel writers? How was his gospel similar to the other writers? What is the significance of Matthew and Luke's extensive use of the Gospel of Mark as a source for their writings?

Applying It In My Life

1. The Gospel of Mark is full of Jesus' actions – His amazing teaching, His miracles, His healings, and His care for people. As you think about Jesus' life and ministry what is most impactful to you? As you encounter others during the Christmas season what part of the Good News of Jesus will you share with them?